



Managed IT Services, PC
Consulting, Sales, & Service
in Central Maryland

Summer News Roundup

The July Reminder: Watch the Weather



Early-evening thunderstorms, some dramatic, are in season. If there is an alert for our area from the National Weather Service, all computers that aren't on battery backups should be turned off overnight, even if you normally leave them on to update or back up. Backups will catch up automatically, and so will updates. You can enter your zip code at weather.gov to see the current forecast and alerts at any time—the site will remember your location.

Free Windows 10 Upgrades Will End July 29th

The free upgrades, and hopefully, the vigorous nagging to upgrade to Windows 10, will end late this month. After that, upgrades will be \$119. Again, if you upgrade, create a full system backup first, and remember that the option to go back to your previous version of Windows will only be available for 30 days. If you aren't ready to upgrade this month, but want to reserve a free license, there is a way, by backing up the computer, upgrading, and restoring the backup—call for help if your business applications will be ready for Windows 10 soon, but not in time for the free upgrade cutoff.

Windows 10 Anniversary Edition Arrives July 30th

The one-year anniversary of Windows 10 is coming up. Microsoft is promising feature upgrades to already-installed Windows 10 to include new features:

- **Active Hours**

All office users will want to use this feature. It will allow setting the time of day that the computer is normally used, so that Windows 10 will not attempt to restart to finish installing an update during those hours. Once it's available, set your hours wide and early: If you work 9-5, tell it you work 7-6. Some updates take a while to reboot, and sometimes you start work early, so be generous to yourself while reserving time.

This is a new feature, and it will evolve, but once it's stable, we'll also be looking to include time for backups to run as being 'active time', maybe as 6pm to midnight, and then allow Windows to do what it wants from midnight to 6am.

- **Windows Defender**

Previously, Windows Defender was a cleanup tool for system technicians, to run from a USB flash drive, used for searching a computer for malware. After the upgrade, it will be available in the Settings app, and easy to run for a 'second opinion' scan of your system, if you want to see if your main Antivirus or Antimalware program has missed anything.

- **Updates to Edge, Ink, and More**

Edge is the new default browser for Windows 10; that's run from the blue 'e' icon with a notch in it, and it doesn't actually work on many web sites, so I've replaced that icon for many of you with Internet Explorer 11. The anniversary update upgrades Edge; it now works with a limited number of extensions, most notably LastPass (password manager).

Ink has been upgraded; that's the handwriting recognition system, mostly of use on tablets and convertible notebooks.

Avast is Buying AVG

Avast has announced that they're purchasing AVG for \$1.3 billion dollars. They're a pretty good match as companies; both started in the Czech Republic, and are now well-diversified internationally. As I sell both Avast and AVG antivirus products, many of you have one or the other of these programs. Nothing will change for a while; mergers of this scale typically take one year before there are changes in branding or product lines, and it's too soon to expect any announcements or changes in branding.

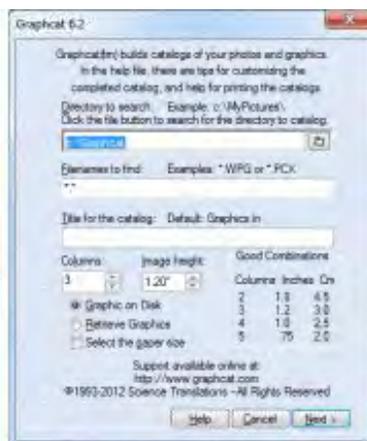
Computer Monitoring and Patch Updates Automation

Science Translations now has patch & computer monitoring available as a service. The software checks daily for missing antivirus, recent major errors (blue screen errors), drives filling up, failing, or needing defragmentation, and notifies us that there is a problem, so that we can fix issues early. It also monitors and quietly updates popular third-party programs in the background, so that there are fewer interruptions from using the computer, and fewer questions of "Is it OK to click this popup asking to update?" Monitored programs are those that are most-likely to be attacked by malware if not up-to-date, and include programs from Adobe, Firefox, Google Chrome, IrfanView, LibreOffice, Malwarebytes, Thunderbird, and more.

Patch monitoring costs \$5/computer/month for workstations, \$10/month for servers.

Graphcat Upgraded for WordPerfect X7

For WordPerfect users, my Graphcat Photo Album Builder has been upgraded, and now supports the newest WordPerfect, version X7. Half-price upgrades are available from any previous version.



**Graphcat builds photo catalogs.
Thousands of possible layouts.
And they're editable in WordPerfect. www.Graphcat.com**

