

## Windows 11 - The Good, The Meh, The Ugly



### The Good

Microsoft executives have called Windows 11 a new start to personal computing that centers on people. The corny wordplay was intended to highlight the biggest design change in Windows: The iconic Start button, which has traditionally been squeezed into the bottom-left corner, has shifted toward the bottom center. And no longer does the Start button load a list of settings and apps; it shows a folder of your apps. This is the same interface we use on Apple and Android smartphones and tablets, which showcase a tray of important apps at the bottom center of the screen. Still, it's a welcome change. The Start button in previous versions of Windows opened a laundry list of apps and settings that felt tedious to scroll through. The most interesting new design change is a feature called Snap Layouts. In the upper-right corner of an app, when you hover your mouse cursor over the maximize-window button, a grid opens up to show different arrangements that automatically shrink down or reposition the app. If you want to reposition an app window so that it takes up only the left side of the screen, you click on the corresponding icon to snap it into that position. That's much quicker than moving a window and dragging a corner to the proper size.

### The Meh

Many additions to Windows 11, including support for Android apps, were designed to keep people in the flow on their machines. One of them is the ability to create multiple desktop spaces, which Microsoft calls Task Views. The idea is that you can have a desktop screen for each aspect of your life. One desktop could be devoted to work and show shortcuts to your email and calendar apps. Another could be devoted to your personal life and show shortcuts to all your games. This all sounds good, but divvying up your life into separate desktop screens is a little irksome. Switching to a specific screen and looking for the right app to launch took much more time than using the search tool to quickly find and open an app. Windows 11 also reintroduces the widget, a concept that Apple and Google operating systems have long used. Widgets are basically a lightweight app that always remains open, like a weather app, a calendar or a stock ticker, so that you can instantly glance at important information.

### The Ugly

Windows 11 is still in its early days but one issue that is unlikely to change is that for security reasons, computers must, at a minimum, include fairly recent chips from Intel and AMD to install Windows 11. That means millions of computers running Windows 10 on older hardware, including some that are only a few years old, will not be able to run Windows 11. So at some point, those users will have to buy new computers to gain the stronger security benefits and new features in the operating system.

## Summer Scams And How To Avoid Them



Summer is a time for sun, fun, exploration and relaxation. Unfortunately, as we unwind there are those who gear up to take advantage of our moments of diversion and distraction. Remember, scammers love summer, too. Here are a few summer scams that can turn a much-needed break from work into a break-the-bank moment and some simple tips to avoid getting got.

1. *The Wi-Fi Scam:* Many destinations, travel stops, restaurants, retailers and public venues provide free Wi-Fi. Unfortunately, free Wi-Fi by no means guarantees secure Wi-Fi. Before you connect to anything that is free, confirm the exact name of the Wi-Fi network and that it is secure. Always be on the lookout for fake networks created by scammers.

TIP: Always check with the network provider or someone of authority at the venue before logging on to any new wireless connection.

2. *The Excursion Scam:* When booking an excursion, double check that the company you're working with has a good reputation. Call and make sure the number matches contact information online, and that there are reviews from happy customers. Otherwise, you could be just giving a stranger your credit card information and the ability to take you for a ride.

TIP: Read reviews, and make sure the company is legitimate.

3. *The Front Desk Scam:* You arrive late at your hotel and all you want to do is check in, take a shower and go to bed. As you settle in, or just after you turn in, the phone in your room rings. The "front desk" is calling to tell you that your payment card was declined. Would you be so kind as to confirm your account number, or provide another card? You oblige then promptly forget all about it...that is until your monthly statement arrives (or whenever you check your account) and you get a rude awakening – the "front desk" wasn't associated with the hotel at all and was really a scammer.

TIP: If you get a call from the front desk, hang up and

call them back or go down to confirm your payment method in person.

4. *The Summer Rental Scam:* You find the perfect late-summer rental. Excited, or maybe a little anxious about losing out on this gem, you contact the person identified in the listing and—score—you get the place. On the appointed day, you show up at the right address, at the right time with bags in hand. You ring the bell and the door opens. The person standing in the doorway looks at you in wonderment as you happily announce that you have arrived. It might be the owner or maybe a tenant. Equally disturbing, you discover an office building, a parking lot or vacant field at the address you were given. Oh, and did I mention that the scammer and your money are long gone?

TIP: If you used a real estate agent, ask for the agent's license number and check it, request references if there are no reviews online and confirm that the address is real and the premises are truly available for rent. Some home-rental websites have their own vetting processes and offer guarantees that will protect you in case of fraud. Be sure to read through the details.

### ***Tips to keeping your summer scam free:***

***Don't Wire Money To Strangers*** – When booking a vacation or renting a property, avoid anyone who only accepts payment by wire transfer. Use a secure method of payment such as a credit or online payment system.

***Is The Vacation Really Free?*** – It may appear to be, but like anything else, a free vacation is not free if you have to give out your credit card number.

***Call Your Financial Institutions Before Leaving Town*** – It may not be enough just to call your credit card company to tell them you are leaving town. Call your bank as well, since your bank generally sets the level of security associated with your credit card. If you don't do this, your credit card transactions will probably be declined, especially if your purchases don't match your usual spending pattern.

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# Our CEO Is A Published Author

3  
July 2021



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Learn all the ways to protect yourself and your data. Contact us today for your copy of *Inside The Hacker Mind*.

## Why It's Easy For Hackers To Hack



Over 60% of people use the same password across multiple sites.

The average user has 26 password protected accounts...



but only 5 different passwords across these accounts.

More than 85% of Americans keep track of online passwords by memorizing them in their heads.



Many business owners and managers don't believe they have anything a hacker wants.

## Sully on Vacation!



Our office puppy Sully has been working very hard lately and needed to take a little vacation!

He's been having some well deserved fun in the sun with his humans.

### FUN FACT!



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