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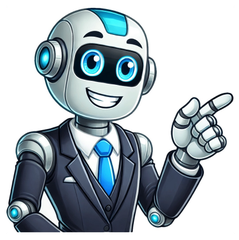

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Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources:"Microsoft Windows"news newspapers books scholar JSTOR (December 2024) (Learn how and when to remove this message)Operating systemWindowsLogo as of October 2021DeveloperMicrosoftSource modelClosed-source/Source-available (through Shared Source Initiative)Initial releaseNovember20, 1985; 39 years ago(1985-11-20)Latest release24H2 (10.0.26100.4066) (May27, 2025; 2 days ago)[2025-05-27][1] [[Latest previewRelease Preview Channel24H2 (10.0.26200.6899) (May29, 2025; 19 days ago)[2025-05-19][2] [[Marketing target]Home, Pro, Enterprise, Education, Pro Education, Pro for Workstations, Home Server[3][4] [[Supported platformsIntel IA-32, x86-64, ARM64Default installation directoryWindows 3.x: C:\windows\ Windows 9x and later: C:\Windows\ [[Package managerWindows Installer (.msi, .msp)[5] App Installer (.msix, .msixbundle)[9][10]. Microsoft Store (.appx, .appxbundle),[11] Windows Package ManagerPlatformsIA-32, x86-64, ARM, ARM64Previously: 16-bit x86, DEC Alpha, MIPS, PowerPC, ItaniumKernel typeWindows NT family: HybridWindows Embedded Compact/WindowsCE: Hybrid or MonolithicWindows 9x and earlier: Monolithic (MS-DOS and VMM32)DefaultuserinterfaceWindows shellLicenseProprietary commercial softwareOfficial websitewindows.com Windows is a product line of proprietary graphical operating systems developed and marketed by Microsoft. It is grouped into families and subfamilies that cater to particular sectors of the computing industry Windows (unqualified) for a consumer or corporate workstation, Windows Server for a server and Windows IoT for an embedded system. Windows is sold as either a consumer retail product or licensed to third-party hardware manufacturers who sell products bundled with Windows.[citation needed]The first version of Windows, Windows 1.0, was released on November 20, 1985, as a graphical operating system shell for MS-DOS in response to the growing interest in graphical user interfaces (GUIs).[12] The name "Windows" is a reference to the windowing system in GUIs.[13] The 1990 release of Windows 3.0 catapulted its market success and led to various other product families, including the now-defunct Windows 9x, Windows Mobile, Windows Phone, and Windows CE/Embedded Compact. Windows is the most popular desktop operating system in the world, with a 70% market share as of March2023[update], according to StatCounter;[14] however when including mobile operating systems, it is in second place, behind Android. Windows 10, released on July 29, 2015, is the latest version of Windows, and Windows Server 2025 for servers. Still supported are some editions of Windows Server 2016, Windows 10, Windows Server 2019 and Windows 11 for enterprises or corporations, and Windows Server 2022 for servers. Mainstream support has ended but some editions are still receiving security updates. Windows 7 Service Pack 1 and Windows 8.1 are the latest versions with publicly available updates to address security issues. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (June 2025) (Learn how and when to remove this message)As of 2025,[update] the only active top-level family is Windows NT.[citation needed] The first version, Windows NT 3.1, was intended for server computing and corporate workstations. It grew into a product line of its own and now consists of four sub-families that tend to be released almost simultaneously and share the same kernel.Windows (unqualified): For a consumer or corporate workstation or tablet. The latest version is Windows 11.[citation needed] Its main competitors are macOS by Apple and Linux for personal computers and PadOS and Android for tablets (cf. Usage share of operating systems Market share by category).Of note: "Windows" refers to both the overall product line and this sub-family of it.Windows Server: For a server computer. The latest version is Windows Server 2025. Unlike its client sibling, it has adopted a strong naming scheme. The main competitor of this family is Linux. (cf. Usage share of operating systems Market share by category)Windows PE: A lightweight version of its Windows sibling, meant to operate as a live operating system, used for installing Windows on bare-metal computers (especially on many computers at once), recovery, or troubleshooting purposes. The latest version is Windows PE 10.[citation needed]Windows IoT (previously Windows Embedded): For IoT and embedded computers. The latest version is Windows 11 IoT Enterprise.[18] Like Windows Server, the main competitor of this family is Linux. (cf. Usage share of operating systems Market share by category)These top-level Windows families are no longer actively developed:Windows 9x: Intended exclusively for the consumer market. The first version released was Windows 95, which was followed by Windows 98. The last version of the Windows 9x family was Windows Me, which was widely regarded as one of the worst operating systems of all time, with PC World labeling it as "Mistake Edition" and placing it 4th in their list of Worst Tech Products in 2006[19]. All versions of the Windows 9x family have a monolithic kernel that uses MS-DOS as a foundation upon which the kernel first used with Windows 95. This line has since been defunct, with Microsoft now catering to the consumer market with Windows NT starting with Windows XP.[citation needed]Windows Mobile: The predecessor to Windows Phone, a mobile phone and PDA operating system. The first version was called Pocket PC 2000. The third version, Windows Mobile 2003, was the first version to adopt the Windows Mobile trademark. The last published version was Windows Mobile 6.5.Windows Phone: Sold only to smartphone manufacturers. The first version was Windows Phone 7, followed by Windows Phone 8 and Windows Phone 8.1. It was succeeded by Windows 10 Mobile, which is also defunct.Windows Embedded Compact: Most commonly known by its former name, Windows CE, it is a hybrid kernel operating system optimized for low power and memory systems, with OEMs able to modify the UI to suit their needs. The final version was Windows Embedded Compact 2013, and it is succeeded by Windows IoT.[citation needed]Main article: Microsoft Windows version historySee also: List of Microsoft Windows versionsThe term Windows collectively describes any or all of several generations of Microsoft operating system products. These products are generally categorized as follows:Main articles: Windows 1.0, Windows 2.0, and Windows 2.1The history of Windows dates back to 1981 when Microsoft started work on a program called "Interface Manager". The name "Windows" comes from the fact that the system was one of the first to use graphical boxes to represent programs; in the industry, at the time, these were called "windows" and the underlying software was called "windowing software."[13] It was announced in November 1983 (after the Apple Lisa, but before the Macintosh) under the name "Windows", but Windows 1.0 was not released until November 1985.[20] Windows 1.0 was to compete with Apple's operating system, but achieved little popularity. Windows 1.0 is a complete operating system; rather, it extends MS-DOS. The shell of Windows 1.0 is a non-overlapping one. Windows 1.0 does not allow overlapping windows. Instead, all windows are tiled. Only modal dialog boxes may appear over other windows. Microsoft sold as included Windows Development libraries with the C development environment, which included numerous windows samples.[21]Windows 2.0 was released in December 1987, and was more popular than its predecessor. It features several improvements to the user interface and memory management.[22] Windows 2.03 changed the OS from tiled windows to overlapping windows. The result of this change led to Apple Computer filing a suit against Microsoft alleging infringement on Apple's copyrights (eventually settled in court in Microsoft's favor in 1993).[23][24] Windows 2.0 also introduced more sophisticated keyboard shortcuts and could make use of expanded memory.Windows 2.1 was released in two different versions: Windows/386 and Windows/386. Windows/386 uses the virtual 8086 mode of the Intel 80386 to multitask several DOS programs and the paged memory model to emulate expanded memory using available extended memory. Windows/286, in spite of its name, runs on both Intel 8086 and Intel 80286 processors. It runs in real mode but can make use of the high memory area.[25]In addition to full Windows packages, there were runtime-only versions that shipped with early Windows software from third parties and made it possible to run their Windows software on MS-DOS and without the full Windows feature set.The early versions of Windows are often thought of as graphical shells, mostly because they ran on top of MS-DOS and used it for file system services.[26] However, even the earliest Windows versions already assumed many typical operating system functions; notably, having their own executable file format and providing their own device drivers (timer, graphics, printer, mouse, keyboard and sound). Unlike MS-DOS, Windows allowed users to execute multiple graphical applications at the same time, through cooperative multitasking. Windows implemented an elaborate, segment-based, software virtual memory scheme, which allows it to run applications larger than available memory: code segments and resources are swapped in and thrown away when memory became scarce; data segments never are swapped in, but can be allocated in memory, freed, or resized as needed. Windows also provided a graphical framework and a set of utilities for developers, and included several games to ease users' transition from other operating systems. Windows 2.0 introduced the kernel first used with Windows 95. This line has since been defunct, with Microsoft now catering to the consumer market had relinquished processor control.Main articles: Windows 3.0 and Windows 3.1Windows 3.0, released in 1990Windows 3.0, released in 1990, improved the design, mostly because of virtual memory and loadable virtual device drivers (VxDs) that allow Windows to share arbitrary devices between multi-tasked DOS applications.[citation needed] Windows 3.0 applications can run in protected mode, which gives them access to several megabytes of memory without the obligation to participate in the software virtual memory scheme. They run inside the same address space, where the segmented memory provides a degree of protection. Windows 3.0 also featured improvements to the user interface. Microsoft rewrote critical operations from C into assembly. Windows 3.0 was the first version of Windows to achieve broad commercial success, selling 2million copies in the first six months.[27][28]Versions before Windows 95 had to be installed from floppy disks by end users (or in professional environments with a network installation); here Windows for Workgroups with nine 3.5-inch-disks to be inserted sequentially.Windows 3.1, made generally available on March 1, 1992, featured a facelift. In October 1992, Windows for Workgroups, a special version with integrated peer-to-peer networking features, was released. It was sold along with Windows 3.1. Support for Windows 3.1 ended on December 31, 2001.[29]Windows 3.2, released in 1994, is an updated version of the Chinese version of Windows 3.1.[30] The update was limited to this language version, as it fixed only issues related to the complex writing system of the Chinese language.[31] Windows 3.2 was generally sold by manufacturers to computer retailers and was also bundled pre-installed on new computers. Windows 3.2 introduced a modified file manager and some new versions of the standard Windows utilities.Main article: Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows 98 SE, Windows ME and Windows 2000Windows 95, was released on August 24, 1995. While still retaining MS-DOS based, Windows 95 introduced many new concepts, such as a new user interface, preemptive multitasking, and a 32-bit architecture. Microsoft provided increased stability over its predecessors. Windows 95 also introduced a redesigned, object oriented user interface, replacing the previous Program Manager with the Start menu, taskbar, and Windows Explorer shell. Windows 95 was a major commercial success for Microsoft; Ina Fried of CNET remarked that "by the time Windows 95 was finally ushered off the market in 2001, it had become a fixture on computer desktops around the world."[32] Microsoft published four OEM Service Releases (OSR) of Windows 95, each of which was roughly equivalent to a service pack. The first OSR of Windows 95 was also the first version of Windows to be bundled with Microsoft's web browser, Internet Explorer.[33] Mainstream support for Windows 95 ended on December 31, 2000, and extended support for Windows 95 ended on December 31, 2001.[34]Windows 95 was followed up with the release of Windows 98 on June 25, 1998, which introduced the Windows Driver Model, support for USB composite devices, support for ACPI, hibernation, and support for multi-monitor configurations. Windows 98 also included integration with Internet Explorer 4 through Active Desktop and other aspects of the Windows Desktop Update (a series of enhancements to the Explorer shell which was also made available for Windows 95). In May 1999, Microsoft released Windows 98 Second Edition, an updated version of Windows 98. Windows 98 SE added Internet Explorer 5.0 and Windows Media Player 6.2 amongst other upgrades. Mainstream support for Windows 98 ended on June 30, 2002, and extended support for Windows 98 ended on July 11, 2006.[35]On September 14, 2000, Microsoft released Windows ME (Millennium Edition), the last DOS-based version of Windows. Windows ME updated many aspects of the Windows operating system, including the Windows Explorer shell and the Windows kernel to support more digital media formats and to improve the ease of use for novice users. Windows ME also introduced "System Restore", a feature allowing users to revert their system files and settings to a previous point in time in order to undo the effects of software installations that have caused instability to their computer. Windows ME also included Windows Image extension for retrieving images from scanners and digital cameras), additional system utilities such as System File Protection and System Restore, and updated home networking tools.[37] However, Windows Me was faced with criticism for its speed and instability, along with hardware compatibility issues and its removal of real mode DOS support. PC World commented Windows Me to be one of the worst operating systems Microsoft had ever released.Main article: Windows NTMain articles: Windows NT 3.1, Windows NT 3.5, Windows NT 3.51, Windows NT 4.0, and Windows 2000Windows logo (1995–2001)In November 1988, a new development team within Microsoft (which included former Digital Equipment Corporation developers Dave Cutler and Mark Lucovsky) began work on a revamped version of IBM and Microsoft's OS/2 operating system known as "NT OS/2". NT OS/2 was intended to be a secure, multi-user operating system with POSIX compatibility and a modular, portable kernel with preemptive multitasking and support for multiple processor architectures. However, following the successful release of Windows 3.0, the NT development team decided to rework the project to use an extended 32-bit port of the Windows API known as Win32 instead of those of OS/2. Win32 maintained a similar structure to the Windows APIs (allowing existing Windows applications to easily be ported to the platform), but also supported the capabilities of the existing NT kernel. Following its approval by Microsoft's staff, development continued on what was now Windows NT, the first 32-bit version of Windows. However, IBM objected to the changes, and ultimately continued OS/2 development on its own without Microsoft's participation. Windows NT was intended to replace the aforementioned IBM operating system, and initially had very high system requirements to compensate for the lack of optimized drivers and applications, but was designed to scale across multiple processors and architectures. Windows NT 3.5 was released in July 1994, with versions both for workstations and servers. Windows NT 3.5 was released in September 1994, focusing on performance improvements and support for Novell's NetWare, and was followed up by Windows NT 3.51 in May 1995, which included additional improvements and support for the PowerPC architecture. Windows NT 4.0 was released in June 1996, introducing the redesigned interface of Windows 95 to the NT series. On February 17, 2000, Microsoft released Windows 2000, a successor to NT 4.0. The Windows NT name was dropped at this point in order to put a greater focus on the Windows brand.[39]Main article: Windows XPA variation of the 2001/2006 Windows logo from 2003 using the Segoe typeface instead of the Franklin Gothic typeface. This variation was mainly used for branding purposes.The next major version of Windows NT, Windows XP, was released to manufacturing (RTM) on August 24, 2001, and to the general public on October 25, 2001. The introduction of Windows XP aimed to unify the consumer-oriented Windows 9x series with the architecture introduced by Windows NT, a change which Microsoft promised would provide better performance over its DOS-based predecessors. Windows XP would also introduce a redesigned user interface (including an updated Start menu and a "task-oriented" Windows Explorer), streamlined multimedia and networking features, Internet Explorer 6, integration with Microsoft's .NET Passport services, a "compatibility mode" to help provide backwards compatibility with software designed for previous versions of Windows, and Remote Assistance functionality.[40][41]At retail, Windows XP was marketed in two main editions: the "Home" edition was targeted towards home users, and lacked some of the more advanced networking and security features available in the "Professional" edition, which was marketed towards power users, and included additional support for multiple processors and 64-bit processors. Both editions supported the Intel IA-32 and AMD64 instruction sets, and were available in retail and OEM channels. Mainstream support for Windows XP ended on April 14, 2009. Extended support ended on April 8, 2014.[45]After Windows 2000, Microsoft also changed its release schedules for server operating systems; the server counterpart of Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, was released in April 2003.[39] It was followed in December 2005, by Windows Server 2003 R2.Main article: Windows VistaAfter a lengthy development process, Windows Vista was released on November 30, 2006, for volume licensing and January 30, 2007, for consumers. It contained a number of new features, from a redesigned shell and user interface to significant technical changes, with a particular focus on security features. It was available in a number of different editions, and has been subject to some criticism, such as drop of performance, longer boot time, criticism of new UAC, and stricter license agreement. Vista's server counterpart, Windows Server 2008 was released in early 2008.Main article: Windows 7On July 22, 2009, Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2 were released to manufacturing (RTM) and released to the public three months later on October 22, 2009. Unlike its predecessor, Windows Vista, which introduced a large number of new features, Windows 7 was intended to be a more focused, incremental upgrade to the Windows line, with the goal of being compatible with applications and hardware with which Windows Vista was already compatible.[46] Windows 7 has multi-touch support, a redesigned Windows shell with an updated taskbar with revealable jump lists that contain shortcuts to files frequently used with specific applications and shortcuts to tasks within the application,[47] a home networking system called HomeGroup,[48] and performance improvements.Main articles: Windows 8 and Windows 8.1Windows logo (2012–2015)Windows 8, the successor to Windows 7, was released generally on October 26, 2012. A number of significant changes were made on Windows 8, including the introduction of a user interface based around Microsoft's Metro design language with optimizations for touch-based devices such as tablets and all-in-one PCs. These changes include the Start screen, which uses large tiles that are more convenient for touch interactions and allow for the display of continually updated information, and a new class of apps which are designed primarily for use on touch-based devices. The new Windows version required a minimum resolution of 1024768 pixels,[49] effectively making it unfit for netbooks with 800600-pixel screens.Other changes include increased integration with cloud services and other online platforms (such as social networks and Microsoft's own OneDrive (formerly SkyDrive) and Xbox Live services), the Windows Store service for software distribution, and a new variant known as Windows RT for use on devices that utilize the ARM architecture, and a new keyboard shortcut for screenshots.[50][51][52][53][54][55][56] An update to Windows 8, called Windows 8.1,[57] was released on October 17, 2013, and includes features such as new live tile sizes, deeper OneDrive integration, and many other revisions. Windows 8 and Windows 8.1 have been subject to some criticism, such as the removal of the Start menu.Main article: Windows 10Windows logo (2015021)On September 30, 2014, Microsoft announced Windows 10 as the successor to Windows 8.1. It was released on July 29, 2015, and addresses shortcomings in the user interface first introduced with Windows 8. Changes on PC include the return of the Start Menu, a virtual desktop system, and the ability to run Windows Store apps within windows on the desktop rather than in a full-screen mode. Windows 10 is said to be available to update from qualified Windows 7 with SP1, Windows 8.1 and Windows Phone 8.1 devices from the Get Windows 10 Application (for Windows 7, Windows 8.1 or Windows Update (Windows 7,[58]In February 2017, Microsoft announced the migration of its Windows source code repository from Perforce to Git. This migration involved 3.5 million separate files in a 300-gigabyte repository.[59] By May 2017, 90 percent of its engineering team was using Git, in about 8500 commits and 1760 Windows builds per day.[59]In June 2021, shortly before Microsoft's announcement of Windows 11, Microsoft updated their lifecycle policy pages for Windows 10, revealing that support for their last release of Windows 10 will end on October 14, 2025.[60][61] On April 27, 2023, Microsoft announced that version 22H2 would be the last of Windows 10.[62][63]Windows logo (2021present)Main article: Windows 11On June 24, 2021, Windows 11 was announced as the successor to Windows 10 during a livestream. The new operating system was designed to be more user-friendly and understandable. It was released on October 5, 2021.[64][65] As of May2022,[update] Windows 11 is a free upgrade to Windows 10 users who meet the system requirements.[66]See also: Azure Virtual DesktopNot to be confused with Microsoft 365 or Windows/386.In July 2021, Microsoft announced it will start selling subscriptions to virtualized Windows desktops as part of a new Windows 365 service in the following month. The new service will allow for cross-platform usage, aiming to make the operating system available for both Apple and Android users. It is a separate service and offers several variations including Windows 365 Frontline, Windows 365 Boot, and the Windows 365 app.[67] The subscription service will be accessible through any operating system with a web browser. The new service is an attempt at capitalizing on the growing trend, fostered during the COVID-19 pandemic, for businesses to adopt a hybrid remote work environment, in which "employees split their time between the office and home". As the service will be accessible through web browsers, Microsoft will be able to bypass the need to publish the service through Google Play or the Apple App Store.[68][69][70][71][72]Microsoft announced Windows 365 availability to business and enterprise customers on August 2, 2021.[73]See also: Multilingual User Interface(Multilingual support has been built into Windows since Windows 3.0. The language for both the keyboard and the interface can be changed through the Region and Language Control Panel. Components for all supported input languages, such as Input Method Editors, are automatically installed (in Windows XP and earlier, files for East Asian languages, such as Chinese, and files for right-to-left scripts, such as Arabic, may need to be installed separately, also from the said Control Panel). Third-party IMEs may also be installed if a user feels that the provided one is insufficient for their needs. Since Windows 2000, English editions of Windows NT have East Asian IMEs (such as Microsoft Pinyin IME and Microsoft Japanese IME) bundled, but files for East Asian languages may be manually installed on Control Panel.Interface languages for the operating system are free for download, but some languages are limited to certain editions of Windows. Language Interface Packs (LIPs) are redistributable and may be downloaded from Microsoft's Download Center and installed for any edition of Windows (XP or later) they translate most, but not all, of the Windows interface, and require a certain base language (the language which Windows originally shipped with). This is used for most languages in emerging markets. Full Language Packs, which translate the complete operating system, are only available for specific editions of Windows (Ultimate and Enterprise editions of Windows Vista and 7, and all editions of Windows 8, 8.1 and RT except Single Language). They do not require a specific base language and are commonly used for more popular languages such as French or Chinese. These languages cannot be downloaded through the Download Center, but are available as optional updates through the Windows Update service (except Windows 8).The interface language of installed applications is not affected by changes in the Windows interface language. The availability of languages depends on the application developers themselves.Windows 8 and Windows Server 2012 introduce a new Language Control Panel where both the interface and input languages can be simultaneously changed, and language packs, regardless of type, can be downloaded from a central location. The PC Settings app in Windows 8.1 and Windows Server 2012 R2 also includes a counterpart settings page for this. Changing the interface language also changes the language of preinstalled Windows Store apps (such as Mail, Maps and News) and certain other Microsoft-developed apps (such as Remote Desktop). The above limitations for language packs are however still in effect, except that the language packs can be installed for any edition except Single Language, which caters to emerging markets.Windows NT included support for several platforms before the x86-based personal computer became dominant in the professional world. Windows NT 4.0 and its predecessors supported PowerPC, DEC Alpha and MIPS R4000 (although some of the platforms implement 64-bit computing, the OS treated them as 32-bit). Windows 2000 dropped support for all platforms, except the third generation x86 (known as IA-32) or newer in 32-bit mode. The client line of the Windows NT family still ran on IA-32 up to Windows 10[66] (the server line of the Windows NT family still ran on IA-32 up to Windows Server 2008).With the introduction of the Intel Itanium architecture (IA-64), Microsoft released new versions of Windows to support it. Itanium versions of Windows XP and Windows Server 2003 were released at the same time as their mainstream x86 counterparts. Windows XP 64-Bit Edition (Version 2003), released in 2003, is the last Windows client operating system to support Itanium. Windows Server line continues to support this platform until Windows Server 2012; Windows Server 2008 R2 is the last Windows operating system to support Itanium architecture.On April 25, 2005, Microsoft released Windows XP Professional x64 Edition and Windows Server 2003 x64 editions to support x86-64 (or simply x64), the 64-bit version of x86 architecture. Windows Vista was the first client version of Windows NT to be released simultaneously in IA-32 and x64 editions. As of 2024, x64 is still supported.An edition of Windows 8 known as Windows RT was specifically created for computers with ARM architecture, and while ARM is still used for Windows smartphones with Windows 10, tablets with Windows RT will not be updated. Starting from Windows 10 Full Creators Update (version 1709) and later releases, Windows CE and Windows Embedded Compact, a re-edition of Windows that runs on minimalistic computers, also ran additional application subsystems and some modules from Windows Embedded Compact is based on a modified version of the Windows CE 6.0 kernel. Microsoft licenses Windows CE to OEMs and device makers. The OEMs and device makers can modify and create their own user interfaces and experiences, while Windows CE provides the technical foundation to do so.Windows CE was used in the Dreamcast along with Sega's own proprietary OS for the console. Windows CE was also used in some Windows Mobile was derived. Its successor, Windows Phone 7, was based on components from both Windows CE 6.0 R3 and Windows CE 7.0. Windows Phone 8 however, is based on the same NT-kernel as Windows 8.Windows Embedded Compact is not to be confused with Windows XP Embedded or Windows NT 4.0 Embedded, modular editions of Windows based on Windows NT kernel.Main article: Xbox system softwareXbox OS is an unofficial name given to the version of Windows that runs on Xbox consoles.[75] From Xbox One onwards it is an implementation with an emphasis on virtualization (using Hyper-V) as it is three operating systems running at once, consisting of the core operating system, a second implemented for games and a more Windows-like environment for applications.[76]Microsoft updates Xbox One's OS every month, and these updates can be downloaded from the Xbox Live service to the Xbox and subsequently installed, or by using offline recovery images downloaded via a PC.[77] It was originally based on NT 6.2 (Windows 8) kernel, and the latest version runs on an NT 10.0 base. This system is sometimes referred to as "Windows 10 on Xbox One".[78][79]Xbox One and Xbox Series operating systems also allow limited (due to licensing restrictions and testing resources) backward compatibility with previous generation hardware,[80] and the Xbox 360's system is backwards compatible with the original Xbox.[81]Up to and including every version before Windows 2000, Microsoft used an in-house version control system named Source Library Manager (SLM). Shortly after Windows 2000 was released, Microsoft switched to a fork of Perforce named Source Depot.[82] This system was used up until 2017 once the system could not keep up with the size of Windows.[citation needed] Microsoft had begun to integrate Git into Team Foundation Server in 2013,[83] but Windows (and Office) continued to rely on Source Depot.[84] The Windows code was divided among 65 different repositories with a kind of virtualization layer to produce a unified view of all of the code.[citation needed]In 2017 Microsoft announced that it would start using Git, an open source version control system created by Linus Torvalds, and in May 2017 they reported that the migration into a new Git repository was complete.[59][85][86]Each Git repository contains a complete history of all the files' contents, which makes it very fast to switch between branches, and allows developers to do most version control operations without a network connection. Microsoft has made some of its extensions to Git for Windows and macOS available.Windows 1.01.04November 28, 1985Interface ManagerDecember 31, 2001Old version, not maintained: Windows 2.02.03December 9, 1987Old version, not maintained: Windows 2.12.11May 27, 1988Old version, not maintained: Windows 3.03.04May 22, 1990Old version, not maintained: Windows 3.13.14April 6, 1992Old version, not maintained: Windows For Workgroups 3.13.10October 1992Sparta, WinballOld version, not maintained: Windows NT 3.1NT 3.1.528July 27, 1993December 31, 2002Old version, not maintained: Windows For Workgroups 3.113.11August 11, 1993Sparta, WinballDecember 31, 2001Old version, not maintained: Windows 3.23.2November 22, 1993Old version, not maintained: Windows NT 3.5NT 3.5.807September 21, 1994Daytona30ld version, not maintained: Windows NT 3.51NT 3.51.1057May 30, 1995Old version, not maintained: Windows 954.950August 24, 1995Chicago, 4.0December 31, 2000December 31, 20015.58.0aOld version, not maintained: Windows NT 4.0NT 4.0.1381July 31, 1996CairoJune 30, 2002June 30, 200463.0aOld version, not maintained: Windows 984.10.1998June 25, 1998Memphis, 97.4July 11, 2006Old version, not maintained: Windows 98 SE4.10.2222May 5, 1999Old version, not maintained: Windows 2000NT 5.0February 17, 2000June 30, 2005July 13, 2010Old version, not maintained: Windows ME4.90.3000September 14, 2000Millennium, 4.9December 31, 2003July 11, 2006Old version, not maintained: Windows NT4 5.1.2600October 25, 2001WhistlerApril 14, 2009April 8, 20148Old version, not maintained: Windows Server 2003NT 5.2.3790April 24, 2003Old version, not maintained: Windows Vista6.0.6000November 8, 2006Longhorn, Longhorn ServerJanuary 30, 2007April 10, 2017Old version, not maintained: Windows Server 2008NT 6.0.6001February 27, 2008Longhorn ServerJanuary 13, 2015January 14, 2020911Old version, not maintained: Windows 7NT 6.1.7600October 22, 2009Windows 7[90]1109Old version, not maintained: Windows Server 2008 R2October 22, 2009Windows Server 7Old version, not maintained: Windows Home Server 2011NT 6.1.8400April 6, 2011VailApril 12, 2016Old version, not maintained: Windows Server 2012NT 6.2.9200September 4, 2012Server 8October 9, 2018October 10, 202311.0Old version, not maintained: Windows 8October 26, 2012January 12, 2016100Old version, not maintained: Windows 8.1NT 6.3.9600October 17, 2013BlueJanuary 9, 2018January 10, 2023111.20ld version, not maintained: Windows Server 2012R2October 18, 2013Server BlueOctober 9, 2018October 10, 2023Old version, still maintained: Windows 10NT 10.0.19045July 29, 2015VariousOctober 14, 2025[60][61]12136Old version, still maintained: Windows Server 2016NT 10.0.14393October 12, 2016January 11, 2022January 12, 2027Old version, still maintained: Windows Server 2019NT 10.0.17763October 2, 2018January 9, 2024January 9, 2029Old version, still maintained: Windows Server 2022NT 10.0.20348August 18, 2021October 13, 2026October 14, 2031Latest version: Windows 11NT 10.0.26100October 5, 2021VariousOctober 12, 2027[91]Latest version: Windows Server 2025NT 10.0.26100November 1, 2024October 9, 2029October 10, 2034Timeline of Windows versions v t eThe Windows family treeMain article: Usage share of operating systemsThis box: viewtalkeditVersion market share as a percentage of desktop and laptop systems using Microsoft Windows,[92] according to StatCounter, updated monthly using data from the previous month.Windows 7 (32.8%)Windows 10 (62.8%)Windows 11 (4.2%)Windows 8.1 (0.2%)Windows 8 (0.0%)Windows Vista (0.0%)Windows XP (0.0%)Windows 2000 (0.0%)Windows 98 (0.0%)Windows ME (0.0%)Windows 95 (0.0%)Windows NT 4.0 (0.0%)Windows 3.x (0.0%)Windows 1.x and 2.x (0.0%)Windows 10 (62.8%)Windows 11 (4.2%)Windows 8.1 (0.2%)Windows 8 (0.0%)Windows Vista (0.0%)Windows XP (0.0%)Windows 2000 (0.0%)Windows 98 (0.0%)Windows ME (0.0%)Windows 95 (0.0%)Windows NT 4.0 (0.0%)Windows 3.x (0.0%)Windows 1.x and 2.x (0.0%)Version market share as of March 2023 (updated every month)Usually the last Tuesday of the month), although critical updates are made available at shorter intervals when necessary.[113] Versions subsequent to Windows 2000 SP3 and Windows XP implemented automatic download and installation of updates, substantially increasing the number of users installing security updates.[114]Windows integrates the Windows Defender antivirus, which is seen as one of the best available.[115] Windows also implements Secure Boot, Control Flow Guard, ransomware protection, Microsoft Edge protection, and virtualization-based security and hypervisor-protected code integrity by default on compatible hardware.[116] Windows 10 and 11 have been criticized for collecting more telemetry than previous versions of Windows, which Microsoft has stated is necessary for security updates and to prevent the operating system from being "the most up-to-date version of Windows in name only".[117] Windows 10 and 11 have been also criticized for forcing users into installing updates, which can be problematic if they are in the middle of using their computer, or have a preferred time they install updates, such as when they are not at their computer.[118] Windows 10 and 11 have been also criticized for the ability for Microsoft to remotely install software on users' machines, run OS2 with a customized user interface; French SNCF national railways used OS/2 1.x in thousands of ticket selling machines.[citation needed] Telecom companies such as Nortel used OS/2 in some voicemail systems. Also, OS/2 was used for the host PC used to control the Satellite Operations Support System equipment installed at NPR member stations from 1994 to 2007, and used to receive the network's programming via satellite.[citation needed]Although IBM began indicating shortly after the release of Warp 4 that OS/2 would eventually be withdrawn, the company did not end support until December 31, 2006,[51] with sales of OS/2 stopping on December 23, 2005. The latest IBM OS/2 Warp version is 4.52, which was released for both desktop and server systems in December 2001.IBM is still delivering defect support for a few.[51][52] IBM urges customers to migrate their often highly complex applications to e-business technologies such as Java in a platform-neutral manner. Once application migration is completed, IBM recommends migration to a different operating system, suggesting Linux as an alternative.[53][54][55]Main articles: eComStation and ArcaOSArcaOS is the most recent OS/2-based operating system developed outside of IBM. After IBM discontinued development of OS/2, various third parties approached IBM to take over future development of the operating system. The OS/2 software vendor StarNet, made such a proposal to IBM in 1999, but it was not followed through by the company.[56] Serenity Systems succeeded in negotiating an agreement with IBM, and began reselling OS/2 as eComStation in 2001.[57] eComStation is now sold by Mensys, a company based in South Korea.[2.1 was released in 2001, 2.2 in 2002, 2.45 in 2004, 2.50 in 2005, 2.60 in 2006, 2.70 in 2007, 2.80 in 2008, 2.90 in 2009, 2.91 in 2010, 2.92 in 2011, 2.93 in 2012, 2.94 in 2013, 2.95 in 2014, 2.96 in 2015, 2.97 in 2016, 2.98 in 2017, 2.99 in 2018, 2.100 in 2019, 2.101 in 2020, 2.102 in 2021, 2.103 in 2022, 2.104 in 2023, 2.105 in 2024, 2.106 in 2025]Note: It is unknown if the source code for OS/2 is still available within IBM, but it is unlikely that the entire OS will be open; any point in the future because it contains third-party code to which IBM does not have copyright, and much of the code is derived from Microsoft. IBM also once engaged in a technology transfer with Commodore, licensing Amiga technology for OS/2 2.0 and above, in exchange for the REXX scripting language.[61][unreliable source?] This means that OS/2 may have some code that was not written by IBM, which can therefore prevent the OS from being re-announced as open-sourced in the future.[62][failed verification] [63] On the other hand, IBM donated Object REXX for Windows and OS/2 to the Open Object REXX project maintained by the REXX Language Association on SourceForge.[64]There was a petition, arranged by OS2World, to open parts of the OS. Open source operating systems such as Linux have already profited from OS/2 indirectly through IBM's release of the improved JFS file system, which was ported from the OS/2 code base. As IBM didn't release the source of the OS/2 JFS driver, developers ported the Linux driver back to eComStation and added the functionality to boot from a JFS partition. This new JFS driver has been integrated into eComStation v2.0 and later into ArcaOS 5.0.Release dates: refer to the US English editions unless otherwise noted.[65][66]DateVersionDecember 1987OS/2 1.0November 1988OS/2 1.10October 1989OS/2 1.2December 1990OS/2 1.30October 1991OS/2 2.0 (A Limited Availability)April 1992OS/2 2.00October 1992OS/2 2.00.1May 1993OS/2 2.1November 1993OS/2 for WindowsFebruary 1994OS/2 2.11July 1994OS/2 2.11 SMPOctober 1994OS/2 Warp 3May 1995OS/2 Warp Connect[67]November 1995OS/2 Warp Connect for Windows[68]February 1996OS/2 Warp 3 Fixpack 27September 1996OS/2 Warp Connect Fixpack 9September 1997