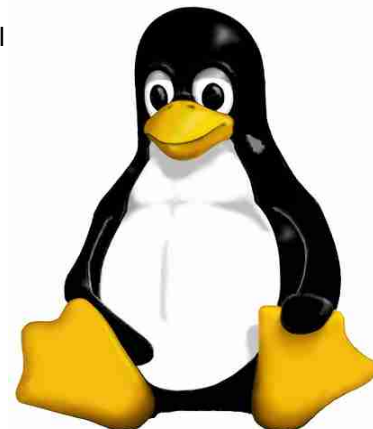


Windows 10 is dead – Microsoft official – from 14th October, 2025!

Clarborough & Welham IT Group has a vastly cheaper alternative to Microsoft's demand that you buy a new Windows 11 device...

- Microsoft announced a long time ago that they would stop providing Windows 10 users with both updates and security patches from 14th October, 2025.
- Windows 11 updates routes are usually impossible for laptops and PCs much more than 3 years old because they lack certain hardware features.
- If your laptop/PC can't be updated, a new device supporting Windows 11 will cost you anything from around £400 (basic laptop) upwards.
- While most users of Microsoft or Apple computers think of them as 'world dominating' operating systems (OS) they are, infact, outflanked by some of the best known Linux platforms such as Android on smartphones and ChromeOS.
- Linux is the leading operating system on internet servers; over 96.4% of the top one million web servers' operating systems are Linux,
- Linux is also used on all of the world's 500 fastest supercomputers!
- Linux OS comes in a range of flavours or distros (distributions), the most popular is called Ubuntu. IT Group Chairman has been using Ubuntu Linux on one of his PCs for quite a few years.
- FREE apps that can read and write files such as those from Microsoft's Office suite or Adobe's Photoshop include LibreOffice and Gimp all of which come from the Open Source movement – costing nothing!
- A recent report by StatCounter, an online analytic organisation, reported that almost 63% of Windows computers are still using Windows 10 while just over 33% have Windows 11. If this 63% all intend to move to Windows 11 by mid-October 2025 just imagine the rush – and how prices will respond!



Say hello to Tux, Linux logo.

So, how does this help readers with Windows 10 computers with the ending of Microsoft's support this coming October? Well, this was exactly the sorts of considerations that we explored when Clarborough & Welham IT Group suspended classes at Clarborough Village Hall as the Covid-19 crisis unfolded. Microsoft had already announced that their support for Windows 10 would end in October, 2025. At that time, our IT Group had already received advice from both ex-colleagues and ex-students that exploring the possibilities of the Linux OS might be a good plan. To cut a long story short, the result was a PC equipped with Ubuntu Linux that (now) sits alongside a Windows 11 PC in our office. Since then we have had our eight Clarborough & Welham IT Group laptops converted to Ubuntu Linux with key open source apps installed too.

Microsoft Word documents, Excel Spreadsheets, etc. can be handled/created on both Windows 11 and also Ubuntu Linux if either have Apache Open Office and/or Document Foundation's LibreOffice (both based on open document format file-types). These effortlessly convert Microsoft files into their own format – and can do the reverse if correspondence with outside organisations are required. Much the same applies to our use of Open Source Gimp image editor which can handle any available image filetypes – and both of these suites can also generate pdf (portable document format) files for effortless, secure, communications.

Open source apps permits copying, duplicating, distributing of source code in almost every possible way – and such items are also FREE. This approach is now known as copyleft!

Ubuntu Linux is produced by the British company Canonical Ltd together with a vast global network of voluntary developers. Ubuntu updates are provided by Canonical every six months while Long-Term Support (LTS) versions are released every two years and updated very regularly – almost weekly!

We have links with several local IT providers who can replace Windows 10 with Ubuntu Linux at very reasonable rates along with a selection of open source apps such as Firefox web browser, etc.

We are holding a one-off 90 mins class on Saturday 14th June (13:00-14:30) at Clarborough Village Hall for a hands-on introduction to Ubuntu Linux for just £5.00.

Booking for our 14th June session is advised since space is limited.

Contact Greg : 01777 700 918 or clarboroughwelham@gmail.com

Payment can be made in cash or by cheque (payable to *Clarborough & Welham IT Group*) either in advance or on arrival on 14th June, 2025 at Clarborough Village Hall, Main Street, Clarborough, Retford (DN22 9LN) Our Village Hall is directly opposite the Kings Arms on Clarborough's Main Street (A620).