

Windows 10 Reaches Launch

Written by Marco Attard
30 July 2015

Microsoft says it is the start of a new era-- one where customers put Windows 8 firmly behind-- as Windows 10 reaches official launch, with celebrations taking place in 13 different countries.



The OS is available as a free update to Windows 7 and 8 users in 190 countries. In addition a new Windows Store is open, and developers get a companion Windows Software Development Kit.

Windows 10 promises to combine the best of Windows 7 and 8, with the Start button, taskbar and desktop modes of the former and the touch-friendly UI features of the latter. Microsoft also says it is the most secure version of the OS yet (with enhanced Windows Defender and Smart Screen), while switching between different devices should be smoother through the Continuum feature.

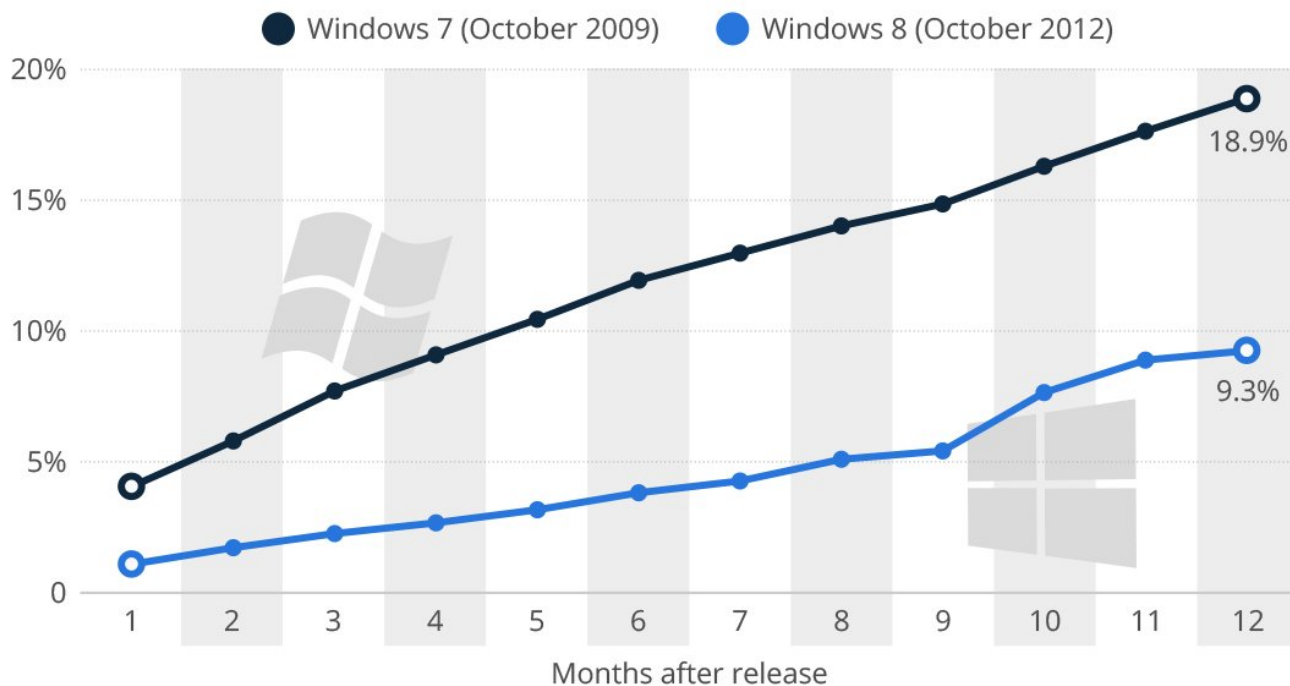
Further additions include the Cortana digital assistant, the Edge browser Internet Explorer replacement and a slew of revamped apps, including touch-friendly versions of the Office suite.

"A new era of Windows starts today. From the beginning, Windows 10 has been unique-- built with feedback from over 5 million fans, delivered as a service and offered as a free upgrade," Windows chief Terry Myerson says. "Windows 10 delivers on our more personal computing vision, with a natural, mobile and trusted experience. Along with our partners, we're excited to deliver the best Windows ever, which will empower people and organisations around the world to do great things."

Tech Chart of the Day

Post-Launch Adoption of Windows 10's Predecessors

Global market share of Windows 7 and 8 in the first 12 months after their releases*



* Windows 8 market share includes Windows 8.1

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Source: NetMarketShare



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On July 29, Microsoft announced that Windows 10 will be the last Windows operating system. The company said it will focus on developing new software and services, rather than creating a new operating system. This means that Windows 10 will be the last Windows operating system to be released. The company also said that it will continue to support Windows 7 and Windows 8 for several years. This is good news for users who are still using these operating systems. However, it also means that users who want to use the latest features and security updates will need to upgrade to Windows 10. The company said that it will provide free upgrades to Windows 10 for users who have purchased Windows 7 or Windows 8. This is a great offer, but it does mean that users will need to pay for the upgrade if they have not purchased Windows 7 or Windows 8. The company also said that it will provide free upgrades to Windows 10 for users who have purchased Windows 7 or Windows 8. This is a great offer, but it does mean that users will need to pay for the upgrade if they have not purchased Windows 7 or Windows 8.