

## Windows 7 or 8?

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We have a small network of 6 PCs - 4 running Windows 7 and 2 running Windows XP. I am replacing the two computers running XP (I know, after 10 years it is time). Should I replace them with Windows 7 PCs while I still can or go ahead and get PCs running Windows 8.1?

The PCs are for a paralegal and our office manager. They mostly run MS Word and Outlook, but also use WordPerfect, Quickbooks, RTG and ProDoc.

I have a notebook PC running Windows 8.1 and personally do not care for it, but if it was up to me I would still be using MS-DOS and WordPerfect 5.1.

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Tom Simchak, Texas

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HP just recently announced that they are offering Windows 7 on new PC's again and Microsoft is rumored to be dropping the platform in their Win 9 release, which is due in 2015. Thus, you probably want to avoid Windows 8.

Jeff Anderson (Not a lawyer)

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We have a Windows 8 desktop at the house with a "touchy" monitor. That's the first time I ever felt old in my life. I'm sure it's easy enough to "learn" but it definitely didn't feel intuitive to this xp boy. I literally thought to myself, "this is what my mother felt when she got her iPad: total confusion." BUT, that said I do intend to learn Windows 8 and beyond. I figure, "Sh\*\*\*\*\*t, if James Tyre can move beyond his punch cards, I, too, must face this Brave New World."

As for your actual question, I would go with the 7 and get the office on one platform.  
TYG, NYK.  
Jimmy McMullan, Alabama

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## SoloSez Popular Threads, February 2014

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As if.

James S. Tyre, California

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Ok. I'm as non-techy as anyone. I just got two new desktops with windows 8. I like them. I did add some free download that allows me to have it look just like my xp machines. But I like all the stuff it does itself that I am used to needing different software for. Windows scan and fax is one example. I'm blanking on more, but there are more.

Shell Bleiweiss, Illinois

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8 sucks. I haven't yet tried 8.1. 7 worked fine for me.

Eric C. Davis, Alabama

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My daughter has adapted to 8 on her laptop fairly well, but it has a touchscreen.

We have tried to upgrade to 8.1, but run into a very weird problem, where it keeps insisting we have to uninstall the "Toshiba RAID Driver" before proceeding. It's an Acer laptop, and there is no Toshiba RAID driver locatable, not even doing a Registry search.

A call to Acer tech support was useless: their advice was to restore the computer to its original configuration (i.e., uninstall all applications, remove all data), and \*then\* try the upgrade.

Anyway, I see no point to Windows 8 on any machine without a touch screen. (There's not much of a point \*with\* a touchscreen, but some people like that interface okay.)

Michael A. Koenecke, Texas

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I had responded to Neal offlist, but facing the same decision a few months ago I went to Windows 8.1 Pro for four new machines. The classic shell can make it look and run pretty much the same as 7, but security in general is better under 8.1.

Configuration was quick and easy, but I do have a technical background. I had also been experimenting on Windows 8 Pro at home for several months, which reduces the amount I had to learn to configure the new machines. All of it works well and as expected, including all the X6, Office Pro 2013, Omnipage Ultimate and PDF Pro 8 installs.

Darrell G. Stewart, Texas

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## SoloSez Popular Threads, February 2014

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Windows 8 runs great on a tablet or Windows phone but DO NOT use for work related machines. Not ready for business prime time!!!! Stay with Windows 7. Office 365 is spectacular for synching everything up very cost effectively but I would strongly suggest you stay with Windows 7 for now. And I'm a staunch PC. Hope this helps.

Lyza L. Sandgren, paralegal

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I was scared off by this report: GATES SPENDS ENTIRE FIRST DAY BACK IN OFFICE TRYING TO INSTALL WINDOWS 8.1 <http://tinyurl.com/qgrfa59>

Jon van Horne

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I'm about to upgrade and I'm going with 8. You can easily get a start menu add-on, and all of the other features are fairly irrelevant.

Why are they irrelevant? Because at work, 99% of the time I am:

- 1) Opening a program with the start menu (which can work fine in 8); or
- 2) Using a program (which looks just the same in 7 and 8)

Almost all the complaints about Windows 8 relate to the desktop. Who cares? You could paint my desktop purple and add a robot that would poke me with a stick when I used it, and I'd hardly notice. Why bother installing an OS which will age out sooner, is less secure, and isn't getting immediate updates--not to mention that it may eventually have different upgradeability costs?

Erik Hammarlund, Massachusetts

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