Software Updates – Think Twice Before Updating your OS
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New operating systems (OS) came out in October for both Mac and PC. Should you update? There are pros and cons to consider and questions to ask before deciding to update your current computer. Many Oakmonters are retired and likely do not need to be on the "bleeding edge" with a new operating system or go through the pain of upgrading the OS on existing hardware. It's also important to note that new versions of the operating systems are typically "buggy", and it's always best to wait until after a few updates. Is your current computer configured to handle a new OS? Do you require the features of the new OS? What issues might you run into if upgrading a current computer? If you're due for a new computer soon, should you just wait and get the new OS on the new computer?

Windows. Windows11 came out in early October. Windows10 will be supported until 2025, so there's no rush to upgrade unless new functionality is required. So far, it appears that the major changes are a more modern design, better security, and new ways to find and download apps. Upgrades from Windows10 are free, but Windows11 won't run on some older CPUs. Google "Windows10 vs Windows11" for more details. While Microsoft recommends a minimum 4GB of RAM, 12-16GB is a better choice for performance and longevity of usefulness. If you're due for a new computer in the next couple years, maybe just hold off and buy it with Windows11 already installed.

Mac. MacOS Monterey (Version 12) also came out in October. As with all new releases of MacOS, it's best to wait until after 2-3 updates as Apple works out the bugs before installing it – typically 3-4 months after its release. New releases of MacOS come roughly every year in the fall. Apple continues to maintain 2-3 older versions of MacOS after a new release, so if you are running Big Sur (version 11) or Catalina (version 10.15) there's no reason to rush. Note too that new MacOS releases are typically designed to take advantage of new Mac hardware capabilities, preventing some older Macs from being able to run the software. You can check the Apple web site to see which MacOS versions your computer supports.

OTLC can help answer questions about computer upgrades. This article along with clickable links to PC and Mac resources are at www.oakmont-learning.org. Fill out the web site contact form if you have questions.