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NEVERMIND WINDOWS 9, HERE'S WINDOWS 10

At the end of September Microsoft introduced their latest operating system, code named Threshold, to the world. It would also be known as Windows 10. Much to the surprise of Microsoft users, the company decided to go straight from Windows 8 to 10, skipping 9 altogether. Microsoft won't divulge what the reasoning behind this move is, so we can only speculate.



Whatever the case, Windows 10 will be released in 2015 to the public. A technical preview has been released in the meantime and is available on [Microsoft's](#) website. However, if you download the OS, you'll also become a member of Microsoft's Insider Program, making you eligible for updates and new patch releases. The technical version is supposedly only intended for advanced users wanting to test the beta version. Microsoft recommends you don't install this version on your main computer, but rather on a separate test PC.

But what makes Windows 10 different from Windows 8, or any previous Windows OS for that matter?

Windows 10 attempts to address the shortcomings of the Windows 8 interface. This is changed by improving the experience of people using non-touchscreen technology, for example laptops and desktop PCs. Using Windows 8 was problematic for users of these devices due to its focus on touch screen devices and limitations for mouse and keyboard users.

"THE RIGHT EXPERIENCE ON THE RIGHT DEVICE AT THE RIGHT TIME."

According to Microsoft's Terry Myerson Windows 10 is the "most comprehensive platform ever," providing a single, unified platform for desktop computers, laptops, tablets, smartphones, and all-in-one devices." Windows 10 will still be using touch screen technology, but will differentiate between different modes with Continuum mode. When users unplug a mouse or keyboard, they will be asked whether they want to activate the tablet mode.

A huge improvement is the return of the Start menu. Microsoft was severely criticised for omitting this function in Windows 8, making the OS even less user friendly. The new Start menu combines Windows 8's Metro tiles and the pre-Metro menu. Tiles can now be moved, enlarged and adapted according to a user's needs.

With the new menu it's also easier to locate items, whether it's an app, program or function. You merely type in the item in the text based field and results appear as you type.

Other additions include a smart voice assistant, Cortana. Windows phones already make use of Cortana and its proven to be very popular,

Multiple virtual desktops are also introduced in Windows 10. You can now create multiple work areas and easily move between them. An especially handy feature if you use a second monitor.

[SOURCES: www.wikipedia.org, <http://www.digitaltrends.com>, <http://technology.iafrica.com>]

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