

Windows 2.1x

Windows 2.1x (also known as **Windows/286** or **Windows/386**) is a historical version of Windows graphical user interface-based operating systems.

Windows/286 2.10 and Windows/386 2.10 were released on May 27, 1988, less than six months after the release of Windows 2.0. This is the first version of Windows to require a hard disk drive.^[2]

On December 31, 2001, Microsoft declared Windows 2.1x obsolete and stopped providing support and updates for the system.

Contents
<u>Editions</u>
<u>Windows 2.11</u>
<u>Successor</u>
<u>See also</u>
<u>References</u>
<u>Further reading</u>
<u>External links</u>

Editions

Like Windows 2.0, two editions of Windows 2.1x were released with differing CPU compatibility. However, the naming convention was changed to *Windows/286* and *Windows/386*.

Like Windows 2.0, the 286 edition would run on 8086 hardware, but without HMA support. A few PC vendors shipped Windows/286 with 8086 hardware; one such example was IBM's PS/2 Model 25, which included Windows/286, resulting in some customer confusion.^[3]


Windows 2.11

On March 13, 1989, Windows 2.11 was released in Windows/286 and Windows/386 editions, with some minor changes in memory management, AppleTalk support, and faster printing with updated printer drivers.^[4]

Windows 2.11 was superseded by Windows 3.0 in May 1990, but supported by Microsoft for twelve years, until December 31, 2001.^[5]

Windows 2.1x

A version of the Microsoft Windows operating system



Screenshot of Windows 2.1

Developer	<u>Microsoft</u>
Source model	<u>Closed source</u>
Released to manufacturing	May 27, 1988
Latest release	2.11 / March 13, 1989 ^[1]
License	<u>Commercial software</u>
Preceded by	<u>Windows 2.0</u> (1987)
Succeeded by	<u>Windows 3.0</u> (1990)
Support status	
Unsupported as of December 31, 2001	

Successor

A successor to Windows 2.1x, **Windows 3.0**, was released on May 22, 1990, and the latest release, **3.00a**, was released in October 1991. Microsoft had intended to make Windows 3.0 appealing to the general public. The company's "Entry Team", assigned to that task, was concerned that the public might perceive it to be no more than a tool for large enterprises, due to the software's high system requirements. Major game publishers did not see it as a potential gaming platform, instead sticking to DOS.

See also

- LOADALL

References

1. "Windows Version History" (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/32905/windows-version-history>). *Support*. Microsoft. July 19, 2005.
2. Seth Sibangan (August 4, 2013). "Kellys" (<http://www.slideshare.net/KSreitphzaySibangan/kellys-25015202>). *SlideShare*. Seth Sibangan. Retrieved August 7, 2013.
3. "Microsoft Windows/286" (http://www.oldcomputermuseum.com/os/windows_286_v2.10.html). *www.oldcomputermuseum.com*. Retrieved June 11, 2020.
4. "Microsoft Windows/286 v2.11" (http://www.oldcomputermuseum.com/os/windows_286_v2.11.html). *Old Computer Museum*. Retrieved August 15, 2013.
5. "Microsoft Support, Obsolete Products" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20050814234847/http://support.microsoft.com/gp/lifeobsoleteproducts>). Microsoft. Archived from the original (<http://support.microsoft.com/gp/lifeobsoleteproducts>) on August 14, 2005.

Further reading

- PC Magazine. *20 Years of Windows Solutions – Windows 286 & 386* (<https://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,1868387,00.asp>).
- YouTube-upload of Windows/386 promotion video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noEHHB6rnMI>)

External links

- Microsoft Windows Version History (<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/32905>)
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