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As found on the web and other sources

Take a look at the section labeled “System Costs Still Uncertain”. Will MS go the way of Photoshop and charge a monthly fee? At \$10 a month that’s \$120 a year; most users keep their OS for several years, so just look at the potential profit for MS!

Your editor.

Windows 10 Will Be the Last Version



By John Lister on May, 12 2015 in "Infopackets.com".

Microsoft has confirmed Windows 10 will be the last ever version of Windows. But it says that by no means is it the end for the system.

The company plans to completely ditch the idea of releasing a new version of Windows every two or three years. Instead it's going to issue more frequent updates to Windows 10.

At the moment, the updates to Windows are relatively minor. Besides the important security fixes, most updates tend to be minor fixes for usability, with very occasional new features and improvements. Any major rethinks are generally saved for a new version.

In the future, Microsoft will instead add new features and major changes as and when they are ready. While it may still keep most security fixes to a monthly bulletin (making life easier for business network administrators who need to update multiple machines), other updates will likely come more frequently but less regularly.

Windows Development Cycle Too Long

One analyst told the BBC that Microsoft had concluded the strategy of releasing new versions of Windows was no longer effective because the computing world changes so quickly. Steve Kleynhams noted that Microsoft would start off designing a new version from scratch based on current needs, but by the end of the development process when that new edition came out, it would often already be outdated. (Source: bbc.co.uk)

The official wording from Microsoft is that Windows will no longer be treated as a piece of software. Instead it will be considered an ongoing service. (Source: techcrunch.com) This is also known as SaaS, or "software as a service," where software is developed centrally and where companies often charge for software features on a subscription-based fee structure.

An example of SaaS would be cloud-based credit card processing. In this scenario credit card data is entered into a smartphone terminal or web browser, and then sent to a central server where it is processed online the Internet. The features of the card processing (and its API) are created by software developers, and in turn, sold to clients (merchants) on a monthly-based subscription fee.

System Costs Still Uncertain

The idea of "Windows as a service" has therefore prompted speculation that Microsoft is likely to consider charging an annual license fee to use Windows and keep getting updates, a strategy it already uses for business users and for the online edition of Office.

However, Microsoft has already said that if existing Windows Vista, 7 and 8 customers take advantage of the free upgrade to Windows 10, they will continue to get updates for the life of the computer.

That said, it appears Microsoft is rethinking its revenue stream altogether. It will instead make its "Windows money" from two main sources: the small fee it charges manufacturers of full-sized computers to install Windows on a new machine; and the 30 percent or so commission that it takes from any app sold through the Windows Store that features prominently in Windows 8 and will appear in Windows 10.

What's Your Opinion?

Are you surprised Windows 10 will be the last ever version of Windows? Do you think frequent but smaller updates is a better strategy than a complete revamp every couple of years? Would you be happy to pay an annual license fee for Windows if Microsoft went down that route?



Are You Sharing Your Wifi?

Category: [Wireless](#) From “askbobrankin.com”.

Over the past few years, cable companies have built a network of several million WiFi hotspots open to the public. If you get your Internet access from one of these cable companies, you can use this nationwide WiFi network for free. However, you may unknowingly be providing one of those hotspots, also for free. Is it fair, safe, and legal? Read on...

Is Your Cable Modem EVERYONE’S Hotspot?

The [Cable WiFi Alliance](#) consists of Comcast Xfinity, Cox [Communications](#), Brighthouse Networks, Cablevision Optimum, and Time-Warner Communications. The goal of the alliance is a nationwide WiFi [hotspot](#) network that a customer of any alliance member can use, even when they are not in their cable provider’s territory. Even non-customers can get a free trial and pay a daily or monthly fee for temporary hotspot access.

This is good news for travelers and people on the go. Not so good for residential and business customers in some territories is the news that they are [hosting](#) these public WiFi hotspots.

Brighthouse, Cablevision, and TWC are deploying their own WiFi hotspots. But Comcast and Cox are using the routers they installed in their customers’ [homes](#) and businesses. And a lot of customers are unhappy about sharing their routers with strangers.



“Except they aren’t your routers,” is the response of Comcast and Cox. Only [cable modems](#) leased from the companies are being co-opted into the Cable WiFi Alliance network of hotspots. If you bought [your modem](#) at Best Buy or on eBay it won’t be added to the alliance’s network, even if it’s a Comcast or Cox branded modem. But if you lease a modem, Comcast and Cox

claim that your monthly service payment does not buy you the right to use that modem exclusively.

Comcast and Cox say there's nothing to be concerned about. Their hotspots are "walled off" from traffic on customers' [private networks](#). The hotspots even use different IP addresses, so you can prove to a judge that it wasn't you downloading illicit or illegal content, even though the traffic passed through your router.

We Beg to Differ...

It's one thing to intentionally provide a [secure password](#)-protected wifi hotspot. But you definitely don't want to leave your wifi signal unprotected and open to all. Don't miss my related articles: [Is Someone Stealing Your WiFi?](#) and [Avoid These Five WiFi Security Mistakes](#).

Two San Francisco Comcast customers have launched a class-action lawsuit alleging this modem-sharing endangers customers' privacy. It also alleges that Comcast is making customers pay the electric bills of its Xfinity WiFi hotspot network, and increasing congestion on customers' Internet connections.

Comcast says there should be no drop in speed because its hotspots are using a portion of its modems' potential bandwidth that isn't available to customers anyway. As for stealing electricity, Comcast says its modems don't use any more electricity when they're hosting hotspots.

Alex Gizis, CEO of Speedify, [points out](#) that Xfinity WiFi hotspots operate on the 2.4 GHz frequency, the same default frequency as customers' networks. Sharing a frequency channel with a nearby WiFi network is a frequent cause of RF interference and performance degradation. ("Change your channel" is standard WiFi troubleshooting advice; there are 12 available in most modems.)

Gizis also measured how much more electricity his Comcast modem consumed when the Xfinity WiFi hotspot was being used. He estimated that if the hotspot was used 24/7/365, the average customer electric bill would be about \$22 higher annually. However, it seems highly unlikely to me that any single hotspot would be in continuous use.

There is a way to [opt out](#) of participating in Comcast's Xfinity WiFi on your leased residential modem. However, users have reported that when Comcast pushes a firmware update out to its leased modems, the default becomes "opt in" again. So you may have to check periodically, and opt out again.

It appears that Cox does not provide an opt-out. Verizon, which is not a member of the alliance, is deploying its own hotspots, but is not requiring customers to share their router/modem with strangers. Verizon says that FiOS Internet and Verizon High Speed Internet customers will have access to these Verizon Wi-Fi hotspots.

On the whole, I think ubiquitous wifi access is a good thing, especially for those who tote smartphones or tablets. Using wifi instead of burning through your minutes or mobile data allowance will save many mobile users money. If Comcast and Cox's hotspots are truly "walled off" and the extra electricity costs only 2-3 cents a month, I personally wouldn't have a problem with it.

How would you feel about sharing your cable modem or router with neighbors, strangers or passersby? Your thoughts on this topic are welcome

I came across this and thought it useful in as much that JAVA tries and add GOOGLE toolbars etc. every time it updates.

Easy way to block Java's add-on toolbars

Normally, when you install or update Java, you have to read the dialog boxes carefully. The Java installation app almost always tries to install additional, unrelated, third-party software such as the **Ask** toolbar. You must manually deselect the foistware offer to keep it off your system.

Recently, however, I ran across an interesting setting, buried deep in the Java menus. A few clicks will prevent Java from offering such extra software in the first place. It's easy to do and works on any PC running a current version of Java. Here's how:

- Open Windows Control Panel, type **java** in the search box, and click the Java icon when it appears: a Java settings dialog box (aka "Java Control Panel") will appear.
- Select the Advanced tab.
- Scroll all the way to the bottom of the advanced-settings list.
- Under Miscellaneous, check the box labeled **Suppress sponsor offers when installing or updating Java** (see Figure 1), then click Apply and OK.

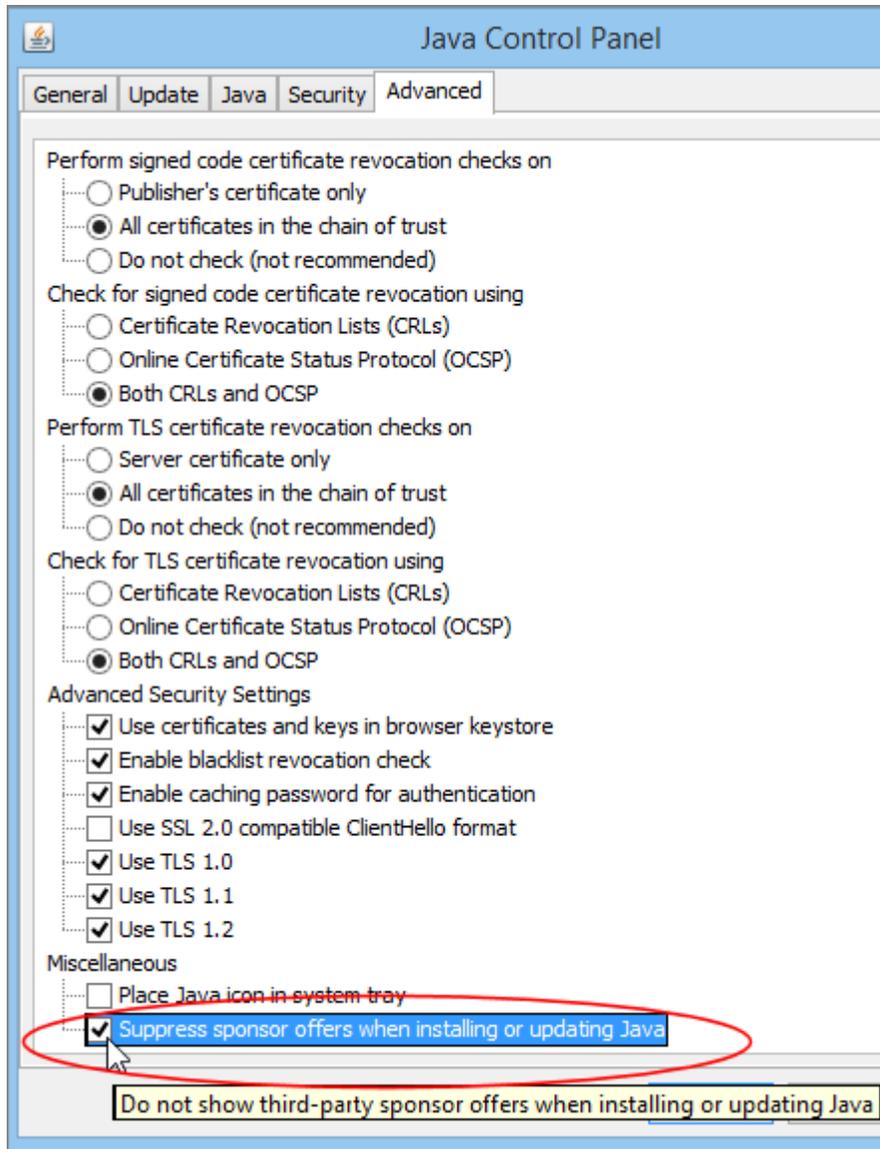


Figure 1. Buried deep in Java's settings is a way to avoid getting unrelated software offers during installs or updates.

Even with this setting enabled, it's still a good idea to carefully read all software-installation dialog boxes — just in case. Nevertheless, this easy adjustment should help keep at least some unwanted programs off your PC.

Smart Devices Likely to Cause Internet Congestion



By John Lister on May, 5 2015 in "Infopackets.com".

One of the key figures in the creation of the Internet has warned that adding billions of gadgets with online connections could mean a slower Internet for many users. Vint Cerf said users need to enable a newer Internet addressing system to get the best results.

Cerf is sometimes referred to as one of the "fathers of the Internet." He played a key role in the creation of ARPANET, the military network that established many of the technologies that were later at the heart of the Internet.

Cerf also helped design the basic system by which Internet data is broken into small pieces, routed across multiple computer connections around the world for maximum efficiency, and then reassembled at its destination. This method of transporting the data across the Internet is best known as the TCP/IP protocol.

Cerf now works for Google as "chief Internet evangelist," and spoke this week at a meeting of the National Press Club. Here he spoke about the growing demand for IP addresses, which identify a specific Internet-connected device such as a computer or modem.

Not Enough Internet Addresses To Go Round

When Cerf helped create the IP address system (known today as IPv4), he assumed that the numbering system, which allowed for 4.3 billion different addresses, would be more than sufficient. That's proven incorrect, however, with the recent explosion in the number of computers, mobile devices and other gadgets such as alarm systems, fitness trackers and 'smart' heating and lighting systems - all of which require or use an Internet connection in order to function. (Source miamiherald.com)

The IPv4 address shortage problem has been addressed through a new system known as IPv6, which allows for 340 billion billion billion billion different addresses, otherwise known as 3.4×10^{38} in scientific notation. The problem is that IPv6 isn't compatible with the more common IPv4 system, though the IP addresses can be mapped and translated to be backwards compatible using specialized hardware, or software / service.

Internet Providers Slow To Make Change

Only around 14.5 percent of web users have browsers that can use IPv6 and, in a chicken and egg situation, many websites aren't set up to support it. Cerf warns that this could mean many users find it slower to access online content, particularly with audio and media files, because

their computers will need to use the Internet equivalent of a translation service. It's the translation service which will take time to access and compute, as every IPv6 to IPv4 and IPv4 to IPv6 request will need to be looked up, translated, and then redirected to the appropriate address. (Source: usatoday.com)

The problem is that while IPv6 can be enabled in Windows (and is available by default in Windows 7 and later), it needs to also be translated and supported by Internet providers. Most providers have yet to do so, even though every possible IPv4-based address is either in use or has already been allocated to a particular region of the world and is likely to be in use within a few years. Once that happens, providers will have to use IPv6 if they are to take on new customers and/or support existing websites and services with IPv6.

What's Your Opinion?

Were you aware of the difference between IPv4 and IPv6? Is support for IPv6 something that concerns you? Do you trust Internet providers to start supporting the system when they realize it's the only way to get new customers, or should they be forced to upgrade their technology right away?

NOTE::Bright House claims Road Runner supports IPv6 but when I set-up my N300 router, that supports IPv6, it came back and reported no IPv6 support from my ISP... When I figure out what's going on I will let you know. Bob.

Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue!

Unknown