

# Windows 7 countdown, updates, hints & tips

**Windows 7 retirement date is getting closer – 14 January 2020.** On the basis that all Windows 7 computers will be of an age that will not take a Windows 10 upgrade, now is the time to think about a replacement. But should you go for a PC, laptop or a tablet? If you are used to using a PC, then the logical replacement is a new one with Windows 10 and the latest processor and other hardware inside. You will be able to use your existing screen if it works ok. The same applies if you prefer using a laptop. Whichever you decide to go for, all your existing data (files, folders, emails etc.) can be safely transferred to the new machine. However, if your needs have changed, and you only really use the internet for browsing and shopping, and a few emails etc., then a tablet might be your best option. There are lots to choose from, but my preference has always been for the *Apple iPad*, and I think anyone who has ever had one would agree, as they are so easy to use. The price has come down over the last couple of years, and the latest 10" model starts at £349. You can find other tablets, like *Amazon Kindle Fire* and *Samsung* models from around £100 upwards, but they don't perform quite as well.

**Tip!** Look here for advice on buying a new laptop: <http://www.rdmcomputers.co.uk/news>

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**Windows 10 update 1903** – I have mentioned before about holding off on this one, but recently it seems to be rolling out to most computers automatically. *Microsoft* seems to have ironed out most of the glitches this was causing, but if you do experience any problems, like the Windows Start button/menu not working, then the old trick of turn it off and turn it on again sometimes works. (see below if you can't shut down\*\*), but if not you may need to seek assistance.

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**Fridays off** – I would just like to advise my valued customers that I am reducing my working week to Monday – Thursday, so will no longer be available on Fridays (or weekends).

**Laptop not starting trick \*\*.** If your Laptop fails to start up with just a black screen, try this trick. Disconnect the power lead, then turn the laptop over and take out battery (on some newer models this may not be possible however). Leave for a few minutes then insert the battery and the power lead and try starting up normally. If this doesn't work, it will point to a more serious problem.

**Tip! If your top tool bar disappears** - press F11 to get it back. If you want to enlarge the size of the page, just hold down the Ctrl key and click the + key.

**Technology in numbers:**

**300 billion** - is the estimated number passwords that will exist in the next few years!

**29%** of computer users would like to use biometric security – that's fingerprint or face recognition and the like.

**62 billion** – the estimated number of internet connected devices in the next 5 years.

**5g Superfast Internet** – is rolling out in many cities now, with Hull scheduled for later this year

**Memeo update.** Many of you may have been using *Memeo* back up software. This performed very well for many years, but for some time now many users have experienced problems, notably with the latest update which always seems to fail. I have to say that I stopped dealing with *Memeo* a few years ago because of various issues, and the fact that purchased licences seem to expire, causing the user to purchase a new one. Regarding the latest update that often fails, **the safest way is to ignore it**, but if you want to apply it, I have now found a workaround, but I can take no responsibility for anything like the licence issue mentioned above! Before attempting the update, right click on the bottom task bar and open Task Manager, then look down the alphabetical list of processes, and click on an *Memeo* background service, and click the button that says 'end process', then do the same for *Memeo Instant backup client*. Then run the update.

**Eset 'is the new King of anti-virus'** according to *Which?* Magazine that has awarded Eset Internet Security its best buy award. A fitting award for an excellent product that I am pleased to have been promoting and selling for over 11 years now. **For prices, upgrades and licences and renewals – just give us a call.**

**Scam telephone calls** - I would again like to remind everyone, to NEVER let an unknown caller take over your computer remotely, even if they say they are from *Microsoft* or *Windows*. These companies, or any other reputable firm, will NEVER make unsolicited calls to home users. The other thing to watch out for is that these scammers have started cloning UK numbers, so in other words instead of your telephone caller display showing 'International' or 'out of area', they may now show a London, Leeds or Sheffield number for instance. If you give them access to your computer, they will cause all sorts of mayhem, and then ask for a credit card number, so they can extract your hard-earned cash

**Remember to look on my website for copies of the current and two previous articles where they can be read, downloaded or printed.**

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