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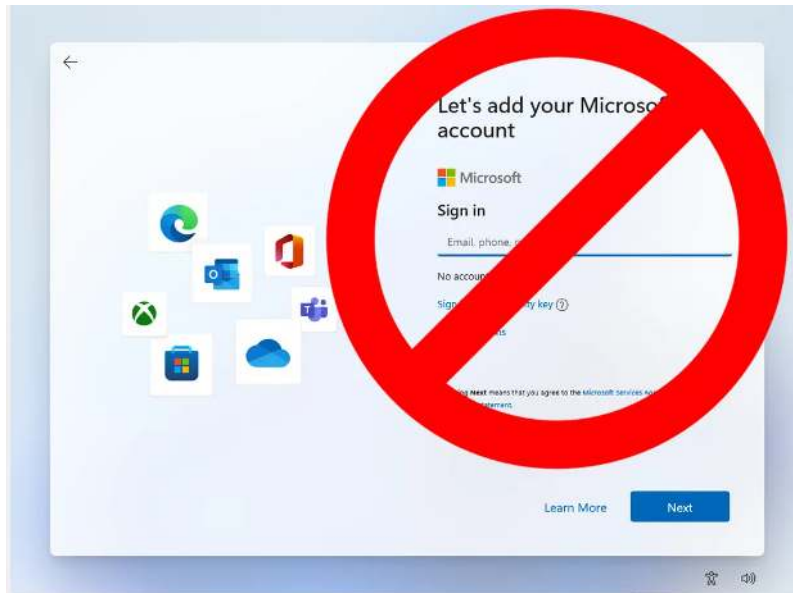
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## How to Install Windows 11 Without a Microsoft Account

How-to      By [Avram Piltch](#) last updated April 26, 2023

Maintain only a local account on your Windows 11 PC.

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(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

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By default, you must have (or create) a [Microsoft](#) account in order to install [Windows 11](#) Home (and versions of Pro that are build 22H2 and up). Though Microsoft accounts are free, there are many reasons why you would want to install Windows 11 without one.

Maybe you want to use a local account because you are installing Windows 11 on a child's PC or on a PC that you plan to sell, give to a friend or donate to a charity (without giving other people access to personal data). Or perhaps you just like your privacy and don't want to create an account with Microsoft in the first place.

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Whatever your reason for doing so, there's a relatively easy way to install Windows 11 without using a Microsoft account. We should note that Microsoft is trying to make it more difficult to set up a local Windows account so our instructions, shown below, have changed a bit recently.

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## How to Install Windows 11 Without a Microsoft Account

There's a simple trick for setting up a local account that involves issuing a command to keep Windows from requiring Internet to install and then cutting off Internet at just the right time in the setup process. However, you can also prepare your install disk using Rufus, which removes the login requirement, a process we document further down this page.

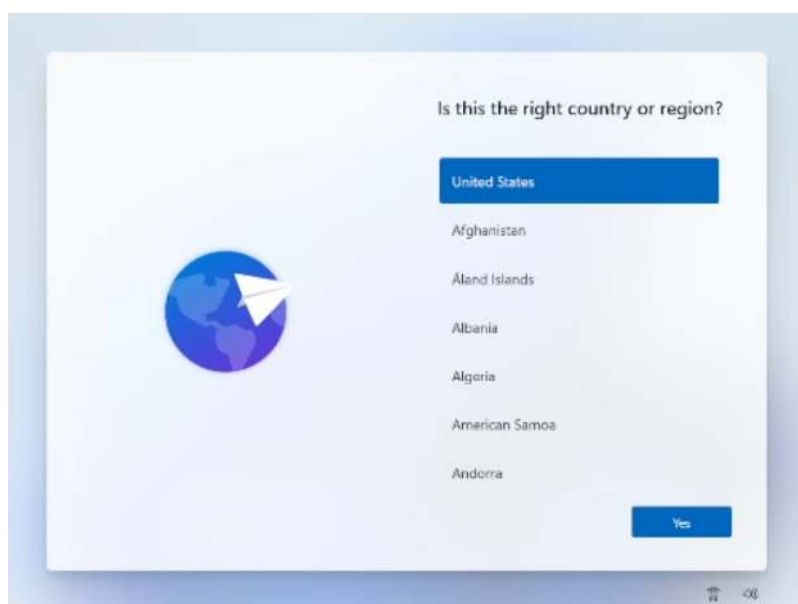
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If you've already downloaded and created a Windows 11 boot disk with Rufus or otherwise, follow these steps to set up without a Microsoft account.

1. Follow the Windows 11 install process until you get to the "choose a country" screen.



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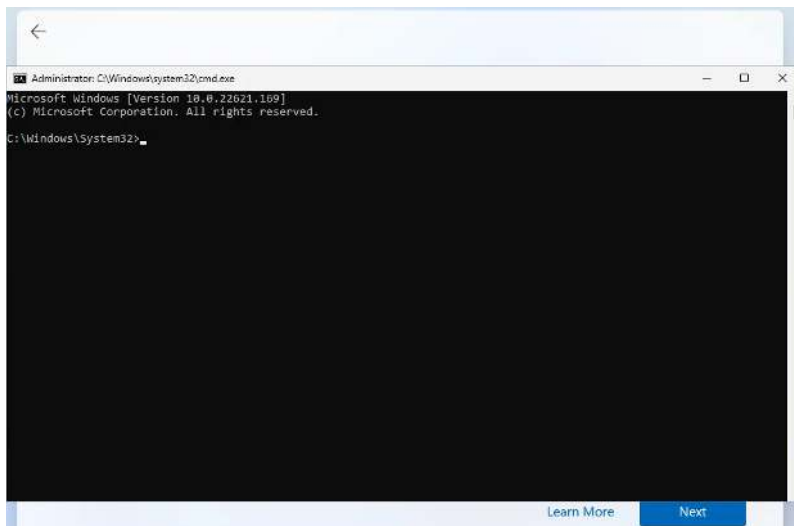
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Now's the time to cut off the Internet. However, before you do, you need to issue a command that prevents Windows 11 from forcing you to have an Internet connection.

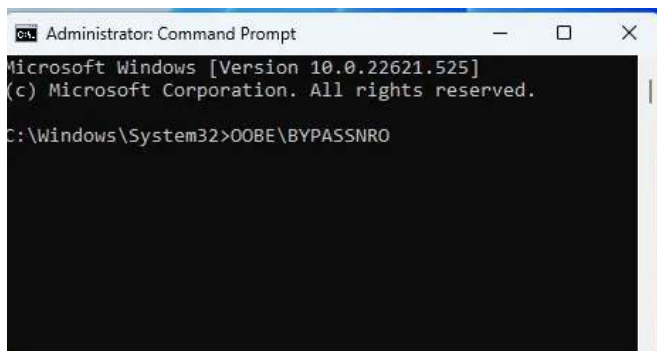
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2. Hit **Shift + F10**. A command prompt appears.



(Image credit: Future)

3. Type **Oobe\BYPASSNRO** to disable the Internet connection requirement.

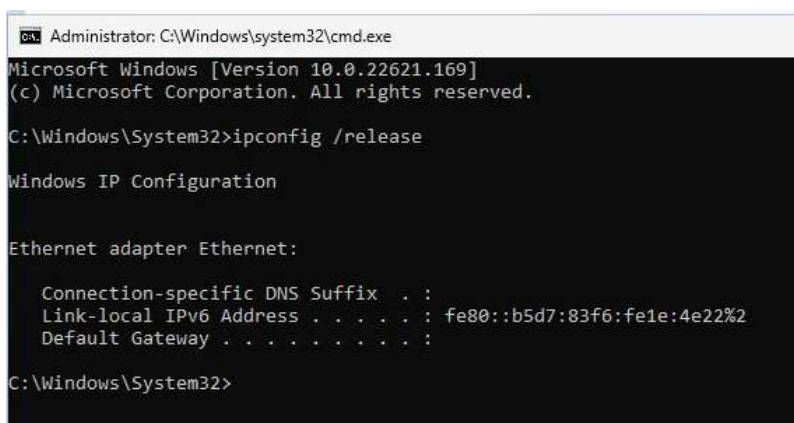


(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

The computer will reboot and return you to this screen.

4. Hit **Shift + F10** again and this time Type **ipconfig /release**. Then hit **Enter** to disable the Internet.

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(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

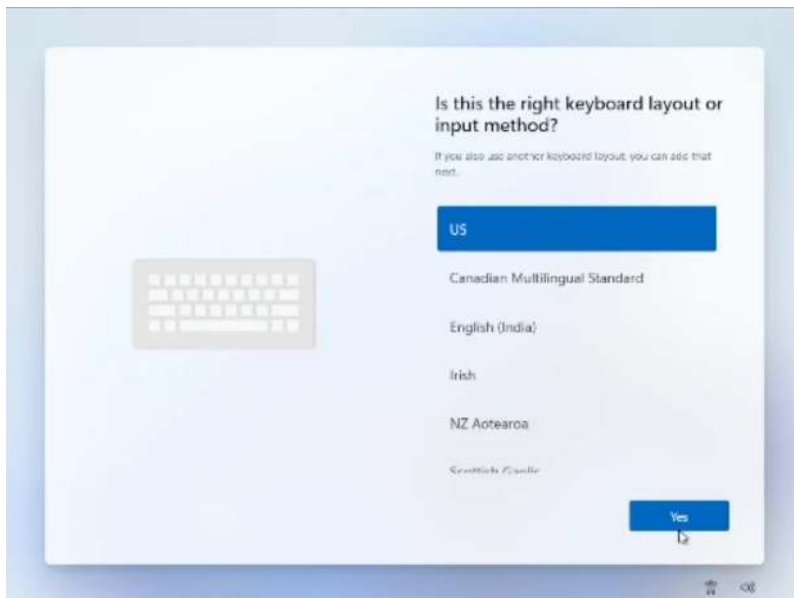
5. Close the command prompt.

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6. Continue with the installation, choosing the region, keyboard and second keyboard option.

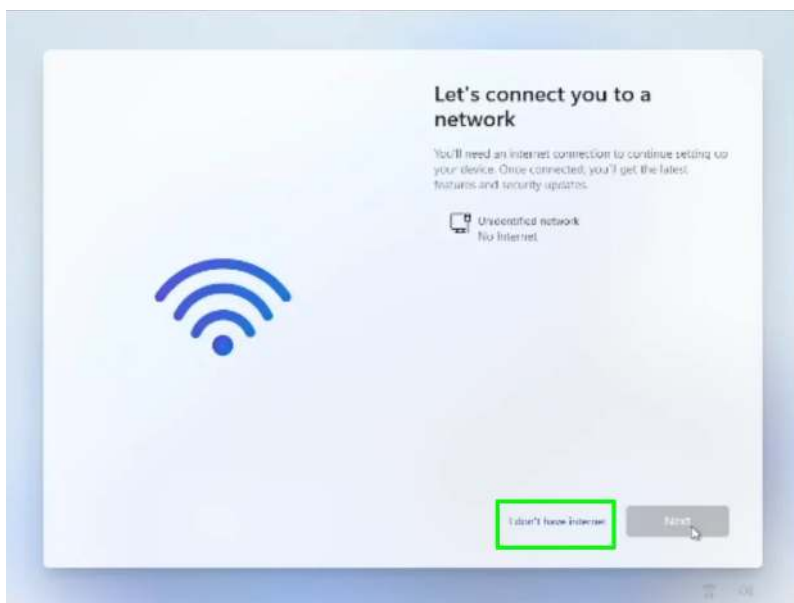


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(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

A screen saying "Let's connect you to a network" appears, warning you that you need Internet.

7. Click "I don't have Internet" to continue.



(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

A new login screen appears asking "Who's going to use this device?"

8. Enter a username you want to use for your local account and click Next.

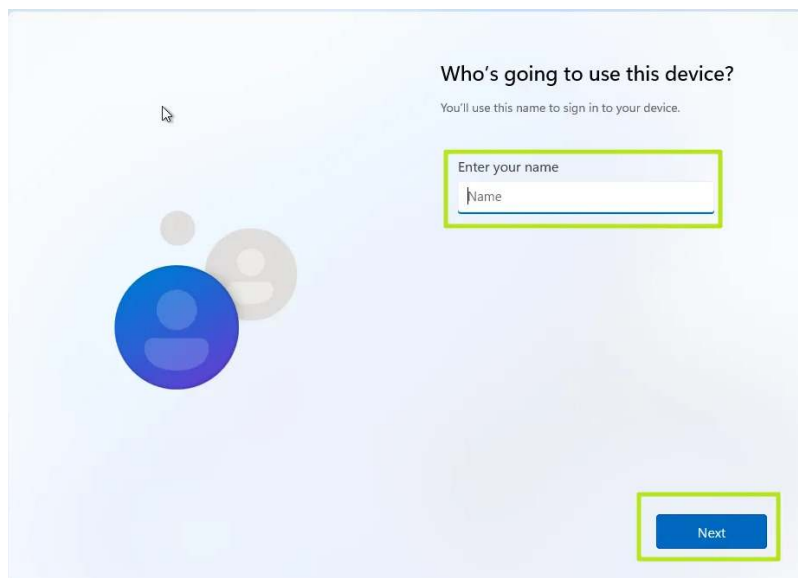
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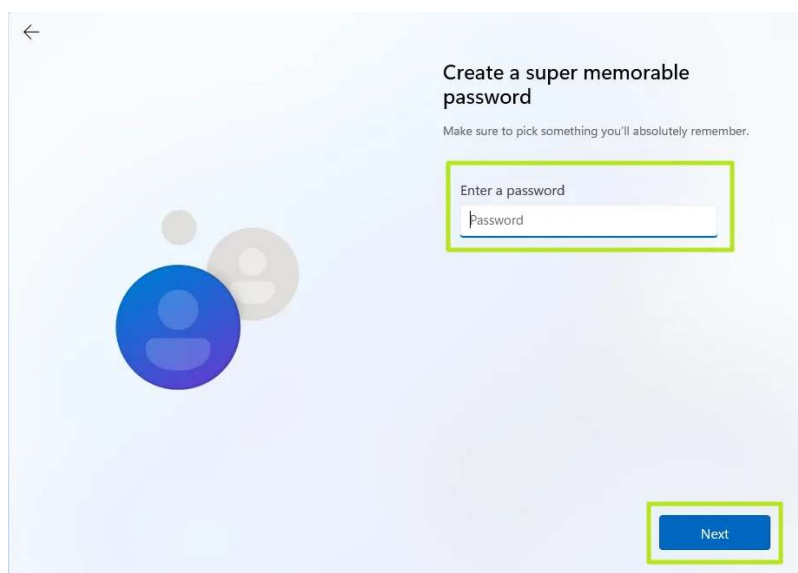
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(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

9. Enter a password you would like to use and click **Next**. You can also leave this field blank and have no password, but that's not recommended.



(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

10. Complete the rest of the install process as you normally would.

## How to Create a Windows 11 Install Disk that Allows Bypassing Microsoft Accounts

You can also create an install disk that has the "no Internet required" setting built into the setup process.

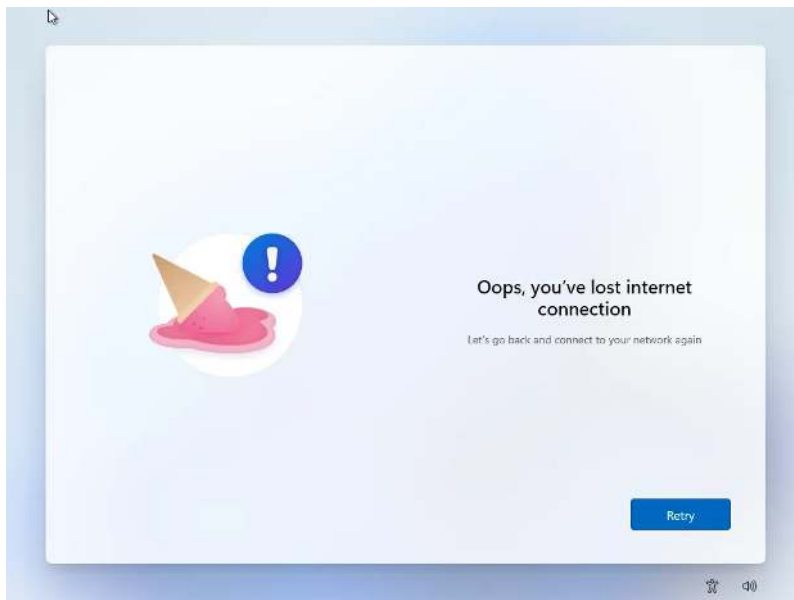
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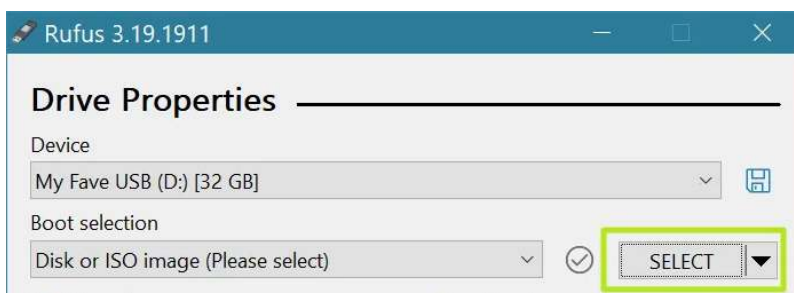
Here's how to make a Windows 11 install disk that will let you disconnect from the Internet during setup so you can create a local account instead of using a Microsoft one.

1. **Download the Windows 11 ISO file** for Windows 11 22H2 (build 22621.169 or higher). As of this writing, you can only get the ISO for that build directly by using [UUP Dump](#). We explain how to perform this process in our [how to download a Windows 11 ISO file](#) article.

2. **Insert a USB Flash drive** you want to use as an install disk if one is not already inserted. Note that this drive will be completely erased during the process and it must be at least 8GB. If you are just installing Windows in a virtual machine, you can create an ISO file instead of writing directly to a Flash drive, but we'll assume you're not doing that here.

3. **Download and launch Rufus** version 3.19 or higher. There is no installation process, but you may be asked to confirm permissions by Windows User Account control.

4. **Select the USB drive** from the menu in Rufus if it's not already selected.

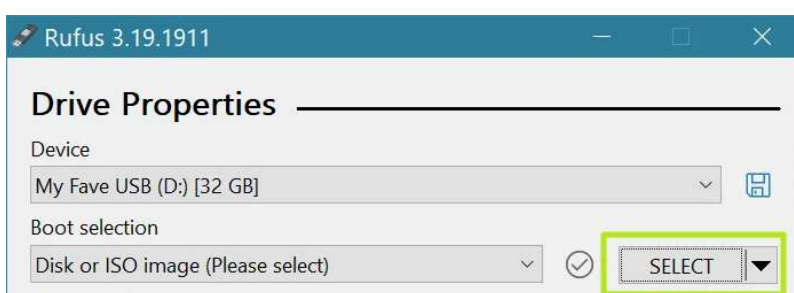


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5. **Click Select** and choose the ISO file.

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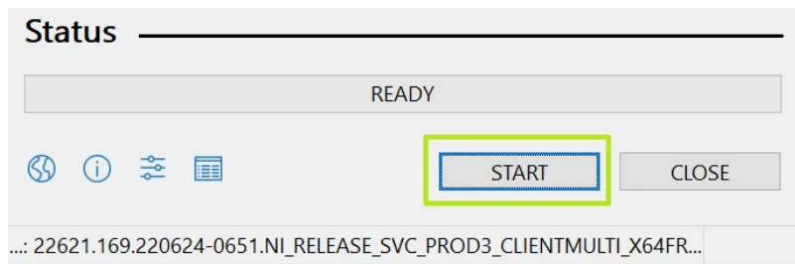


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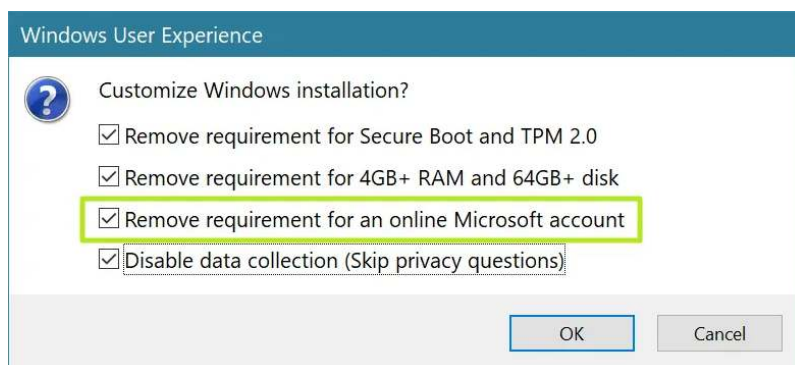
6. Click **Start** at the bottom of the Rufus window.



(Image credit: Future)

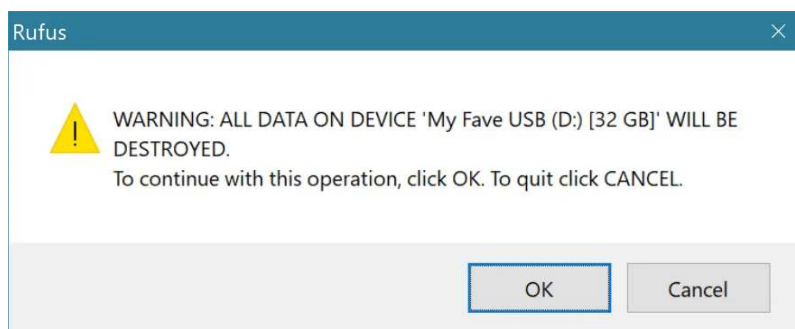
A dialog box appears with a few options for bypassing Windows 11 install requirements.

7. Toggle **"Remove requirement for an online Microsoft account"** to on and click **OK**. You may also want to toggle on the other options, which include Removing the Secure Boot / TPM 2.0, RAM and Storage requirements. But if your computer meets those requirements, it doesn't pay to do that.



(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

8. Click **OK** if warned that Rufus will destroy all data on the USB Flash drive. It is expected to overwrite all contents of the drive.



(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

Rufus will take a few minutes to copy files to the USB Flash drive. When it's done, you will have a bootable Flash drive.

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**Avram Piltch**

Avram Piltch is Tom's Hardware's editor-in-chief. When he's not playing with the latest gadgets at work or putting on VR helmets at trade shows, you'll find him rooting his phone, taking apart his PC or coding plugins. With his technical knowledge and passion for testing, Avram developed many real-world benchmarks, including our laptop battery test.

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**USAFRet**

*maestro0428 said:*

I was able to get around the MS account by installing win 10 pro first with a local account , then updating to 11 pro. BUT, I pulled to sticks of ram out for testing and boom, local account gone. Either I buy another key, or sign in to MS account and say "I changed hardware." BS...

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**maestro0428**

I know right?! But as soon as those sticks came out, no other change was made and when I booted, it said activate windows again, but with a MS account. Its fixed now, still on local account, but I don't want to have to do all this to keep it activated as much as I change hardware. Thankfully, my...

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**Colif**

You should contact Microsoft, ram shouldn't cause that to happen.  
<https://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/forum/all/reactivating-microsoft-win-10-licence-after-memory/06b38149-d01c-4ec7-ad89-5ed36e677ebe>

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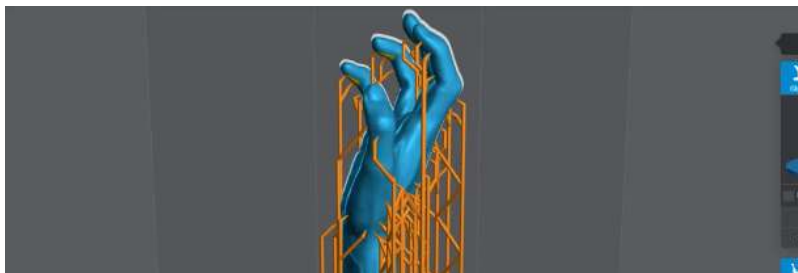
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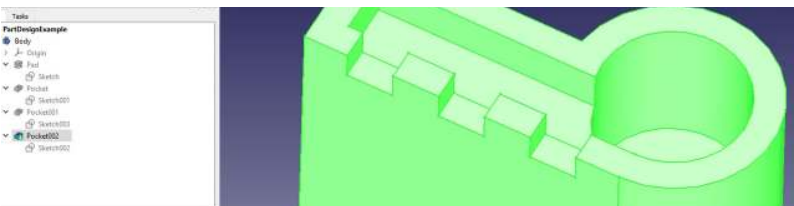
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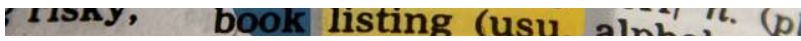
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