Upgrade to Win 11 vs Linux

Investigation of Win 11 configuration is not about "clinging to Windows"

The need for Windows is waning, it is really about what you use your computer for

And how to you want your pain: constantly managing Microsoft or learn Linux

For many, Linux provides a low cost functional alternative without much pain

Your **use case** determines your decision

Opinions expressed are those of the author, and you r experience may be different

Palaver to Manage an acceptable Windows 11

Process to install "non-standard" Windows 11 is complicated and slow
- You may have to bypass hardware requirements, e.g. TPM 2.0, processor

Process to install Win11 on a compliant machine is expensive, complicated and slow
- New PC hardware, high end machine, new printer/scanner if you want the full experience = $$$$$$

Either way you have the bloat, unwanted features and spyware:
- Unwanted software from games to Social Media Apps you never asked for
- You may want to circumvent certain features, e.g OneDrive, Bing Searches, Co-Pilot
- Even if you do circumvent these, they may return with upgrades
- Constant vigilance is required to ensure your install stays bloatware and spyware free

However you call it, installing and maintaining a tamed Win 11system is a pain and is such an install stable?

It is possible Microsoft will bring the hammer down on non-compliant installs
- After the next upgrade your system won't boot or gives you some limited time to fix it
- All the Bloatware and Spyware is back and the removal tools no longer work

Such non-standard installs carry some risk and cannot be guaranteed stable

If used for mission-critical applications this failure mode must be considered

Windows 11 vs Linux – A Functional Decision

The Linux Option	**The Windows Option**
Excellent solution for	Excellent solution for
• Web Browsing	• Web Browsing – Native solution spies on you
• Social Media	• Social Media
• Email	• Email – Very comprehensive if you use MS Outlook
Entirely usable solution for office functions	Great solution for office functions
• Office compatible solutions for personal use are satisfactory	• MS Office is a defacto standard
• Direct document exchange with MS Office may pose a problem	• Compatibility issues are minimal
Speciality software may not exist for Linux – only a problem if you need it – but may be a fatal contra-indication	Many applications for specialty functions exist only for Windows. This may be the deciding factor
Software can be as secure as your hardware supports. Spyware is minimal and can be controlled easily	Software can be as secure as your hardware supports. MS software will spy on data from users by default, and is hard to prevent initially and ongoing prevent
Cost	Cost
• Legacy to latest hardware is OK, your choice	• Latest hardware needed for full functionality $$$
• Most software is free, hard to find a costed example	• Most software costs, increasingly so $$$
• A good solution for those on a budget	• Many products are by a subscription $$$

So the question becomes: How do you like your pain?

Linux Pain	Win11 Pain
Must learn new OS, but Linux builds closely follow Windows. Utility software suffers from interface changes across releases	No learning, right? – It is just Windows. No, Microsoft keep messing with the interface, so stuff you are used to is gone or works differently
Linux does not require arcane install configuration. Just install it and use it	Windows requires complex install and ongoing vigilance
Linux does not spy on you. (*) Other Apps might still spy, but best defence is not to use those	Windows 11 and other MS Apps known to spy(*)
Linux will just run and do the job it says on the tin	Going forward it might not be possible to circumvent Win 11 requirements. What then?
Linux has moderate hardware requirements, but still supports advanced features if needed	Windows 11 has very specific hardware requirements, in all likelihood needing a new and costly PC

(*) Comments about spying are not idle speculation. Internet traffic can be monitored and analysed by tools like Wireshark.
Spyware traffic stands out

My reasons to say on Windows

No	Essential Applications that run only under Windows	Free?
1	Need MS Office to exchange documents with others	No
2	Electronics Schematics - DipTrace	No
3	Printed Circuit Board Design – Sprint layout	No
4	3D CAD – Autodesk Fusion 360	No
5	Prototype PCB – Lochmaster	No

If you can't draw up a list like this, it is time to wave Microsoft goodbye

If you idly want to play around with Windows 11 that's fine.
But there is no guarantee that what works today will continue to work

**Don't base a critical system on an install that might stop working
Sustainability is a factor in the decision**

Questions