

# Keep Up-to-Date with the Latest Build

If you are a long time Windows user, you might remember the **Service Packs** that used to be released by Microsoft for Windows 2000, XP, Vista, and 7.

From Windows 8 onwards, however, Microsoft has scrapped the Service Pack program and replaced it with **builds**. For Windows 8, Microsoft released two major builds – “Windows 8.1” and “Windows 8.1 with update.”

## What were the Windows Service Packs?

Windows Service Packs were basically the bundle of small patches and new features that used to be combined with previous versions of Windows, that made the operating system more stable and reliable. They used to include performance and security improvements and support for new hardware.

Instead of installing hundreds of small updates, a Service Pack provided a way to install all of them in a single patch.

## Windows as a Service

After the disappointment of Windows 8, Microsoft launched a new service model known as **Windows as a Service** for Windows 10. It means that instead of introducing a new version of the Windows operating system every three years, Microsoft would periodically provide updates to Windows 10 to improve its performance and speed up the integration of the latest features and reduce the strain of getting a new OS.

As a part of this new service model, Windows 10 users get two types of updates: **Feature updates**, which are provided two times each year and **Quality or Cumulative Updates**, which are provided every second Tuesday of the month.

## What are Windows Builds?

A Windows Build is Microsoft’s new way of providing the feature updates of its operating system. For Windows 10, Microsoft now releases two major builds in each calendar year. Microsoft has already said that there is no new version of Windows in the cards, so Windows 10 is here to stay for a long time.

## How are Builds different from Service Packs?

Builds could be considered as the entire new version of Windows. Therefore switching from Windows 10 version 1909 to Windows 10 version 2004 was like switching from Windows 8 to Windows 8.1.

While the earlier Service Packs used to contain all the small or big upgrades, **builds** just include the major feature updates. Other than that, Microsoft regularly releases cumulative updates for improving bugs and security.

In Windows 10, instead of saying “You now have a Service Pack installed”, the build number is changed to indicate the major update is installed.

If you want to check the current build number of your Windows 10 system, type “**winver**” in the Windows search bar.

You can roll-back to the previous build, but that option is available for only 10 days after updating to the latest one. This is because, after 10 days, Windows automatically removes the old files and downgrade would not be possible.

### **Download Latest Build for Windows 10**

Recently (May 2021) Microsoft introduced the new build for Windows 10 known as Windows 10 version 21H1. If your device is compatible, then you can easily install this latest Windows version, from **Update & Security** settings.

### **How do I update my Windows 10?**

For updating Windows 10, you can either navigate to the Update settings in Windows 10 or manually download and install the update from Microsoft’s official site. (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows10>)