

Determining if Your Computer Can Run ArcGIS Pro

*Required for web-based GIS courses

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Introduction

The GIS courses GEOG 2090H and ERSC 3010H, offered by the Trent University School of the Environment (TSE), require the use of the GIS software **ArcGIS Pro** (developed by ESRI).



This software is available free to use for everyone with a Trent U. ID and is provided on all Trent U. public computers. Licensing is managed by Trent U.'s [MaDGIC \(Maps, Data & Government Information Centre\)](#).

- **Students taking an in-person TSE GIS course** can use Trent U. computers on campus and/or install ArcGIS Pro on their own computer.
- **Students taking a web-based TSE GIS course** must either install ArcGIS Pro on their own computer or visit Trent U. campus to use a public computer.

This document can help you determine if your computer can run ArcGIS Pro.

Whether ArcGIS Pro can run on your computer depends on the computer's native operating system (OS) and version, and the computer's hardware. This document takes you through questions about your computer, to determine what options you might have to run Windows and ArcGIS Pro on your computer.

ArcGIS Pro is Windows-only software that runs natively only in the Intel version of Windows 10 or 11:

- If your computer runs the Intel version of Windows OS 10 or 11, you meet that one software requirement.
- If your computer runs a different OS, there are a few possible methods to run the required OS on that computer:
 - **Via Boot**, replacing your existing OS with Windows 10 or 11, and booting the computer in Windows OS.
 - **Via Dual Boot**, splitting the internal storage into two parts, installing Windows OS on one partition while the native OS remains on the other, and deciding what OS to use on computer startup (requires reboot to change OS).
 - **Via virtualization**: software is used to create a virtual disk image of Windows OS, saved as a file on internal storage. Virtualization software then opens the virtual disk, presenting Windows OS in its application window on the computer, and the Windows OS runs within that window.

Question 1: What Operating System (OS) are You Using?

A. Windows OS (any version): See **Section A: Windows Computers**

B. Mac OS X / MacOS (any version): See **Section B: Apple (Mac) Computers**

C. Other OSs

Below is a brief review of the more common alternative (to Windows & Mac) operating systems in use today. Most of these computers are not easily set up to run Windows OS and ArcGIS Pro, and if they are, the software will run slowly (barely useable).

C1. ChromeOS

ChromeOS is the default OS for a Chromebook. Running Windows on a Chromebook may be possible but **is not recommended**.



The installation procedure is challenging, Chromebooks lack the specs to run Windows well (via boot and especially via virtualization), and Chromebook hardware is difficult to impossible to upgrade.

Reference:

Bizzaco, M. & Rawes, E. 2024. **How to Install Windows on a Chromebook**. Digital Trends.
<https://www.digitaltrends.com/computing/how-to-install-windows-chromebook/>

C2. Linux

Linux is an alternative OS that will run on many computers. Running Windows virtually in Linux may be possible but **is not recommended**.



If installed on a computer that will run Windows OS, both boot and virtualization options may be possible. One reference recommends setting up the computer to dual boot into Windows/Linux and installing ArcGIS Pro in Windows, and noted Windows performance was poor (but this may vary by computer specs). For those who want to pursue the virtualization route in Linux, this article may help.

Reference:

Pounder, L. 2021. **How to Run Windows 11 and macOS Virtual Machines in Linux**. Tom's Hardware.
<https://www.tomshardware.com/how-to/run-windows-11-and-mac-os-virtual-machines-in-linux>

C3. Tablets & Smartphones (e.g., Android, iOS, iPadOS)

ArcGIS Pro is not available for tablets or smartphones. Some tablets that run Windows OS *might* be able to run ArcGIS Pro but may not provide full functionality and will run slow, as tablets generally lack the power of a full computer and so **is not recommended**.



Reference:

Reddit discussion. 2025. **Tablet's running arc gis pro?**
https://www.reddit.com/r/ArcGIS/comments/1id6e90/tablets_running_arc_gis_pro/

>>> OPTIONS SUMMARY- C) Other OSs: AVOID

1. Find another accessible computer or purchase a new computer (see **Purchasing a New Computer Recommendations** for some tips) that can run ArcGIS Pro, or
2. If taking an in-person GIS course or living near Trent U campus taking a web course, use an in-house Trent University public computer.

Section A: Windows OS Computers

A1. Windows OS Version

Question 2 (Win): What version of Windows OS is your computer running?

A1-a) Windows 8.1 & Earlier



ArcGIS Pro requires Windows 10 or 11 and **is not supported on Windows 8.1 or earlier**.

Selling of computers running Windows 8.1 stopped before 2016. Such hardware is too old to be worth upgrading to support Windows 11 (if even possible). In addition, Microsoft stopped supporting Windows 8.1 in January 2023 and so any computer running 8.1 is now a security risk.

>>> OPTIONS SUMMARY- A1-a) Windows 8.1 & Earlier: **AVOID**

1. Find another accessible computer or purchase a new computer (see **Purchasing a New Computer Recommendations** for some tips) that can run ArcGIS Pro, or
2. If taking an in-person GIS course or living near Trent U campus taking a web course, use an in-house Trent University public computer.

A1-b) Windows 10 or 11



If your computer is running Windows 10 or 11, it meets ArcGIS Pro's OS requirements.

Microsoft will stop supporting Windows 10 on October 14, 2025 so

Windows 10 users are encouraged to upgrade (free) to Windows 11 using

Windows Software Update but note that not all older computers have the hardware to support Windows 11.



Proceed to section **A2. Windows OS Computer Hardware**.

A2. Windows OS Computer Hardware

Question 3 (Win): Does your Windows OS computer hardware meet ArcGIS Pro Requirements?

Overview

Use the following table to confirm if your computer meets ArcGIS Pro's hardware requirements (<https://pro.arcgis.com/en/pro-app/latest/get-started/arcgis-pro-system-requirements.htm>).

Computer Component	ArcGIS Pro Requirements	How to Check in Windows OS 10/11
Processor/ CPU	Minimum 2 cores; 4 is recommended; 10 is optimal. Hyperthreading/ multithreading required.	Start > Settings > System > About , look for Device specifications > Processor .
Platform	X64 (64-bit Intel). ARM processors are not supported.	
Storage	Minimum 32 GB of free space; 100 GB or more recommended. SSD (solid state drive) recommended (standard on most modern computers). Remember to account for that your storage should have at least 15-20% free space.	Start > Settings > System > Storage . "Local Storage" will list both the size of your internal C: disk and the amount used. It will also list any other disks.
RAM	Minimum 8 GB of RAM; 32 GB or more is recommended.	Start > Settings > System > About , look for Device specifications > Installed RAM .
Graphics Memory	Recommended: 4 GB or more. Notebook computers with less will benefit from more RAM.	Start > Settings > System > Display . Under Multiple Displays select Advanced Display Settings . Under "Display Information" the graphics card vendor and model will be listed.

If your computer does not meet one or more of these requirements you may be able to upgrade your computer hardware. Refer to your computer's documentation, available from your computer manufacturer's support website. Keep these factors in mind as you decide about upgrading:

- In any upgrade decision **consider the cost** to upgrade versus purchasing new, & the age of your current computer. It is usually better to replace rather than upgrade a 3+ year-old computer.
- **Some upgrades are complex** & may best be completed at an authorized computer repair centre.

Here is a brief review of some of the possible Windows OS PC hardware upgrades.

Processor

This critical computer component is not generally upgradeable. Where upgrades are possible, hiring an authorized computer repair centre is recommended.



File Storage/Drive

Computers short on storage space may be upgradeable. You'll need to be able to store the ArcGIS Pro application and its supporting files (must be installed on **C: drive**, typically located inside your computer), as well as GIS data (can be stored anywhere, on internal or external storage).

- If your C: drive lacks sufficient space (accounting for keeping 15-20% of drive storage free) you may be able to replace the drive with a larger, faster drive. A minimum 500 GB size is recommended for C: drive; 1 TB would be better.
- An external SSD drive (e.g., the Samsung T7) which connects via a USB port on your computer and takes one of the forms below is an option if an external drive is preferred.



The following recommended drive types are available as internal or external drives:

- **NVMe M.2 SSD** (solid state drive) (Example: Samsung 970 EVO Plus): the fastest drive type but may be incompatible with some older computers.
- **SATA SSD (could be 2.5" or M.2 form factor)** (Example: Crucial MX500): not as fast, but compatible with all modern computers.
- **AVOID: older, slower HDD (hard disk drive) types (with spinning platters).**



Random Access Memory (RAM)

Most Windows computers lacking sufficient RAM are upgradeable (16 GB is a recommended minimum). RAM is sold by many 3rd party vendors and tends to be inexpensive. Read your computer's documentation to learn:



- the maximum RAM your computer can support,
- the specifications of the RAM your computer uses, and
- how to add or replace RAM in your computer.

Examples of major RAM manufacturers, with links to memory search by computer model, include:

- Crucial <https://www.crucial.com/catalog/memory>
- Kingston <https://www.kingston.com/en/memory>

GPU & Graphics Memory

If your computer does not meet ArcGIS's GPU and graphics memory requirements, it may be possible to upgrade. This may involve the purchase of a video card that is compatible with your computer that would take on the graphics calculations and output and be installed either inside the computer or connected to an external port.

>>> OPTIONS SUMMARY- Windows 10 or 11:

1. If your computer meets all these hardware requirements, you can obtain and install ArcGIS Pro as described in the companion document.
2. If it does not, you may be able to complete hardware upgrades to meet ArcGIS Pro's requirements.

3. If you are unable/unwilling to upgrade your computer to meet ArcGIS Pro hardware requirements, then your current computer will not support ArcGIS Pro, and you can:
- Find another computer or purchase a new computer that can run ArcGIS Pro, or
 - If taking an in-person GIS course or living near Trent U campus taking a web course, use an in-house Trent University public computer.

Section B. Apple (MacOS) Computers

ArcGIS Pro is Windows-only and won't run natively on a Mac. It is possible to run Windows OS on some Mac models and then run ArcGIS Pro in that Windows OS. Whether your Mac can run Windows OS depends on your Mac hardware, age, and OS version.



First, you establish your Apple computer type, differentiating between older and newer Intel Macs, and more recent ARM (M1/M2/M3/M4) Macs.

Note that running Windows on a Mac will likely cost some money, at the very least requiring purchase of a Windows OS license (unless you own an unused license), and possibly virtualization software.

B1. Apple Mac Computer Type

Question 2 (Mac): What type of Apple computer do you have?

Select **Apple > About This Mac > More Info** and look for the description of your Mac computer.

From 2020 to 2023 Apple transitioned its computers from Intel to ARM processors, and as of October 2023, Apple sells only ARM-based Macs (current Macs run the M4 processor family). Apple continues to support some Intel Mac models back as early as 2017-2018 (running MacOS 13, Ventura).

B1-a) Macs Older than ~2018

Macs older than approximately 2018 are not capable of running a useable Windows 10/11 or ArcGIS Pro. Computers of this age cannot run MacOS 13 (Ventura) and later, instead only able to run older MacOS versions which are no longer maintained by Apple (list below):

- MacOS 12 (Monterey), released October 2021.
- MacOS 11 (Big Sur), released November 2020.
- MacOS 10.15 (Catalina), released October 2019.
- MacOS 10.14 (Mojave), released September 2018.
- Any MacOS version older than above.

This makes these computers a security risk. With Mac processor upgrades not possible, these older computers should be replaced.

>>> OPTIONS SUMMARY- B1.1 Intel Macs older than 2018: AVOID

- Find another accessible computer or purchase a new computer (see **Purchasing a New Computer Recommendations** for some tips) that can run ArcGIS Pro, or
- If taking an in-person GIS course or living near Trent U campus taking a web course, use an in-house Trent University public computer.

B1-b) Intel Macs 2018 and newer

These Macs may be able to run ArcGIS Pro within Windows, depending on hardware. Proceed to section **B2. Intel Macs 2018 and newer**.



B1-c) Apple Silicon/ARM (M1/M2/M3/M4) Macs

These Macs may be able to run ArcGIS Pro within Windows, depending on hardware. Proceed to section **B3. Apple Silicon/ARM Macs- Hardware & Software.**

B2. Intel Macs 2018 and newer- Hardware & Software

Students with Intel-based Apple computers 2018 and newer running MacOS 13 Ventura and later, with core i5, i7, or i9 processors, have two choices for running Windows OS on their Mac.

- Boot Camp (sets up dual boot)
- Virtualization

Determining if either are possible, and if both, which is the best, requires knowing more about your Mac hardware. Both require a valid Windows OS license.

Intel Mac Hardware

Question 3 (Mac): How much RAM memory & storage space does your Mac have?

Use the following table to determine which next section fits your computer:

Computer RAM	Free Storage Space on Internal Boot Drive *be sure to account of keeping at least 15-20% of your disk free of data	
	< 100 GB free	≥ 100 GB free
≤ 8 GB	Visit Section B2-d) Neither Boot Camp nor Virtualization Possible	Visit Section B2-b) Boot Camp Only
> 8 GB	Visit Section B2-c) Virtualization Only	Visit Section B2-a) Both Boot Camp & Virtualization Possible

Software for Intel Macs

B2-a) Both Boot Camp & Virtualization Possible

Your computer has the resources to run either Boot Camp or Virtualization. The advantages and disadvantages of each are briefly described in the table below.

Factor	Advantage Goes To...
Performance	Boot Camp , because one OS at a time is consuming the computer's resources (processor, RAM, etc.) and the OS has direct access to computer hardware. Also, virtualization goes through a type of data translation that slows performance.
Cost	Tie, or edge to Boot Camp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boot Camp software is free, while some virtualization software is free but better virtualization software tends to cost. • In both cases a valid Windows 11 license still must be available or purchased. See Purchasing Windows 11 OS.
Computer Disk Use	Virtualization , because the file containing the Windows OS can be placed on any disk (including an external disk) and does not require partitioning (dividing) of the internal hard drive like Boot Camp.
Functionality	Virtualization , because MacOS and Windows OS run side-by-side in real time, while Boot Camp requires one to restart the computer to switch OSs. Virtualization allows one to copy data between the OSs.

The following reference may help you further in deciding between Boot Camp and Virtualization:
Joseph, C. 2024-10-24. **How to install Windows on an Intel Mac.** Macworld.

<https://www.macworld.com/article/216513/windows-boot-camp-intel-mac.html>

Visit the appropriate section for further details on each method:

- **B2-b) Boot Camp Only**
- **B2-c) Virtualization Only**

B2-b) Boot Camp Only

Boot Camp: Choose to run MacOS or Windows OS when booting your Mac.

With Boot Camp you divide your internal storage (from which your Mac starts up) into 2 partitions and install Windows OS on its own partition. Then, when you start your computer, you choose whether to start in Windows OS or MacOS; this means to change OSs you must restart the computer. Apple provides a free utility called Boot Camp to help with the setup and installation.



Boot Camp's requirements (<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/HT201468>) include:

- A newer Intel-based Mac computer. **Boot Camp does not work on Apple silicon Macs.**
- Minimum 64 GB space on our internal startup drive; ≥128 GB is strongly recommended. Boot Camp partitions this disk and sets up Windows OS on one of the partitions, making that space unavailable for MacOS. Remember to also keep at least 15-20% of any disk free.
- Minimum 4 GB of RAM; 16 GB or more is preferred (to run ArcGIS Pro on top of Windows OS).
- Video card with 256 MB of RAM or higher recommended

The basic Boot Camp setup process includes:

1. Download & use the free Boot Camp Assistant to create a Windows OS partition on your Mac.
2. Format the Windows OS (BOOTCAMP) partition.
3. Install Windows OS. This requires a valid Windows 10/11 license; see **Purchasing Windows 11 OS**.
4. Use Boot Camp in Windows OS to complete the install (sets up your Mac hardware in Windows OS).
5. Install ArcGIS Pro, as described in the companion document.

To use Windows OS on a Mac with Boot Camp you must start up in Windows OS. Some additional helpful references on Boot Camp include:

- **Boot Camp Support.** Apple. <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/boot-camp>
- Hunt, C. 2023. **How to install Windows 10 on your Mac using Boot Camp.** iMore. <https://www.imore.com/how-install-windows-your-mac-boot-camp>

B2-c) Virtualization Only

Virtualization: Run Windows OS in a virtual environment.

Virtualization software creates a virtual disk image of Windows OS, saved as a file on the Mac storage. When you run the virtualization application it opens the virtual disk, presenting the Windows OS in the application window on the Mac. Windows OS runs within that window.



Virtualization requirements are higher because the computer runs MacOS and Windows OS simultaneously. The following is based on Parallels' requirements

(<https://www.parallels.com/ca/products/desktop/resources/>):

- Intel Core i5, i7, i9 or Xeon processor
- ≥ 16 GB of RAM (≥ 8 GB for each OS)
- About 1 GB for the Parallels application, with the start-up drive an SSD type
- At least 100 GB disk space (on any disk connected to the Mac) for the virtual machine file

The virtual machine file that contains the Windows OS can be stored on any storage device, but it is best stored in its default location on the boot drive.

There are different virtualization applications available, with three main contenders:

- **Parallels:** \$120/yr (can sometimes find sales); Pro version recommended to allow more than 8 GB RAM per virtual machine. Provides good performance. <https://www.parallels.com/ca/>
- **VMWare Fusion Pro** v13. Free for personal use. <https://blogs.vmware.com/teamfusion/2024/05/fusion-pro-now-available-free-for-personal-use.html>
- **VirtualBox.** This free, open-source software may not offer quite as many options and performance as Parallels but has always been free. <https://www.virtualbox.org>

This reference may help with choosing the best virtualization software for you:

Joseph, C. 2025-03-19. **Best virtual machine software for Mac.** Macworld.

<https://www.macworld.com/article/668848/best-virtual-machine-software-for-mac.html>

Once you have chosen your virtualization software, the basic process of set up includes:

1. Download and install the virtualization software (a Mac application).
2. Open and use the virtualization software to set up a Windows OS virtual machine file on your disk of choice (choose your fastest). This requires a valid Windows 10/11 license; see **Purchasing Windows 11 OS.**
3. Install ArcGIS Pro within Windows OS.

B2-d) Cannot Run Boot Camp or Virtualization

One of either disk space or RAM would have to be upgraded to run Boot Camp or Virtualization, and unfortunately these upgrades are challenging on most Mac computers:

- The internal hard disk may be replaceable with a larger disk (SSD recommended if compatible). Hiring an authorized Apple service agent is strongly recommended.
- RAM can be upgraded on a few Mac models, including iMac 27" any year, iMac 21.5" from 2015 & 2016, all Mac Pro models, and Mac Mini 2018 (Apple service agent recommended).

>>> OPTIONS SUMMARY- B1.2 Newer Intel Macs

1. If your Intel Mac has sufficient storage and RAM, you can purchase Windows OS and (if necessary) virtualization software, and run Windows OS on your Mac, then install ArcGIS Pro in the Windows environment.
2. If your Intel Mac lacks the hardware to support Boot Camp or virtualization, you may be able to upgrade either your internal drive (for Boot Camp) or RAM (for Virtualization. However only a few Macs are able to be upgraded.
3. **If you do not or cannot upgrade, your computer as is cannot run Windows OS. You can:**
 - a. Find another accessible computer or purchase a new computer (see **Purchasing a New Computer Recommendations** for some tips) that can run ArcGIS Pro, or
 - b. If taking an in-person GIS course or living near Trent U campus taking a web course, use an in-house Trent University public computer.

B3. Apple Silicon/ARM Macs- Hardware & Software

Apple Silicon Macs (running M1-M4 processor families) can run Windows 11 using virtualization. There is currently no way to boot a Mac using any version of Windows OS.



In 2021 Microsoft released a version of Windows 11 for ARM processors, and in early 2023 Microsoft officially authorized use of Windows 11 on Apple Silicon Macs. The virtualization software company Parallels was the first officially authorized software to enable this ability, and recently other virtualization options have become available.

arm

A word of warning:

The current version of Microsoft Windows 11 Pro for ARM processors is still in development and has limitations. It has been shown to run ArcGIS Pro, but there may be unpredictable bugs and crashes resulting from unexpected issues. Keep this in mind as you decide your way forward. For more information see **Windows Arm-based PCs FAQ** from Microsoft at <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-arm-based-pcs-faq-477f51df-2e3b-f68f-31b0-06f5e4f8ebb5>.

The following reference from an Apple Silicon user who have used ArcGIS Pro virtually on a Mac may help you determine if using this method of running ArcGIS Pro will work for you.

Reddit thread. 2023-10. **Testing ArcGIS Pro on M1 Pro Mac with Parallels Standard to see if Pro would be worth it.**

https://www.reddit.com/r/gis/comments/1750t68/testing_arcgis_pro_on_m1_pro_mac_with_parallels/

First, you must determine if your computer can support a virtualized Windows OS.

Apple Silicon Computer Hardware

The hardware requirements to run Windows 11 on Apple Silicon will vary depending on the software used to virtualize Windows 11. Parallels v20 software will run on any Silicon Mac processor that has the following:

- **RAM:** Minimum 4 GB; 16 GB or more recommended.
Computers with 8 GB or less will run virtualization slowly.
- **Storage (on internal storage), including both software and Windows 11 virtual disk:** Minimum 17 GB free; 100 GB or more free recommended (remember to account for keeping a minimum 15-20% of any storage disk free/unused).

Reference:

Parallels. 2025-04. **Parallels Desktop for Mac System Requirements.** <https://kb.parallels.com/124223>

Software for Apple Silicon

Setting up Windows 11 on ARM Mac requires the following software:

- **Virtualization Software**, such as:
 - **Parallels Desktop software** v17 or later, current v20 recommended. Cost \$130 Cdn for 1 year subscription; coupons/sales may be available.
 - **VMWare Fusion Pro** v13. Free for personal use.
<https://blogs.vmware.com/teamfusion/2024/05/fusion-pro-now-available-free-for-personal-use.html>
 - **QEMU via the UTM app.** Payment optional/\$10.
<https://www.intego.com/mac-security-blog/how-to-run-windows-11-for-free-on-an-m1-m2-m3-or-m4-mac/>
https://umtgis.github.io/guides/install/mac_apple_silicon.html

Note that other virtualization options will not work, including CrossOver (<https://www.codeweavers.com/compatibility/crossover/arcgis-pro>).

- **Microsoft Windows 11 Pro for ARM processors** (avoid the Intel version). If you own a valid & unused Windows 11 Pro licence it may be useable in activating an ARM version. See **Purchasing Windows 11 OS.**

>>> OPTIONS SUMMARY- B1.3 Apple Silicon Macs:

1. If your Silicon Mac has sufficient memory and storage space, you can purchase virtualization software and Windows 11 Pro for ARM processors and run Windows 11 (with ArcGIS Pro installed in Windows) virtually. Note there might be issues with running Windows 11 ARM, which is still in development.
2. If you lack RAM or internal storage (which is typically not upgradable on Silicon Macs), or are unwilling to purchase the software, your Mac won't support running ArcGIS Pro. You can:
 - a. Find another accessible computer or purchase a new computer (see **Purchasing a New Computer Recommendations** for some tips) that can run ArcGIS Pro, or
 - b. If taking an in-person GIS course or living near Trent U campus taking a web course, use an in-house Trent University public computer.

References: Running Windows OS on a Mac

Aguilar, N. 2025. **How to Run Windows From Your Mac**. CNET.

<https://www.cnet.com/tech/computing/how-to-run-windows-from-your-mac/>

Apple. **Run Windows on your Mac** (Boot Camp on Intel Macs only). <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/mac-help/mh11850/mac>

ESRI. **Run ArcGIS Pro on a Mac**. <https://pro.arcgis.com/en/pro-app/latest/get-started/run-pro-on-a-mac.htm>

Joseph, C. 2024-10-15. **How to run Windows on a Mac**. MacWorld.

<https://www.macworld.com/article/670954/how-to-install-windows-on-mac.html>

Joseph, C. 2024-10-24. **How to install Windows on an Intel Mac**. Macworld.

<https://www.macworld.com/article/216513/windows-boot-camp-intel-mac.html>

Joseph, C. & K. Haslam. 2025-03-19. **Best Virtual Machine Software for Mac**. Macworld.

<https://www.macworld.com/article/668848/best-virtual-machine-software-for-mac.html>

McElhern, K. & J. Long. 2024. **How to run Windows 11 on an Intel or Apple silicon Mac (M1/M2/M3/M4)**. Intego. <https://www.intego.com/mac-security-blog/how-to-run-windows-on-an-intel-or-m1-mac/>

Microsoft. **Options for using Windows 11 with Mac® computers with Apple® M1®, M2™, and M3™ chips**. <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/options-for-using-windows-11-with-mac-computers-with-apple-m1-m2-and-m3-chips-cd15fd62-9b34-4b78-b0bc-121baa3c568c>

Parallels. **Run ArcGIS on Mac with Parallels Desktop**.

<https://www.parallels.com/apps/arcgis/?srsltid=AfmBOopBnkTe8oiLFuRnH9L2GxcNnlpk4TDfe8GPLsO2Pkb2gOf2wJ1J>

Reddit thread. 2024-08. **Is downloading ArcGIS on Mac worth it?**

https://www.reddit.com/r/ArcGIS/comments/1einp1b/is_downloading_arcgis_on_mac_worth_it/

Purchasing Windows 11 OS

Windows 10 support ends in October 2025, so avoid purchasing Windows 10.



Depending on your situation you may need to purchase a copy of Windows 11 OS:

- If your current computer is running Windows OS you don't need to purchase a Windows license.
- If purchasing a new Windows computer, ensure it comes with Windows 11 (Pro recommended).

- If you want to run Windows OS on your Mac, and you don't already have available a valid licenced copy of Windows OS that is unused, you will need to purchase a legitimate copy.

Windows 10 and 11 both come in several different editions. For Trent GIS courses **Windows Home** is sufficient, although you might want Windows Pro for other reasons.

- Microsoft provides a comparison of Windows 11 Pro vs. Home:
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/compare-windows-11-home-vs-pro-versions>
- Wikipedia provides a table comparing the different "editions" of Windows 10:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_10_editions.

Windows 11 is available:

- On Microsoft's Canada Education web-based store (educational discounts available for some products) at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/store/b/student>
- On Microsoft's Canada (non-education) web-based store at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/>
- From several third-party resellers (prices vary, but sales do happen).

Purchasing a New Computer Recommendations

Here are some recommendations on buying a new computer if you are in the market.

- **Purchase as fast a processor as you can afford** (within your overall budget).
This component cannot be upgraded, and the faster your processor, the longer your computer will function with reasonable performance.
- **Get a minimum 16 GB RAM.** This will ensure your computer will function well immediately.
 - IF your computer RAM cannot be upgraded (common for Macs), it is recommended you purchase a computer with 32 GB RAM (if affordable).
 - **IF your computer** RAM can be upgraded, purchasing a computer that can hold more than 32 GB of RAM will extend the life of your computer.
- Ensure your internal storage is an M.2 NVMe SSD (Solid State Drive), recommend 500 GB minimum storage space. On some computers this is an upgradeable component.
- Avoid buying computer models older than 1-2 years- they are cheap for a reason! They will not last very long.
- Comparing a desktop to laptop computer, you will pay more for a laptop and sacrifice computer performance, so be certain you need the portability of a laptop before choosing that option.

Questions? Contact a GIS course instructor or Robert Loney (rloney@trentu.ca).