GWSA Events and Announcements

* Bulk Barn announcement
* Out of Date Website (Theme and PHP); Brazil theme
* <https://www.php.net/manual/en/faq.general.php>

Other

* Computer Mentoring experiences
* Windows 10 questions/issues

**Windows 10 Fall Update**

Windows 10’s 19H2 update will arrive in the second half of 2019, perhaps in September or October. Also known as Windows 10 version 1909, this will be the smallest, quickest Windows 10 Update yet. It’s practically just a service pack.

**A “Less Disruptive Update” With Fewer Changes**

This update will be a scoped set of features for select performance improvements, enterprise features, and quality enhancements.” In other words, expect a select set of bug fixes, performance tweaks, and a handful of business features.

If you’re sick of big Windows 10 updates every six months, 19H2 is the update for you! Installing 19H2 will be more like installing a standard cumulative update like the updates that arrive on Patch Tuesday. It should be a small download with a fast installation process—no long reboot and purging of old Windows installations necessary.

Computers with the [May 2019 Update](https://www.howtogeek.com/402569/everything-new-in-windows-10s-april-2019-update/) (also known as 19H1) installed will get a small patch via Windows Update and quickly update themselves to 19H2. This will likely arrive sometime in September or October 2019.

**Voice Assistants**

In current versions of Windows 10, Cortana can run on the lock screen. But Microsoft seems to be [giving up on Cortana as a consumer product](https://www.howtogeek.com/398369/why-doesnt-microsoft-just-give-up-on-cortana/). It’s fitting, then, that Cortana is making way for other voice assistants. A change will allow other voice assistants—like Amazon Alexa—to [run on Windows 10’s lock screen](https://www.howtogeek.com/428768/alexa-could-come-to-windows-10s-lock-screen/).

This small feature should work automatically once Amazon has added it to Alexa. You can talk to your voice assistant, and it can hear you even while you’re on the lock screen, providing an answer.

**Calendar Assistant**

If you use Windows 10’s calendar application, it just got better. If you do not, it is easier to start. You can now create calendar events directly from the taskbar. Just click the time on the taskbar to open the calendar view. From here, you can now click a date and start typing in a text box to create a new calendar event. You can specify a name, time, and location from here.

Before this update, the calendar “flyout” on the taskbar displayed calendar events—but you had to [create those events in the Calendar app](https://www.howtogeek.com/238656/how-to-set-up-a-basic-calendar-in-windows-10/). Any events you add here will still appear in Windows 10’s Calendar app, too.

**Notification Sounds**

Windows 10 will now let you disable the sounds that play when a notification appears. This setting is available on the Settings > System > Notifications & Actions pane. Previously, you could disable notification sounds—but you had to disable them separately for each app that shows notifications.

The Settings > System > Notifications & Actions pane will now default to sorting applications by most recently shown notification rather than name. This will help you find the applications sending the most notifications and configure them.

You can now configure notifications directly from the notification, too. Both banner notifications and Action Center notifications have options to configure or turn off notifications—right in the notification. The Action Center pane now also has a “Manage Notifications” button that appears at the top of the Action Center, offering easy access to the Notifications & Actions pane for configuring your notifications.

**Performance Improvements**

This update brings a few performance improvements. Some systems will see battery life improvements, better scheduling of CPU resources, and lower-latency [digital inking](https://www.howtogeek.com/265056/how-to-use-or-disable-the-windows-ink-workspace-on-windows-10/).

Microsoft says it’s “made general battery life and power efficiency improvements for PCs with certain processors.” That is vague, but some PCs should see longer battery life.

This update features some improvements to scheduling on computers with [multi-core CPUs](https://www.howtogeek.com/194756/cpu-basics-multiple-cpus-cores-and-hyper-threading-explained/), too. As Microsoft puts it: “A CPU may have multiple “favored” cores (logical processors of the highest available scheduling class). To provide better performance and reliability, we have implemented a rotation policy that distributes work more fairly among these favored cores.”

Finally, computers with digital inking features will see lower latency for more responsive drawing. Windows 10 will now let manufacturers “reduce the inking latency based on the hardware capabilities of their devices.” Before this update, Windows 10 systems with inking hardware were “stuck with latency selected on typical hardware configuration by the OS.” That sounds crazy—Microsoft should have made this update years ago.

**Other Minor Changes**

* File Explorer updated to show web-powered suggestions in addition to files locally indexed on the PC.
* Added the ability for Narrator and other assistive technologies to read and learn where the FN key is located on keyboards and what state it is in (locked versus unlocked).

**Recent Improvements that haven’t needed an Update**

* Microsoft has made some improvements to Windows 10 that haven’t been part of huge updates. For example, if you have an Android phone and a Windows 10 PC, you can now[use the Your Phone app](https://www.howtogeek.com/413566/why-android-users-need-windows-10s-your-phone-app/) to mirror your Android notifications to your PC. This feature began “[rolling out broadly](https://twitter.com/VishnuNath/status/1146110663158194176)” in early July.
* An early preview of the [new Windows Terminal app](https://www.howtogeek.com/426002/microsofts-new-windows-terminal-is-now-available/) featuring tabs, customizable background images, and other new features is available from the [Store](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/p/windows-terminal-preview/9n0dx20hk701), too. It works on the current Windows 10 May 2019 Update (also called 19H1), so you do not need a big operating system update to try it.