

**Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc.**

**Supporting inexperienced users with local expertise**

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## **SDCUCI NEWS**

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**M**eetings are held monthly on the third Wednesday at 7.30 pm, in the hall at the rear of St Mary's Catholic Church on the Corner of Bains and Main South Roads, Morphett Vale

Cost \$3.00 per person per meeting. This includes a copy of our Newsletter, plus coffee/tea and supper

***Visitors are most welcome***

After 3 visits, you are requested to become members

Annual Subscription:  
Single — \$20.00  
Family — \$30.00

**Both Novice and Experienced computer users will be most warmly welcomed**



### **The Brownpaddock Chatter**



**After last meeting's presentation on browsers, the Secretary received an invitation to attend the 3E Show with Bob & Merrin on Tribe FM.**

**The half hour session provided listeners with information and tips on browsers and browser extensions, and a mention of our Club's details.**

**If you haven't visited our Facebook page for a while why not pay it a visit and click follow us.**

**We wish Trevor and Kay well and a speedy return to normal after more than a few stressful weeks.**

**The October meeting is our Annual General Meeting and we look forward to seeing you.**

**Committee members were asked to provide a "first experience" story. Guess which committee member submitted the experience below.**


***My first car was a black Morris minor which didn't have any accessories like the modern cars of today ie no radio. On weekends I was fortunate to have access to a local joinery yard with sufficient space to drive around in. It was the perfect place where I was able to drive on my own and build up confidence before taking my driving test. I'm not sure how long I had the car for, but I drove it until the repairs were more than the cost of the car.***



## Adelaide Land Information System

Why is it that Microsoft persists EVERY TIME in bringing out a new system that is nowhere near complete nor any way near ready to be released to the market. By their own admission, the big guy is nowhere near finished working on Windows 11. I only ever introduced one bobby dazzler of a program (and won quite a prestigious international prize for it, to boot). It was a brand new concept at that time — a “Land Information System” — specifically the ‘Adelaide Land Information System’ or ALIS.


It started by identifying every separately-held piece of real estate in the City (including roads, public and private streets plus what was erected on, over or underneath them, together with who owns and occupies them, their legal descriptions (address, title, use, etc.). It would lead, later to the ability to undertake a limited mass computer valuation of the City. The point I am making is, that once the concept had been introduced to all staff that had even a remote interest in the City’s real estate, there was very, very little amendment to it as it had already been very thoroughly ‘beta tested’. Only a couple of most unusual circumstances arose that needed a minor adjustment to put the system back on an even keel again.

The project was undertaken by just two dedicated officers (one being me), the other being a computer analyst/programmer who had been seconded to me for the duration. He was excellent value and quickly came up to speed with how land was dealt with in South Australia and, in particular, the vagaries of the then local government land holding and rating system. In my case, this became my daytime job for well over six months and my own work was done out of hours and at week-ends etc. None-the-less, we each found the work both challenging and very interesting and the cause of vigorous discussion. 

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### Editorial

I have dedicated this issue to looking at Windows 11 — what’s new and what’s no longer there. It has been an interesting journey. I freely admit that I have gleaned the entire information for this issue from the work of the experts both in print and on the net in order to bring you the best information I could. As far as I can determine, the text was accurate as at the time of writing. 

## A Look at Windows 11

Given all the hype about Windows 11, I have dedicated this issue to looking at (so far as we know at present) just what Windows 11 might look like. Being quite honest, I have cribbed most of what you can read in the following pages from a number of different technical sources



A radically slicker, more consistent design belies what Win 11 is — really more of an evolutionary update to the world's most popular desktop operating system. Like any thing else, the new system has its pros and cons.

### •PROS

- Beautiful, more consistent new design
- New videogame selection and capabilities
- Great window layout options
- Better multi-monitor functionality
- Improved performance features

Runs Android apps

### •CONS

- Requires recent CPU
- Unfamiliar look may annoy longtime Windows users
- Some useful tools going away

It has been six years of Windows 10 remaining largely unchanged, but the world's most popular desktop operating system is getting a major overhaul with the unveiling of Windows 11, despite Microsoft proclaiming Windows 10 as the last version of Windows.

Upon running the Windows 11 preview, it was surprising that it was not all that different from Windows 10, despite its very new look. It certainly looks nicer with rounded corners for all windows, the taskbar icons in the middle, and more elegant Settings dialogs, but it didn't feel totally alien or require a whole new process as Windows 8 did.

### Windows 11's Requirements and How You Get Them

Windows 11 is touted to launch in October 2021. It is proposed to be a free upgrade for Windows 10 users. Pricing hasn't been announced for DIY PC builds or pre-Windows 10 computers. To date, the first beta of Windows 11 has been released via the Windows Insider Program's Beta Channel.

Much has been made over the system requirements for Windows 11, but they are actually very low—1GHz CPU, 4GB RAM, and 64GB storage. You will also need a computer with a TPM security chip and Secure Boot capability. Those are less of a problem than the internet is making them out to be, as they have been standard on most PCs for the last six or so years. The *(continued on page 4)*

(continued from page 3)

real limitation will be your processor model. This needs to be from about the last four years. Microsoft recently re-released the tool that assesses your PC's ability to run Windows 11, the ***PC Health Check app***. In the meanwhile, the first beta of Win 11 has been released via the Windows Insider Program's Beta Channel.

For those enrolled in the Windows Insider program and receiving Dev channel builds of Windows 10, the requirements are less stringent. It is possible that when Win 11 is finally released, earlier CPUs will be supported. Microsoft has already made Win 11 available to subscribers to the beta channel as well as the more bleeding-edge dev channel.

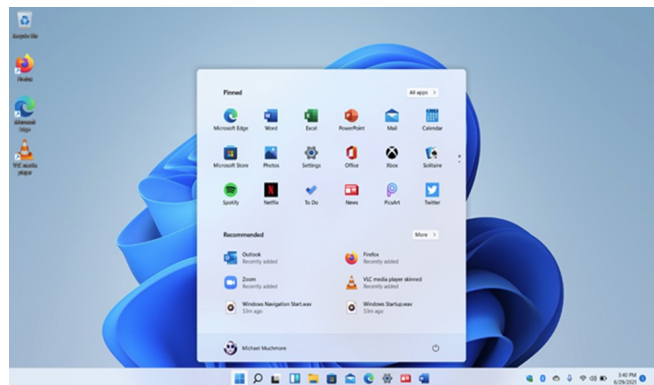
Microsoft recently made a downloadable ISO disk image file available for installing Win 11 for doing an in-place upgrade or clean installation on a PC or in a virtual machine. Some sources have reported that installing the OS this way bypasses those system requirements that have bedeviled some would-be testers.

Recent information from the Insider Program, is that standard upgrades to Win 11 from Win 10 will not be available until 2022. Could it be that the Big Fella does not really want users to upgrade to Win 11, but rather to buy new PCs?

As with Win 10, there is a Home and a Pro version of Win 11. As you would expect, you will need to sign into an online Microsoft account to upgrade to Win 11 Home. On the other hand, you will be able to roll back to Win 10 for up to 10 days after upgrading if you prefer the older OS version. Microsoft has announced support for Win 10 At least until 2025.

## **A New Look (and More) for Windows**

What is actually new in Win 11. Much of the hype is just interface redesign rather than actual features and, as mentioned above, Win 11 is more familiar than you may expect, despite some changing and updating the furniture. It borrows from the Chrome OS, although you can still place app icons on the desktop background, which Google's lightweight desktop OS does not allow.



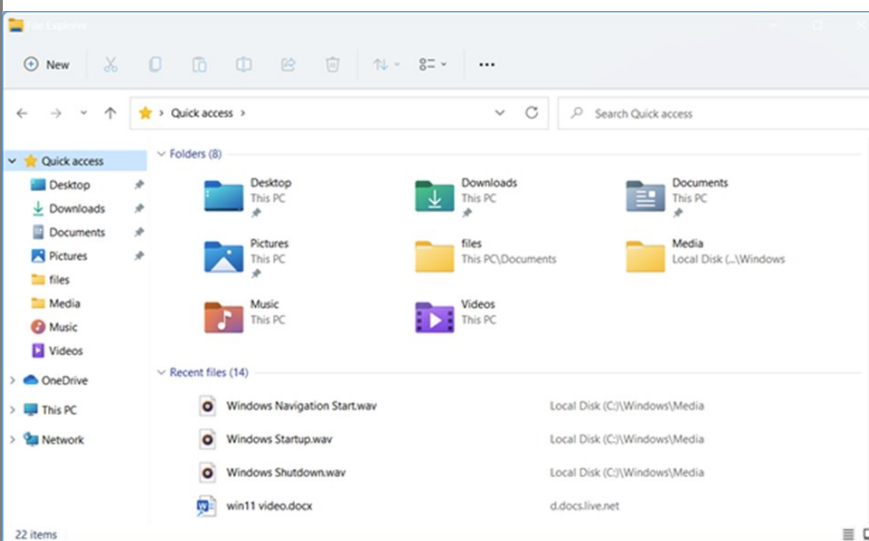
Under Win 11, multitasking and windowing (several programs working simultaneously on a computer, each in their own windows) are far more advanced in Windows. The interface gets macOS's rounded corners for all windows — not really much of a change, but it does give the OS a softer look. Much of the new design brings a welcome new slickness and consistency to the Windows interface, but there are a couple changes worth questioning.

(continued on page 5)



For decades, the Windows **Start button** has lived in the lower-left-hand corner of the screen, so, small a detail though it may be, getting used to it being at the left edge of centered icons could be one of the bigger adjustments you'll need to make. The potential issue is that the Start menu has previously always been in the same place, but now, if you run more programs, it moves a bit more to the left. Not having to think at all about the Start button's position was a plus going back more than 20 years. Happily, a Taskbar alignment option lets you go back to having the Start button in the left corner.

The new **taskbar** has smaller, less-informative buttons. With Win 10, it is quite clear which programs are running, as taskbar buttons for running programs are wider unless you choose to combine them under Settings. You can still hover over the buttons to see a thumbnail of the app window and right-click it to open the Jump List with recent documents or other common actions for the app.



The **start menu** has had a major overhaul in Win 11. The tiles that have become a sort of part of Windows are at the top of its panel, with recent and frequent apps and documents below them. The start menu's new mini-tiles are still good for touch input, but the information

that live tiles offered is lost — annoying as that could sometimes be.

**File Explorer** provides a good example of Win 11's new look, particularly its updated left panel controls and folder icons. Note the simplified ribbon along the top, which is far less busy and distracting than that of the previous File Explorer. The New button at top left (arrowed) works for new folders and/or



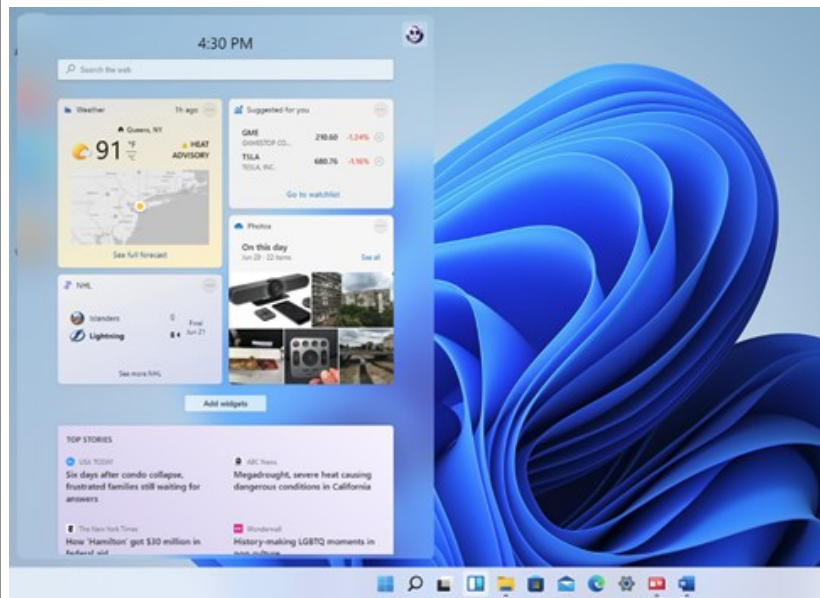
documents supported by your apps, and the same viewing options (list, details, differently sized icons) for files are available. The overflow menu offers file compression, selection, Properties, and the old Folder Options dialog. The right-click context menus, which have grown longer and longer over the years, are getting shorter, smarter, and clearer.

Touch support is still a focus for Windows tablets. The **on-screen keyboard** gets an update and now allows custom backgrounds. Tablet mode (which incidentally will not be called that anymore — see below) looks similar to the desktop interface, though there's more space between the taskbar icons. Touch gestures are improved (as noted in other sec

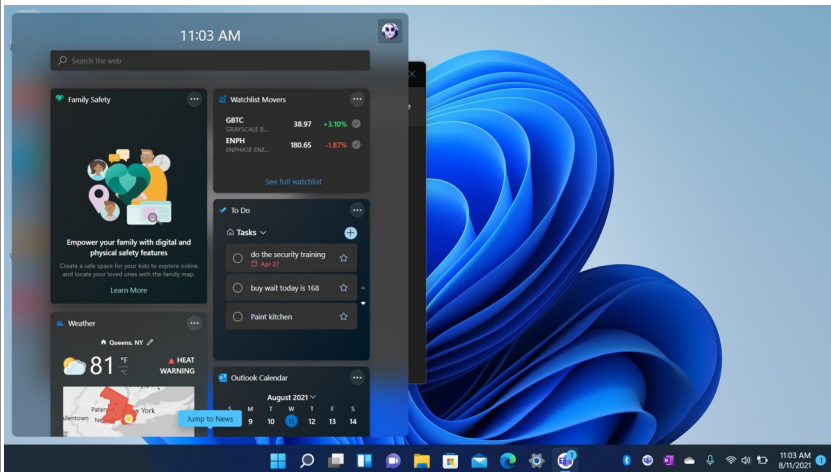
(continued from page 5) (as noted in other sections here), and there's a new Pen menu for stylus users.

## Widgets in Win 11

One of the few actual new features in Win 11 is this Widget panel. Even it is not entirely new, either, since the News and Interests taskbar popup that arrived in Win 10 recently does nearly the same things. It has become normal to have the News and Interests weather indicator always in the taskbar: To see the same



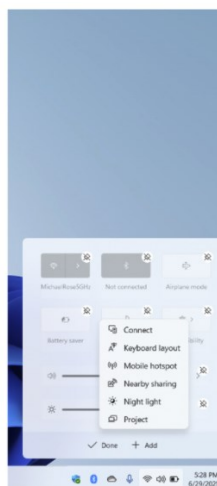
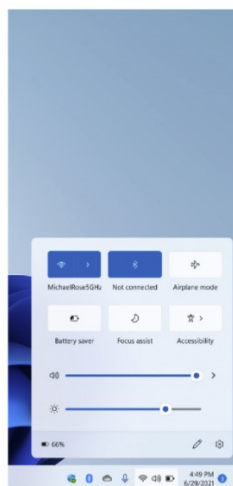
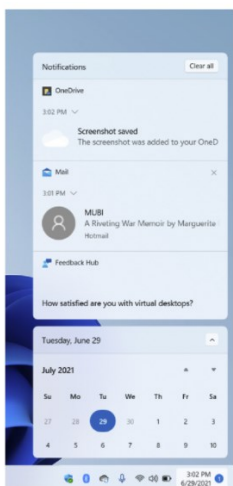
info, you have to click on the Win 11 widgets icon. As well as the Microsoft-produced first-party tiles, third-party developers can offer content through Win 11's widgets, too. Touch-screen users can easily swipe in from the left to open them and you can full-screen the widget panel if you want a bigger view.



A recent Windows Insiders update announced a new Entertainment widget that surfaces new movies and TV shows, along with a new look for context menus featuring Fluent Design's Acrylic texture adding transparency. A subsequent update (Build 22000.120) added a widget for Family, for those who use

Microsoft Family Safety parental controls tools.

## Notification and Quick Settings



Microsoft has split the Win 10 Action Centre into two separate panels and tap targets. This resembles what Apple has done with macOS's notifications, which used to be a clean, simple, single panel, but which are now a collection of smaller popups. The Win 11 version is not quite as bad as the macOS one, but I still prefer the single Action Center panel for

Notification Center (left), Quick Settings (middle), and Quick Settings

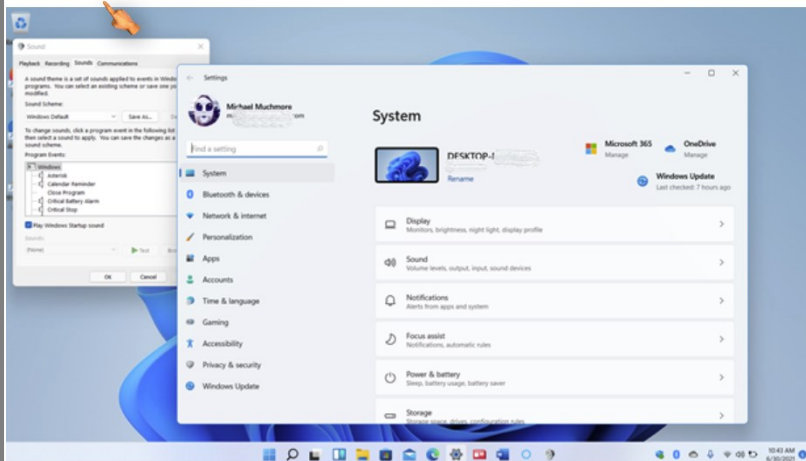
notifications and quick settings. I appreciate the circled number—similar to those on some mobile app icons—that shows how many

(continued on page 7)



(continued from page 6) notifications you have. Touch users can swipe in from the right to display the Notifications panel.

The Quick Settings panel opens when you click on or tap the Wi-Fi, speaker, or battery icon. By default, it shows buttons for Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Airplane mode, Battery Saver, Focus Assist, and Accessibility, plus sliders for speaker volume and screen brightness. A pencil icon lets you customize what buttons appear, with a choice of Connect (for external displays and audio), Keyboard layout, Nearby sharing (like AirDrop for PCs), Night light, and Project. You can still hover over each of the three icons in the taskbar to see their status, but I prefer to have sound settings pop up when I hit the speaker and Wi-Fi options to appear when I hit the Wi-Fi icon.



## Settings

The new Settings interface is pleasantly redesigned, but some advanced dialogs still show elements of the old design.

An annoying thing about Win 10 has been its inconsistent settings windows and dialogs: sometimes you uninstall a pro-

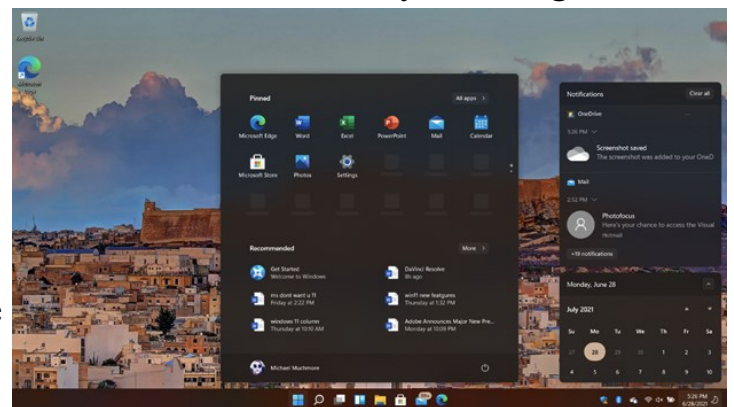
gram in the new Settings app, others in the antiquated Control Panel. That inconsistency goes away almost entirely in Win 11. For some detailed controls, such as sound devices, you still see the contents in the old style, though the window has the new design.

Light and Dark mode settings are still found in the Personalization > Colours setting area, and look much better than in Win 10, particularly the dark mode, which uses transparency effectively. Dark mode can now hold its head up proudly when compared with that of macOS.

You can still change system sounds in Settings, but the new Win 11 default set of sounds is slick, quick, and modern.

## Layouts and Multitasking

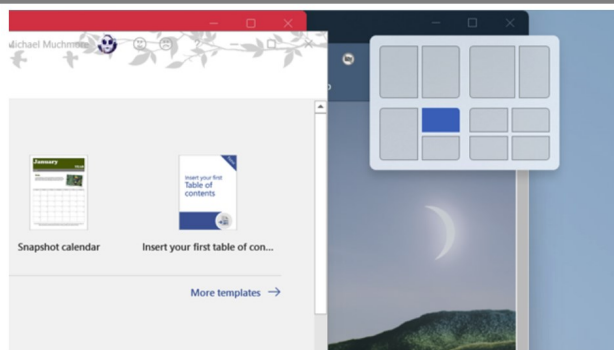
Windows has long surpassed macOS in the way it lets you arrange app windows on-screen, and the gap grows even wider with Win 11's new **Layouts** option. You get to this by hovering the cursor over the maximize button at the top right of any window—this seems a bit hidden to me, and I hope and expect Microsoft will surface the capability more in the final release. When you do hover over the maximize button, you see a choice of layouts—two windows side-by-side, three with one large and two small, and so on as shown below on the next page.



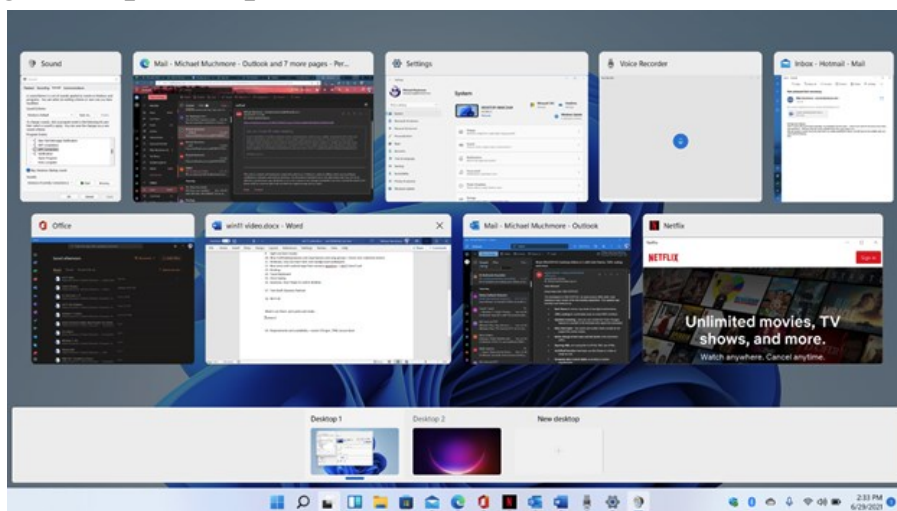
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(continued from page 7) 11's new **Layouts** option.

You get to this by hovering the cursor over the maximize button at the top right of any window — this seems a bit hidden. It is to be hoped Microsoft will improve this more in the final release. When you do hover over the maximize button, you see a choice of layouts — two windows side-by-side, three with one large and two small, and so on.



The current app window goes to the position in the layout you click (shown as blue here), and you can move it to another position the same way at any time. After you have a set of apps in a layout, you can hover on any of their icons in the taskbar to see the layout group to easily restore the windows arrangement, in what Microsoft is calling a Snap Group. You can load these on a second display that you have docked your PC to, as well. Win 11 also improves docking by remembering the layouts you had on the external monitor even if you did not specify a Snap Group. Thankfully, you can still snap a window to the side, so that it takes up exactly half the screen.



The new Task view, showing multiple desktops with different backgrounds.

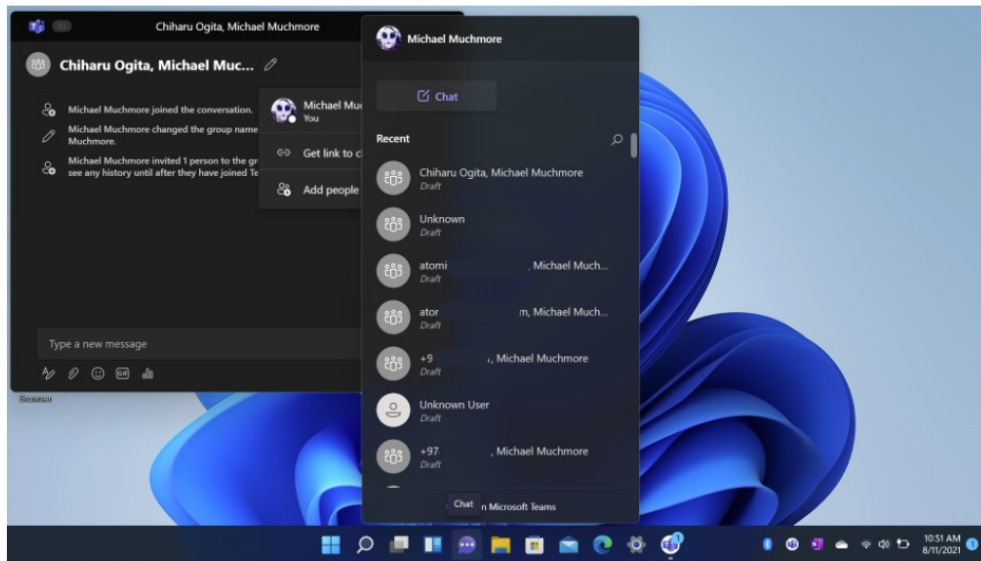
Windows still offers multiple virtual desktops, something I find incredibly useful for separating work apps and websites from personal ones. I either hit Ctrl–Windows Key – Arrow to move back and forth between them or the Windows Key – Tab keyboard shortcut to choose one from Task View. With Win 11, you can now use a four-finger swipe to move back and forth, something Mac users have long enjoyed, though only via trackpad rather than right on the screen. Also new is the ability to set different desktop backgrounds (aka wallpapers) for each desktop.

## Teams Chat Integration

During Microsoft's unveiling [event for Windows 11](#), the company's Teams chat and [videoconferencing app](#) was prominently in the center of the Taskbar by default, and now this feature has arrived in my test build. It is a move that makes sense. With the increasing importance of virtual meetings, maybe Microsoft can grab some of that videoconferencing market. Teams grew phenomenally during the COVID pandemic, from 20 million (continued on page 9)



(continued from page 8) to 145 million active users, but it remains to be seen whether it can become as ubiquitous as Microsoft would like. Adding a Skype Meet Now button to Windows 10's notification area didn't have that effect, but maybe once Windows 11 becomes the dominant version its ubiquity will accelerate its adoption.



The way it works is that you click the chat icon, which opens a welcome experience in which you grant the app access to your Microsoft account and its contacts.

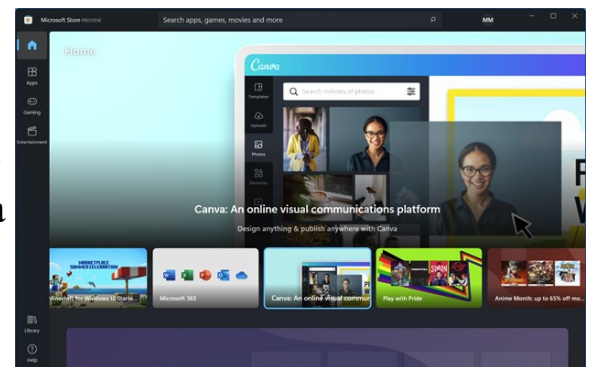
When you then tap the icon, you see a

list of all your contacts. Click on one to start a chat, and more likely than not they're not using Teams chat yet. When you send the first message to any of them, the app sends an invite to join Teams. One strange thing about the interface is that, once you're in a chat, you see a second taskbar icon for Teams along with the centered chat icon, which seems unnecessary duplication to me.

## New App Store With Android Support

Windows 11 will be able to run Android apps albeit with some caveats. You will either have to install them via the Amazon Appstore running inside Windows' Microsoft Store or as a sideloaded Android Package Kit (APK).

Like the rest of the interface, the Store gets a slick design refresh, but in the preview build the Android apps aren't yet available. Note that in addition to apps, the Store offers Movies and TV shows as well as games.



Perhaps even more significant for the store is that developers will no longer need to code the specific Universal Windows Platform (UWP) app type to be included. Even Microsoft's own gargantuan Visual Studio development program is in the store now. Microsoft has also announced that Progressive Web Apps, which are actually websites with some extra code that bestows app-like qualities, will also find their way into the Store.

You also get all the standard apps like Photos, the Groove Music player, Voice Recorder, Paint 3D, Mail, Calendar, and so on. We can hope for the last two

(continued from page 9) All the standard apps are there like Photos, Groove Music, Voice Recorder, Paint 3D, Mail, Calendar, etc. (the last two hopefully, greatly improved. Microsoft has already teased an updated Paint app as well as new versions of the Snipping Tool screenshot-taker and the Calculator.

## **Gaming and New Technologies**


PC Gamers are not forgotten in major new Windows updates. Benefitting are Game selection and technologies. The Xbox app built into Win 11 will offer access to the Xbox Game Pass collection of videogames. This will include titles like Halo Infinite, Twelve Minutes, and Age of Empires IV. The app will also enable Xbox Cloud Gaming, Microsoft's streaming game platform.

Win 11 will introduce new gaming technology Auto HDR and DirectStorage. The first expands the color space to reveal superior clarity even with non-HDR game titles. The second technology, DirectStorage (a subset of the Xbox Velocity Architecture) will speed up game loading times by bypassing the CPU and allowing graphics memory to load directly.

Other technical advances in Win 11 include Dynamic Refresh, to save laptop batteries, by decreasing a screen's high refresh rate when it's not needed. The OS will also support the much faster WiFi 6E standard. The requirements of TPM and Secure Boot are part of Microsoft's beefing up the OS's security technology, a topic worthy of a whole separate article.

Microsoft detailed new accessibility features to join existing ones like Narrator, Magnifier, Closed Captions and Windows Speech Recognition, along with support for third party assistive hardware and software. New for Windows 11 are new Contrast themes, redesigned closed caption themes, and AI-powered Windows Voice Typing. The new OS version also adds APIs for programming assistive apps, and even the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) now has accessibility options.

## **What's No Longer There?**

Aero Peek and Aero Shake are gone in the Win 11 preview build. Microsoft says Cortana, the AI voice assistant will not be preinstalled on Win 11 systems at launch. Live tiles are gone, too, with Widgets now replacing them. Tablet mode will be replaced by what Microsoft calls "new functionality and capability for keyboard attach and detach postures." Another casualty is the Windows 10 Timeline, and no doubt there will be more features put out to pasture by the time Windows 11 is released. 

**~THIS MONTH'S Topic ~**  
**“MICROSOFT POWERPOINT ”**  
**Presenter: JOHN KIRBY**

*— For Your Notes —*


### **Our October Members' Meeting**

Normally October is a dedicated night for our AGM. This year we will be including a presentation from the RAA. So put the date in your diary or on your calendar, Wednesday October 13th and come along for an informative meeting.



### **MEETING RULES**

We are allowed to use the facilities at the Hall at the rear of St Mary's Catholic Church, on the corner of Bains and Main South Roads, Morphet Vale in return for a small fee plus respect for their property. We ask for your co-operation in respect to the above.

Whilst we have no control over what our members do away from our Club meetings, piracy of copyright material cannot be condoned at our meetings. Please respect copyright laws at all times.



**Disclaimer:** The information herein is of a general nature. Always do your own research and seek advice before proceeding on information you don't understand.



# IT & COMPUTERS

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