

Microsoft Details Windows 10 and... Holographic Glasses?

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As predicted, the previously announced 21 January Microsoft event was all about the latest version of its OS, Windows 10-- but the company also took time to announce the HoloLens, a sci-fi-style augmented reality (AR) visor.



The first surprise announcement at the event involves Windows 10 pricing. Or rather, the lack thereof. For the first year following release Windows 7, 8 or 8.1 owners can upgrade to 10 for free. Microsoft calls it "Windows as a Service," and it will be available for both consumer and (surely more crucial for the company) enterprise customers.

"[I]n fact, one could reasonably think of Windows in the next couple of years as one of the largest Internet services on the planet," Microsoft says.

The OS is not limited to PCs-- Windows 10 also scales to smartphones and tablets, since a "Continuum" feature allows users to seamlessly switch between touchscreen and mouse/keyboard input, a feature clearly tailored for 2-in-1/hybrid devices. It also has universal apps, with OneDrive handling storage between near-identical PC and mobile versions of Photos, Videos, Music, Maps, People & Messaging, Mail & Calendar and the all important Office suite.

Further Windows 10 announcements include a desktop version of the Siri-style Cortana assistant, an Internet Explorer replacement dubbed "Project Spartan" and an Xbox app allowing customers to stream games from consoles to PCs.

