President's Corner: Windows 10 Anniversary Update
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Introduction
On August 2, 2016, Microsoft released a major update to Windows 10. The Anniversary Update (AU) has several feature upgrades meant to improve the user's experience. In this article, I will discuss *some* of the changes that were made, as well as potential problems.

Welcome to Version 1607
The Anniversary Update is also referred to as Version 1607. To determine which version of Windows 10 you are running, simply do the following:

1. Press WIN+R (a Run dialog box will appear)
2. Enter "winver" in the dialog box
3. Click OK

A new dialog box will appear, showing the version of Windows 10 you are running. If the version is 1607, then your computer has already been upgraded. Anything less than 1607, such version 1511, indicates you are running an older version of Windows 10.

If you are using Windows 10 Professional, Education, or Enterprise, you may elect to defer upgrades, which will prevent any new features from being installed for several months while still allowing for security patches to be installed. The steps for deferring upgrades are:

1. Click the Start Menu
2. Click Settings
3. Click "Update & security"
4. Click "Advanced options"
5. Click to enable "Defer upgrades"

If you wish to update as soon as possible, leave the "Defer upgrades" option disabled. Depending on the speed of your Internet service, the upgrade may take hours or days to download. Leaving your computer powered on overnight will facilitate the upgrade process.

If you have multiple computers to upgrade, you may download and burn an ISO image for the Anniversary Update. Once you burn the disk, insert it in the computer to begin the upgrade process. An [article](#) on Microsoft's website explains the process.

What's New in AU
Several new useful features have been introduced with the Anniversary Update. The following is only a partial list of what has been changed and improved. For more information, searching the Internet for "Windows 10 Anniversary Update features."

- The Start Menu no longer lists an "All apps" link. All apps are displayed in scrolling list.
- The taskbar clock and calendar are combined, so you may easily view the current calendar with your scheduled tasks.
- The Sticky Notes applet allows you to save short, useful notes. You no longer need to use Notepad or a bulky program like Word to save important memos.

- An Emoji on-screen touch keyboard is provided for entering graphical emoticons in various programs.
- A dark mode theme—light text against a dark background—is available for most default apps (but not File Explorer).
- The lock screen has new features:
  - Music controls allow you to control music playback.
  - Cortana allows you to search for information and schedule tasks. Simply say "Hello" or tap the Cortana icon to use the feature.
  - You may hide your email address for privacy's sake when logged in with a Microsoft account.
  - Windows Hello allows you to log into the computer using facial recognition, a fingerprint scan, iris scan, USB security token, activity band, or smartphone.
- Microsoft Edge has been improved:
  - Edge now supports extensions (plug-ins) such as Flash Player, SmartPass, RoboForm, and other software helps for your web browsing.
  - You may pin tabs (websites) in the browser, much as you can pin programs on the Start menu.
  - You may access your browsing history by right-clicking the left and right arrow buttons.
  - You may drag-and-drop folders to cloud storage services such as OneDrive.
- Windows Ink allows you to take notes, sketch, and capture screenshots with a stylus on computers with touch screens.
- Windows Defender will disable itself if it detects a third-party anti-virus program is installed, and has a new *Limited Periodic Scanning* feature, which provides additional scanning on a periodic basis, alongside your anti-virus software. Since it does not run continuously, it should not conflict with other programs such as AVG and Norton AntiVirus.
- A Cortana app for Android allows you to mirror your Android notifications in the Action Center, remotely locate and ring your smartphone, and receive text messages from your smartphone on your PC.
- New features have been added to the Action Center, including:
  - The option to group notifications by app rather than listing them chronologically.
  - You may set priority levels for individual apps—such as High at the top of the list and Low at the bottom.
  - You may customize the number of notifications for each app.
- Skype Preview allows you to talk over one-to-one and group video calls, say hello with one-to-one and group chats, call mobiles and landlines at low rates, share photos, share files, use emoticons, and to express yourself with Mojis (short video clips).
- You may pin an open window in all virtual desktops.
- You may configure Windows Updates "Active hours" to prevent reboots during hours you are actively using the computer.
- Microsoft removed Wi-Fi Sense's password-sharing feature, which was a security concern for many users and not widely used.
- The revised Tablet mode is more like Windows 8's full-screen "Metro" interface.
- Universal apps may be associated with specific websites, such as the TripAdvisor website with the TripAdvisor app.

- A new feature called Miracast allows you to wirelessly project your computer screen to TVs, projectors, and streaming media players that support Miracast.

- Fatal errors ("blue screens of death") now include QR codes that you may scan with your phone to quickly search the Internet for a solution.

- You may pin a Settings page to the Start Menu. For example, if you frequently use the Settings applet for personalizing your computer, you may pin it directly to the Start Menu for quick and easy access.

Possible Problems with AU
Many issues with the Anniversary Update were reported last fall. Many of these may be resolved by the time this article is published in Random Access. Among the issues reported is that some devices such as webcams no longer working after the upgrade, some hard drive partitions "disappear," some anti-virus programs do not work, and external drives have been disconnected without any apparent reason. As mentioned previously in this article, you may postpone upgrades for Windows 10, but you will eventually be forced to upgrade if you are using a consumer (home) version of Windows 10. (Windows 10 Pro, Education, and Enterprise may defer the upgrade indefinitely.) If you do delay upgrading, be aware that security patches for your current version of Windows will no longer be provided after March 26, 2017 (click here for more information). Continuing to use an unpatched operating system could leave you vulnerable to malware and hackers.