

# "WINDOWS 10" TIME LINE

by Francis Chao  
fchao2@yahoo.com



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# SUMMARY

This time line is our best guess for "Windows 10" releases:  
Starting in January 2015, there will be a series of "preview" releases or "builds" followed by a "Release to Manufacturing" build in June.  
The "Generally Available" retail release will occur in July 2015.

# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10"

- October 1, 2014:  
"Windows Technical Preview, build 9841"  
and  
"Windows Technical Preview for Enterprise, build 9841"  
were both released to the public as free, time-limited beta software (.ISO downloads with automatic activation during installation<sup>4</sup>)

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **October 21, 2014:**  
**Release of Build 9860 for both "Windows Technical Preview" and "Windows Technical Preview for Enterprise".**  
**(via "Windows Update" if "Get Insider builds" and "Fast ring" is enabled)**

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **November 12, 2014:  
Release of Build 9879  
(via "Windows Update" if "Get Insider builds" and "Fast ring" is enabled)**

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **January 23, 2015:**  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro Technical  
Preview, build 9926"  
and  
"Windows 10 Enterprise Technical  
Preview, build 9926"  
(via "Windows Update" if "Get  
Insider builds" and "Fast ring" is  
enabled)

# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- March 18, 2015:  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro Technical  
Preview, build 10041"  
and  
"Windows 10 Enterprise Technical  
Preview, build 10041" (via  
"Windows Update" if "Get Insider  
builds" and "Fast ring" is enabled)



# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- March 30, 2015:  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro Technical  
Preview, build 10049"  
and  
"Windows 10 Enterprise Technical  
Preview, build 10049" (via  
"Windows Update" if "Get Insider  
builds" and "Fast ring" is enabled)

## TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- April 22, 2015:  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro Technical  
Preview, build 10061"  
and  
"Windows 10 Enterprise Technical  
Preview, build 10061" (via  
"Windows Update" if "Get Insider  
builds" and "Fast ring" is enabled)

# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- April 28, 2015:  
Published rumors that all future preview releases of "Windows 10" will be called "..Insider Preview" instead of "..Technical Preview"

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **April 29, 2015: Release of "Windows 10 Pro Insider Preview, build 10074" and "Windows 10 Enterprise Insider Preview, build 10074" with both releases as "Windows Updates" to both the "fast ring" and the "slow ring"**

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **May 20, 2015:**  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro Insider  
Preview, build 10122"  
and  
"Windows 10 Enterprise Insider  
Preview, build 10122" with both  
releases as "Windows Updates"  
to the "fast ring".

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **May 29, 2015:**  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro Insider  
Preview, build 10130"  
and  
"Windows 10 Enterprise Insider  
Preview, build 10130" with both  
releases as "Windows Updates"  
to the "fast ring".

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **June 29, 2015:**  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro Insider  
Preview, build 10158"  
and  
"Windows 10 Enterprise Insider  
Preview, build 10158" with both  
releases as "Windows Updates"  
to the "fast ring".

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **June 30, 2015:**  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro Insider  
Preview, build 10159"  
and  
"Windows 10 Enterprise Insider  
Preview, build 10159" with both  
releases as "Windows Updates"  
to the "fast ring".



# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- July 2, 2015:  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro Insider Preview, build  
10162"  
and  
"Windows 10 Enterprise Insider Preview,  
build 10162" with both releases as  
"Windows Updates" to the "fast ring".  
These builds nag you about  
"associating" your user profile with a  
"Microsoft Account" to get future builds.

# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- July 3, 2015:  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro Insider Preview, build  
10162" as a downloadable .ISO file at  
<http://insider.windows.com>

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **July 9, 2015:**  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro Insider  
Preview, build 10166"  
and  
"Windows 10 Enterprise Insider  
Preview, build 10166" with both  
releases as "Windows Updates"  
to the "fast ring".

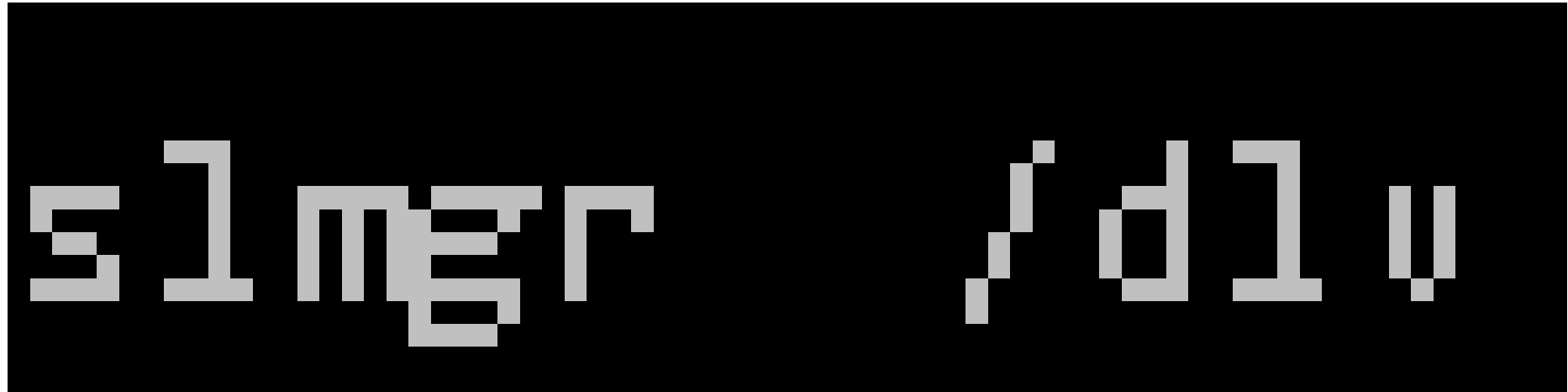
# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- July 10, 2015 (approximate date):  
"Release To Manufacturing.."  
(= "RTM")  
(= production release of "Build  
10240")  
to "Microsoft Partners" (computer  
manufacturers), and  
Microsoft "MVPs" ("Most Valued  
Professionals")



Administrator: Command Prompt

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32>slmgr /dlv
```



Windows Script Host

Software licensing service version: 10.0.10240.16384

Name: Windows(R), Professional edition

Description: Windows(R) Operating System, RETAIL channel

version: 10.0.10240.16384

ssional edition

Operating System, RETAIL



version: 10.0.10240.16384

ssional edition

Operating System, RETAIL

# **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- July 15, 2015 at 11:37am PDT:  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro Insider Preview,  
build 10240"  
and  
"Windows 10 Enterprise Insider Preview,  
build 10240"  
with both releases as "Windows  
Updates" for both the "fast ring" and the  
"slow ring".  
(No downloadable .ISOs.)  
(= unofficial RTM build)

## TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- July 15, 2015 at 4:42pm PST:  
Microsoft product keys for all previous "Windows Insider" builds and for "Windows Insider" Build 10240 were inactivated so that activation servers will not activate them according to

[http://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/insider/forum/insider\\_wintp-insider\\_install/pre-release-product-keys-for-windows-10-insider/97e6cd1f-ee8a-42ea-b76c-46aa4af8e203?wb&auth=1](http://answers.microsoft.com/en-us/insider/forum/insider_wintp-insider_install/pre-release-product-keys-for-windows-10-insider/97e6cd1f-ee8a-42ea-b76c-46aa4af8e203?wb&auth=1)

## TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- Activation Process for "New Builds" of "Windows 10 Pro/Home Insider Preview":  
If "Get Preview builds" is enabled then new builds arrive by means of "Windows Update" automatically.  
During the upgrade to a new build, "Windows.." calls home to an "Activation Server" to get permission to activate the new build. 28

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- From July 15, 2015 from 11:37am to 4:42pm PST :

**FREE "FULL EDITION" ACTIVATION**

**TIME SPAN 1:**

Users of copies "Windows 10 Pro Insider Preview, Build 10240" were able to activate for about 5 hours.

If they then clicked on "Stop Insider Preview builds", they obtained a free, genuine, permanent copy of "Windows 10 Pro"!!)

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **July 15, 2015 at 4:42pm PDT:  
"Windows 10 Pro Insider  
Preview, build 10162" is no  
longer available as a  
downloadable .ISO file at  
<http://insider.windows.com>**

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- (From July 15, 2015 until October 11, 2015, no .ISO files for "new installations" of "Windows 10 Pro Insider Preview" were available at <http://insider.windows.com> so that new builds were only available as upgrades to existing genuine copies of "Windows 10".)

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- July 15, 2015 (continued):  
The disabling of "product keys" at Microsoft's activation servers for "Build 10240" and the limited activation time spans means that most installed copies of "Windows 10 Pro Insider Preview, Build 10240" or "Windows 10 Enterprise Insider Preview" were unable to activate which limited them to a 30-day trial.



## TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- July 25, 2015 from 7am to 5pm PST:  
**FREE "FULL EDITION" ACTIVATION**  
**TIME SPAN 2:**

Users of previously-unactivated copies of "Build 10240" of "Windows 10 Pro Insider Preview" were about to activate for about 10 hours.

If they then clicked on "Stop Insider Preview builds", they obtained a free, genuine, permanent copy of "Windows 10 Pro"!!

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **July 29, 2015:**  
Start of the release of the full versions of "Windows 10 Home" and "Windows 10 Pro" to those who have reserved a upgrade from inside existing computers that have existing "genuine" installations of "Windows 7.." or "Windows 8.1".

## TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- July 29, 2015:  
Release of the "Media Creation Tool" that allows users of most "Windows 7" or "Windows 8.1" computers to upgrade to the full versions of "Windows 10" for free by two ways:  
By clicking on the a "Upgrade this PC now option  
OR  
by downloading an .ISO file to "burn" an installation DVD:

[Download Tool Now \(32-bit version\)](#)

[Download Tool Now \(64-bit version\)](#)

## TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- July 29, 2015:  
Start of 12-month time span where the full version of "Windows 10" is a free upgrade for computers running existing "genuine" consumer copies of "Windows 7" and "Windows 8.1"

# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- July 29, 2015:

When you do the free upgrade to the full version of "Windows 10"

from an existing genuine copy of "Windows 7" or "Windows 8.1"

OR

when you purchase and enter in a "product key" for a full version of "Windows 10",

then Microsoft's activation servers permanently store the UUID of your computer's motherboard

(= "device based activation")

## TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- July 29, 2015:  
"Windows 10 Enterprise Evaluation" became available. It is a free, time-limited (90/180 day), non-genuine version of "Windows 10.." for testing and evaluation that is available to anyone that has a "Microsoft account".

# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- July 29, 2015:  
Release of  
"Windows 10 Pro-Full Version"  
64/32-bit sold via download  
and  
"Windows 10 Home-Full Version"  
64/32-bit sold via download



# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- July 31, 2015:  
Release of the full versions called "Windows 10 Pro 64-bit OEM", "Windows 10 Pro 32-bit OEM", "Windows 10 Home 64-bit OEM", and "Windows 10 Home 32-bit OEM, all sold on DVD discs. (You have to order the exact edition and bitness.)

# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- August 11, 2015:  
Release of the "Windows 10 Home-Full Version" 32/64-bit sold on a bootable USB flash drive
- August 11, 2015:  
Release of the "Windows 10 Pro-Full Version" 32/64-bit sold on a bootable USB flash drive

# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- August 18, 2015:  
Release of the Build 10525 to "Windows Insiders" via "Windows Update":  
Expiration date for the "Windows 10 Pro Insider Preview" is now July 15, 2016.

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- August 18, 2015:  
Release of the Build 10525 to "Windows Insiders" (continued):  
The only way to activate "Windows 10 Home/Pro Build 10525", if it is not already activated, is to install it by means of "Windows Update" into an existing genuine, activated copy of "Windows 10.." that has "Get Preview builds" enabled in "Settings". This changes your copy of "Windows 10" from a full version to a time-limited trial.

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- August 27, 2015:  
Release of the Build 10532 to "Windows Insiders" (continued): The only way to activate "Windows 10 Home/Pro Build 10532", if it is not already activated, is to install it by means of "Windows Update" into an existing genuine, activated copy of "Windows 10.." that has "Get Preview builds" enabled in "Settings". This changes your copy of "Windows 10" from a full version to a time-limited trial.

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **September 18, 2015:**  
Release of the Build 10547 to "Windows Insiders" (continued):  
The only way to activate "Windows 10 Home/Pro Build 10547", if it is not already activated, is to install it by means of "Windows Update" into an existing genuine, activated copy of "Windows 10.." that has "Get Preview builds" enabled in "Settings". This changes your copy of "Windows 10" from a full version to a time-limited trial.

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **October 1, 2015:**  
Expiration date for both the "Windows 10 Pro Insider Preview" and the "Windows 10 Insider Preview for Enterprise".  
(These two time-limited "previews" will have an extended lifespan (beyond today) if a build higher than 10240 has been downloaded and installed).

# TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- October 12, 2015:  
Release of Build 10565 to "Windows Insiders" already running "Windows Pro Insider Preview" as a "Windows Update."



## TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- October 12, 2015:  
Release of Build 10565 of "Windows Pro Insider Preview" to "Windows Insiders as downloadable .ISOs which can be activated after a "fresh install" with a Windows 7 activation key, a Windows 8 activation key, or a Windows 8.1 activation key. Using one of these keys results in an activated but time-limited copy of "Windows 10..Insider Preview".

## TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- November 2, 2016 (first week):  
Release of  
"Fall Update" via "Windows  
Update" for full edition copies of  
"Windows 10 Home" and  
"Windows 10 Pro" (Build number  
will be 10586.)  
(Microsoft internal project name =  
"Threshold 2" = "TH2")

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **November 2, 2016 (continued):**  
The "Windows 10 Fall Update" can will be automatically activated if it is installed by means of "Windows Update" into an existing "full version" of "Windows 10".

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **November 2, 2016 (continued):**  
The "Windows 10 Fall Update" can be activated by the end-user by means of legitimate product keys that were originally purchased for "Windows 7", "Windows 8", and "Windows 8.1".

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **June 12, 2016:**  
The free update from "Windows 8" to "Windows 8.1" for existing "Windows 8" computers becomes mandatory today. Any "Windows 8" computer that is not upgraded to "Windows 8.1" will not longer receive updates from "Windows Update".

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **June 22, 2016:**  
Release of Build 14371 to the Insider's "Fast Ring":  
Renamed "Digital Entitlement" to "Digital License".  
Introduced "Activation Troubleshooter" that is linked to your "Microsoft Account" for dealing with hardware changes.

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **July 29, 2016:**  
End of 12-month time span where "Windows 10" is a free upgrade for computers running existing consumer copies of "Windows 7" and "Windows 8.1"

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **August 2, 2016:**  
"Anniversary Update" for all existing copies of "Windows 10.." is available via "Windows Update".



## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- April 11, 2017:  
End of Microsoft's "Extended Support" for "Windows Vista"
- January 14, 2020:  
End of Microsoft's "Extended Support" for "Windows 7"
- January 10, 2023:  
End of Microsoft's "Extended Support" for "Windows 8.1"

## **TIME LINE FOR "WINDOWS 10" (continued)**

- **October 14, 2025:  
End of Microsoft's "Extended  
Support" for "Windows 10"**

# REFERENCES

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- <http://studio384.be/w10/>

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