

TRENDING      Best AMD GPUs of all Time      Intel Core i9-14900K      Nvidia GeForce RTX 4090      Lowest CPU Prices      Lov

When you purchase through links on our site, we may earn an affiliate commission. [Here's how it works.](#)

[Software](#) > [Operating Systems](#) > [Windows](#)

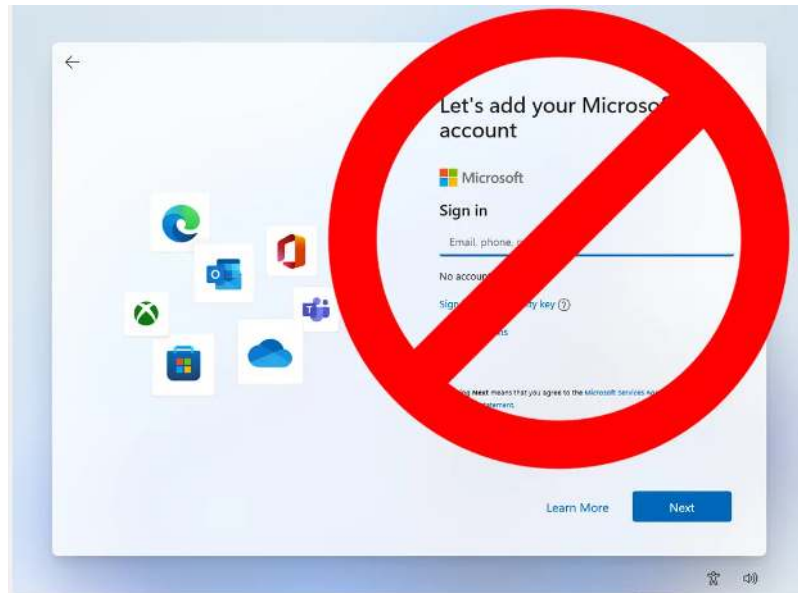
Advertisement

## 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.

[f](#) [X](#) [reddit](#) [p](#) [r](#) [✉](#) [💬](#) [Comments \(32\)](#)



(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

CLOSE

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.

More Videos

PLAY SOUND

Next Up

**How To Install Wi...**

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.

Advertisement

## 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.

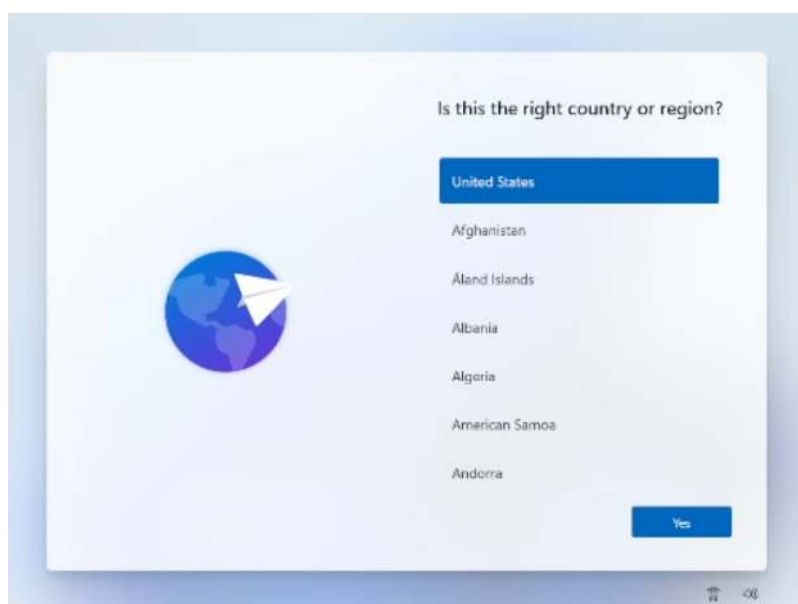
---

### RECOMMENDED VIDEOS FOR YOU...

Advertisement

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.



CLOSE

More Videos

PLAY SOUND

Next Up

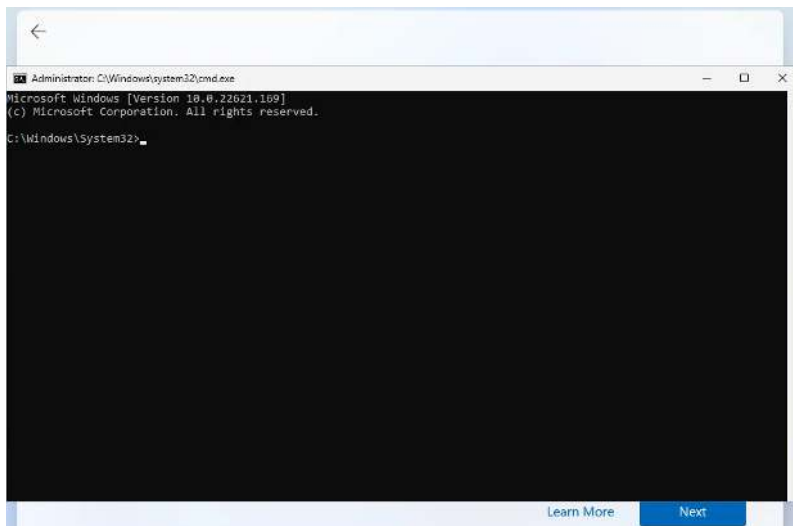
**How To Install Wi...**

(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

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.

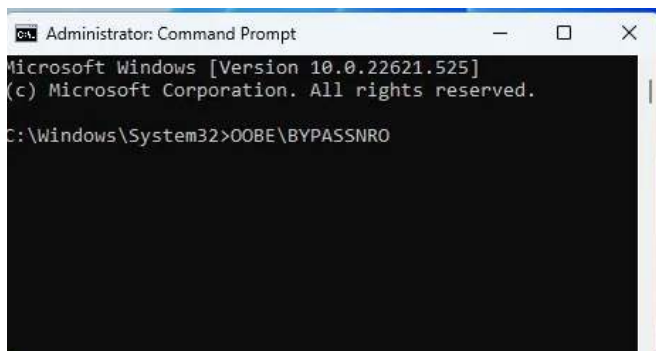
Advertisement

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



(Image credit: Future)

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

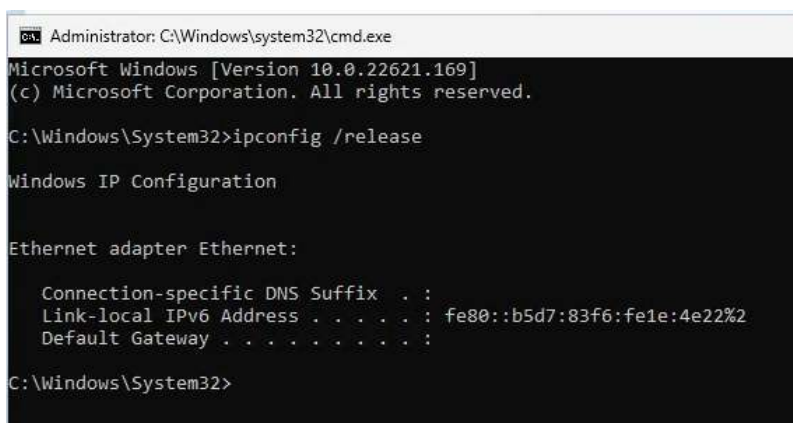


(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

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.

Advertisement



CLOSE

More Videos

(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

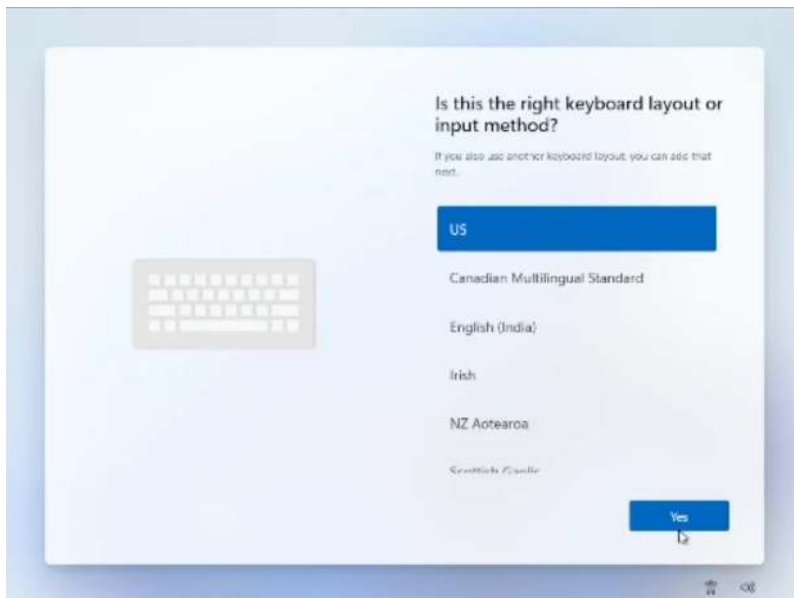
5. Close the command prompt.

PLAY SOUND

Next Up

How To Install Wi...

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

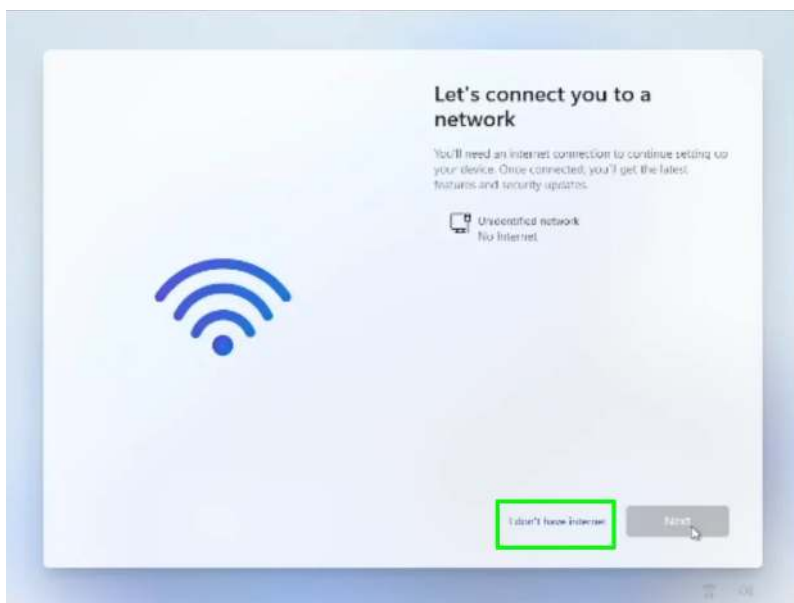


Advertisement

(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.

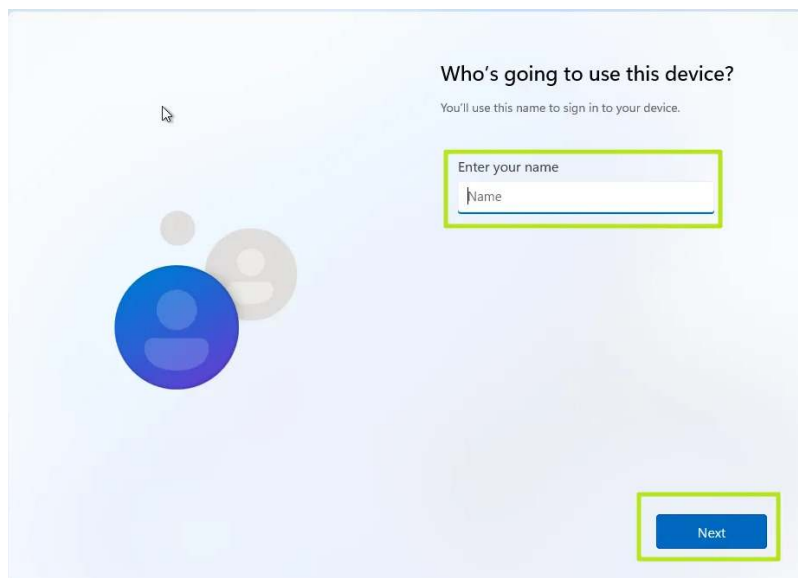
CLOSE

More Videos

PLAY SOUND

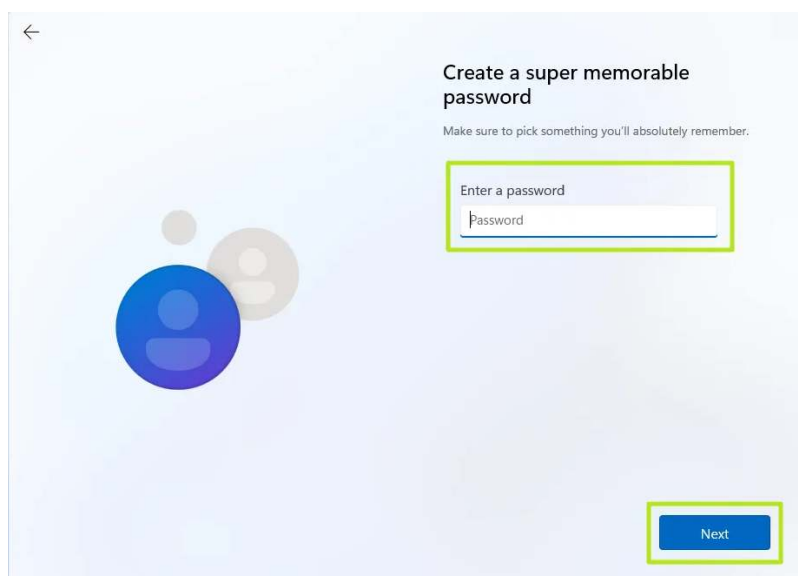
Next Up

How To Install Wi...



(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.

Advertisement

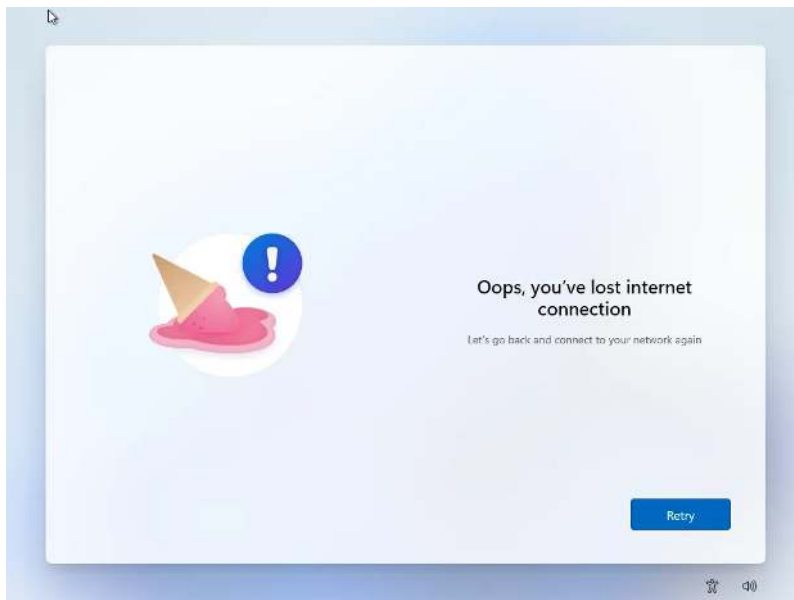
CLOSE

More Videos

PLAY SOUND

Next Up

How To Install Wi...



Advertisement

(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

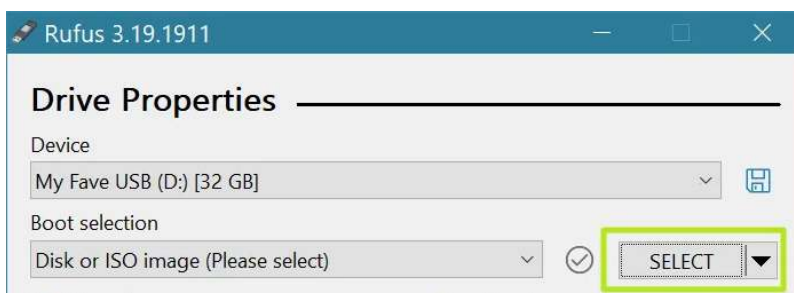
Here's how to make a Windows 11 install disk that will let you disconnect from the Internet during setup so you can create a local account instead of using a Microsoft one.

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.

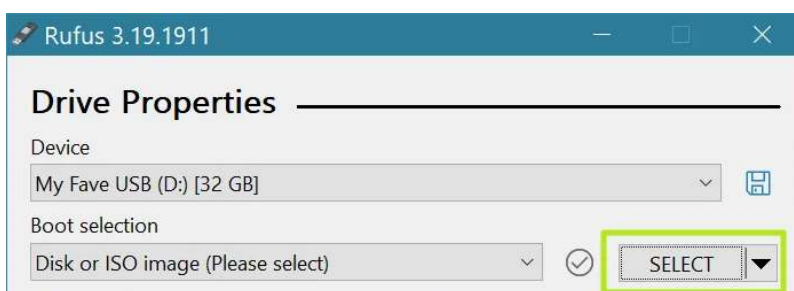


(Image credit: Future)

CLOSE

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

More Videos

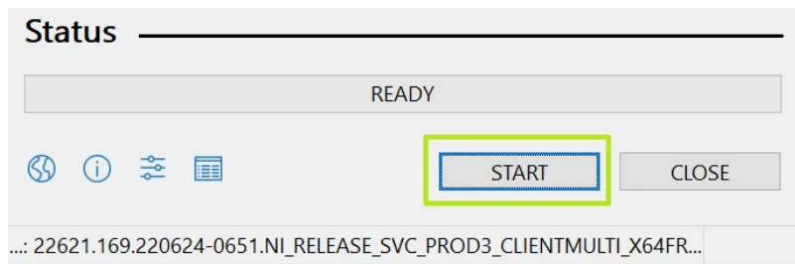


PLAY SOUND

Next Up  
**How To Install Wi...**

(Image credit: Future)

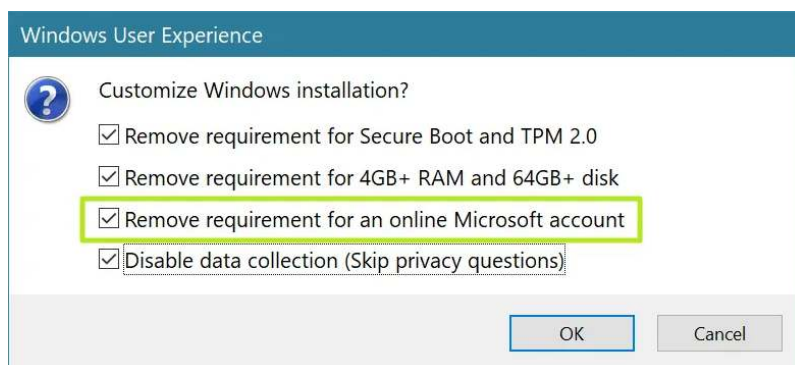
6. Click **Start** at the bottom of the Rufus window.



(Image credit: Future)

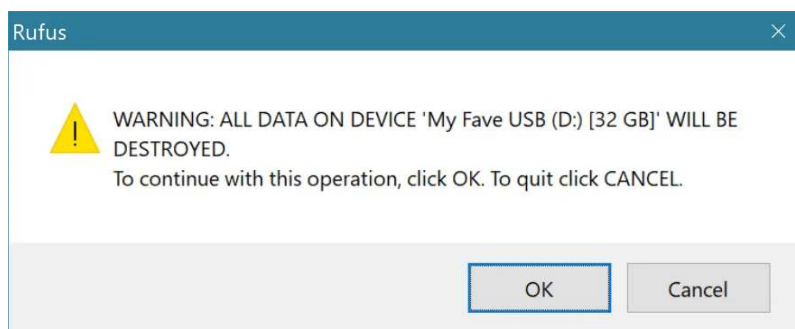
A dialog box appears with a few options for bypassing Windows 11 install requirements.

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.

CLOSE

More Videos

## Stay on the Cutting Edge

Join the experts who read Tom's Hardware for the inside track on enthusiast PC tech news — and have for over 25 years. We'll send breaking news and in-depth reviews of CPUs, GPUs, AI, maker hardware and more straight to your inbox.

PLAY SOUND

Next Up

How To Install Wi...

Your Email Address

- ☐ Contact me with news and offers from other Future brands
- ☐ Receive email from us on behalf of our trusted partners or sponsors

**SIGN ME UP**

By submitting your information you agree to the Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policy and are aged 16 or over.



**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.

#### MORE ABOUT WINDOWS



**Microsoft to offer Windows 10 subscription plan for customers who want to keep getting updates after October 2025 — for both businesses and individuals ►**



**Survey finds 40% of university students in Japan don't know the copy-and-paste shortcut keys ►**



**Meteor Lake laptop chip performs like Ryzen 7 desktop PC chip in leaked benchmark — next-gen 16-core Ultra 9 185H flaunts 5.1 GHz at 45W ►**

**SEE MORE LATEST ►**

**SEE ALL COMMENTS (32)**

CLOSE

More Videos

PLAY SOUND

Next Up  
**How To Install Wi...**



CLOSE

#### More Videos

PLAY SOUND

Next Up

**How To Install Wi...**

---

## 32 COMMENTS

COMMENT FROM THE FORUMS ►

**maestro0428**

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 for sure....

[Read More](#)

REPLY ►

---

**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...

[Read More](#)

REPLY ►

---

**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...

[Read More](#)

REPLY ►

---

**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>

More Videos

PLAY SOUND

Next Up

**How To Install Wi...**

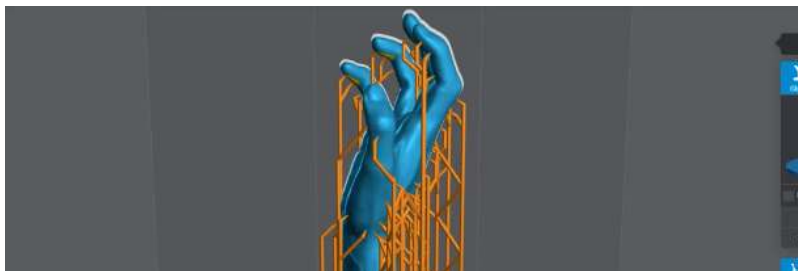
CLOSE

## MOST POPULAR



## How to Remove Supports from 3D Prints

By [Sammy Ekanan](#) October 24, 2023



## 3D Printing Supports: How to Choose the Right Kind

By [Sammy Ekanan](#) October 23, 2023



## How to Fix 3D Prints Not Sticking to the Bed

By [Sammy Ekanan](#) October 07, 2023



## How to Replace the Nozzle of Your 3D Printer

By [Sammy Ekanan](#) September 30, 2023



## How to Use Cura Vase Mode

By [Sammy Ekanan](#) September 25, 2023

CLOSE

More Videos

PLAY SOUND

Next Up

**How To Install Wi...**



## How to 3D Print Miniatures: A Complete Guide for Beginners

By [Sammy Ekan](#) September 24, 2023



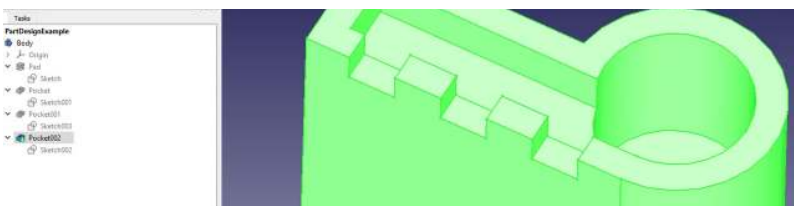
## How to Check Your CPU Temperature

By [Paul Alcorn](#) September 12, 2023



## How To Create and Use Python Functions

By [Les Pounder](#) September 11, 2023



Tom's Hardware is part of Future US Inc, an international media group and leading digital publisher. **Visit our corporate site.**

[Terms and conditions](#)

[Contact Future's experts](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Cookies policy](#)

[Accessibility Statement](#)

[Advertise](#)

[About us](#)

[Coupons](#)

CLOSE

More Videos

PLAY SOUND

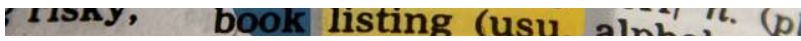
Next Up

**How To Install Wi...**

Careers

Do not sell or share my personal information

© Future US, Inc. Full 7th Floor, 130 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036.



## How To Use Dictionaries in Python

By Les Pounder August 21, 2023

CLOSE

More Videos

PLAY SOUND

Next Up

How To Install Wi...