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Autumn 2023 Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn 2023 edition of my newsletter.

Thank you as always for your continued support, it is much appreciated.

Windows 11 2023 Update

The next major update to Windows 11 is due to be released in the coming weeks.

Unlike early Windows 10 major updates this update won't be a huge download that takes ages to install as it will be delivered via what Microsoft call an enablement package meaning that most of the new features have already been rolled out to your computer during the last few month in the monthly cumulative updates and when the times comes for the release they will simply deliver an update which will "enable" the new features in Windows 11, so updating to the latest version will be a quick and painless process which won't have any effect on your existing apps or files.

For full details on what new feature and changes are coming with this update see the section below on my website.

[What's New in Windows 11 2023 Update \(23H2\).](#)

Security Tips

TIP 1

Always use a different and very secure password for your email accounts as if a criminal can access your email account then they could access private information about you, post emails and messages pretending to be you and use this to trick other people, and easily reset other account passwords.

TIP 2

Always keep your computers, phones, and tablets up to date with the latest software updates. Software updates for your operating system often contain important security updates to keep you safe. And keeping your virus protection updated ensures you are protected from the latest viruses and malware.

TIP 3

Turn on 2-step verification (also known as two-factor authentication) for accounts which offer it. Yes it maybe a pain having to go through the extra step of receiving a PIN number via email or SMS (text message) to login to a website but the extra level of security it provides is worth it!

TIP 4

Weak passwords can be cracked in seconds. The longer and more unusual your password is, the harder it is for a criminal to crack. A good way to make your password difficult to crack is by combining three random words to create a password (e.g. summerbananagreenhouse). This is the recommend method for creating password from the NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) – and they know what they are talking about! Read [this](#) article to learn more.

TIP 5

Regularly backup your data, so at least if the worst happens and your computer is stolen or you are hacked you know that all your important files can be recovered – more details on how to backup can be found on my website [here](#).

TIP 6

Use a password manager (I personally use [SafeInCloud](#)) or browser (e.g. Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge) to save your passwords. We all have so many password to remember and it is all too easy just to use the same password for every website, or to just have them written down on scraps of paper, but for the best security you should use different password for every website and trying to then remember all these is impossible, so instead use a password manager to do all the hard work for you, this can be secured use 2-step verification as above to make it as secure as possible and then you won't have to remember each and every password yourself, have them written down and you can make sure each password is secure and unique.

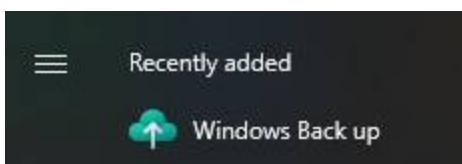
Windows Back up

Windows 10 users especially may notice a new Windows Back up icon appear on the Start Menu or see the following pop-up window appear when the latest Windows updates are installed (for Windows 11 users it will be part of the update mentioned above coming soon)

For those that don't already use OneDrive it is really just a prompt to let you know that it is available as part of Windows 10 (and 11) and that you can use it to backup your data (5Gb of storage is included for free with Windows / 1Tb if you have an Office/Microsoft 365 subscription), it also backups up your Windows settings, remembers what apps you have installed and where you have the shortcuts pinned (e.g. on start menu / taskbar etc), as well as your Wi-Fi network password and saved browser passwords – all of this is done to allow a seamless transition to a new computer.

If you already use Microsoft OneDrive for storing your files (documents, photos etc) then you might not see the prompt or if you do then you should be able to ignore it as most of the items should already be configured and backing up already. The window shown will vary slightly than below if you are already using OneDrive as it will show when Last backup was at the top under computer name, and down bottom left corner you will see how much of your storage you have used, and each section can be expanded to show more details.

You DO NOT have to use OneDrive (or Windows Back up) it is personal choice – more details on using both are available on my website.



Let's back up your PC

We'll back up your info in the cloud so you can have peace of mind knowing it's protected, even if something happens to this PC. [Privacy Statement](#)



DESKTOP



Folders

Back up your files and folders to OneDrive



Apps

Remember installed apps and pinned app preferences



Settings

Remember Windows settings and preferences



Credentials

Remember Wi-Fi networks and other passwords

Cancel

Back up

Recommended Software

Some of you may also be aware that as well as providing support and assistance for all my fantastic home customers I also do quite a lot of software development (programming) writing useful tools such as my Backup Wizard for home users, and other software for corporate clients.

Below is a some of the other products I have created which may be of interest to you:

PDF ASSIST

A fully featured PDF manipulation tool with the following features:

- Redaction - Secure redaction of content from PDF files
- Annotation - Highlight, underline, strikethrough, and squiggly text markup. Free hand drawing. Shapes Stamps. Sticky notes. Text and ink signatures.
- Merge / Split
- Mark - Add custom or pre-defined watermark to all pages.

- Convert – Convert PDF to Word, Excel. Convert Word, Excel, PowerPoint and more to PDF. Convert scanned PDF files to editable text.
- Protect – Encrypt and password protect PDF files.
- & much more

Full details and pricing [here](#).

ESSENTIAL OFFICE

Fully featured Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Diagram Creator, Calendar and PDF viewer - all in one simple to use application, perfect for those with only basic needs without the cost of buying Microsoft Office.

Compatible with Word (.doc/.docx) and Excel (.xls/.xlsx) documents from Office 97-2021.

Available for free from [here](#) or the Microsoft Store.

Quick links

- [Buyers Guide](#)
- [Safe Computing](#)
- [Reference Guides](#)
- [Virus Protection](#)
- [Data Backup](#)
- [Windows 10](#)
- [Windows 11](#)
- [Basic Troubleshooting](#)

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