

Windows 10 was released on July 29, 2015. Microsoft is already advertising it to Windows 7 and 8.1 users. But should you upgrade now.

Windows 10 is finally out — kind of. Microsoft initially promised that everyone could take advantage of the free upgrade offer on July 29, but you may have to wait a while before Microsoft offers the upgrade to your PC.

We recommend holding off on Windows 10, at least for a little while. Wait and see how stable Windows 10 is on other people's PCs before you make the leap. That's how Microsoft itself is choosing to roll out Windows 10.

When Microsoft announced Windows 10 would be a free upgrade, it said: "On July 29, people can get Windows 10 for PCs and tablets by taking advantage of the free upgrade offer."

The reservation system —the "Get windows popup" you've probably seen on your Windows 7 or 8.1 PC — was just a way to pre-download much of Windows 10 so you could have faster access on release day.

Microsoft has since stepped back from this. According to Microsoft's release here's what will actually be happening, starting July 29:

"Starting on July 29, we will start rolling out Windows 10 to our Windows Insiders. From there, we will start notifying reserved systems in waves, slowly scaling up after July 29th. Each day of the roll-out, we will listen, learn and update the experience for all Windows 10 users.

If you reserved your copy of Windows 10, we will notify you once our compatibility work confirms you will have a great experience, and Windows 10 has been downloaded on your system.

If your system is not ready yet for your upgrade to Windows 10, we will provide more details during the upgrade experience."

In other words, most people won't actually be able to upgrade to Windows 10 on the vaunted July 29 release date. This isn't actually a bad thing — by slowly rolling out the update, Microsoft can identify problems and fix them before they affect a larger amount of people. Rather than immediately dumping Windows 10 on a billion PCs, Microsoft can be more careful and fix bugs — especially bugs that only affect specific hardware. Devices that aren't capable of upgrading properly can be blocked from doing so.

But, Should You Upgrade If You Can?

If you have reserved your Windows 10 upgrade, you don't actually have to go through with it. Likewise, if you haven't reserved the Windows 10 upgrade yet, you can open the Get Windows 10 window and reserve it today to become eligible. The same Get Windows 10 interface will tell you if any of your hardware or software won't work on Windows 10.

We recommend you don't upgrade immediately. The free Windows 10 upgrade offer lasts an entire year. Now that Windows 10 is beginning to roll out, sit on the sidelines for a bit and see what other users report after upgrading. If there are widespread issues — or issues on your particular model of laptop, for example — you can avoid them. At the very least,

wait a few weeks to see what the general experience of people upgrading to Windows 10 is before taking that leap.