Windows 10
Stability, Security and Usability

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Stability
## Servicing Branches for Enterprise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edition</th>
<th>Insider Program</th>
<th>Current Branch</th>
<th>Current Branch for Business</th>
<th>Long-term-servicing branch (LTSWB)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>❌</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enterprise LTSB</td>
<td>❌</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pro Education</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>❌</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stability</td>
<td>Lowest</td>
<td>Highest</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Stability Scale: Lowest to Highest
Difference Between Current Branch and LTSB
What Service Branch Should You Choose?

It depends on the **use** of the computer and the **user** of the computer

For more information, see: https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/itpro/windows/manage/index
Windows Insider Program

Best for geeks who want to test the newest features as quickly as possible
Lots of updates, little warning
Least stable, most bugs
Will get the newest security features first
Not recommended for production use!
Current Branch

Best for IT Staff who are testing features before rolling them out to users

Gets features about 4 months before they are introduced into the Current Branch for Business
Current Branch for Business

Best for your typical user
Good balance between security and stability
Selecting the Current Branch for Business

Group Policy method:
Computer Configuration, Policies, Administrative Templates, Windows Components, Windows Update, Defer Windows Updates, Select when Feature Updates are received
Selecting the Current Branch for Business

Manually setting:

+ i opens Windows Settings, choose Update & security, Advanced options, then check Defer feature updates
Long Term Service Branch

This is a separate install from the Enterprise version and is like “traditional windows” with a long time between releases.

Least secure because no security features are added between LTSB releases.

Long Term Service Branch (LTSB) should be reserved for special use computers where stability is most important.

Examples include computers attached to lab instruments or required to meet some compliance standard that is hard to apply.
Security
UEFI Secure Boot

On most systems it can be disabled, but don’t!
UEFI Secure Boot keeps rootkits from being able to be booted by requiring signed operating system loaders.
Shut Up Windows 10!

- A number of Windows 10 features have been in the crosshairs of some “privacy” pundits because these features store info about users in the cloud.
- For example: Cortana “learns” about you to serve up answers to questions that you ask. Handwriting info for touch screens and tablets – “inking” - is learned and stored in the cloud.
- If it bothers you, turn it off!
- An easy way to do this is to download O&O Software’s O&O ShutUp10 at https://www.oo-software.com/en/shutup10. It’s free!
Windows 10 Telemetry

Disable Telemetry

• Run services.msc
• Go to the **Connected User Experiences and Telemetry** service and double-click it.
• Click **Stop** in the **Service status** section.
• Under the **Startup type** drop down menu select **Disabled** and then confirm this and close the window by clicking **OK**
New Privacy Settings in “Creators Edition”
Update and Security Options

Four types of Updates

1. Security updates – fix security issues
2. Updates – primarily bug fixes, start with “Update for...”
3. Cumulative updates – a rollup of previous updates, plus new updates, often has security implications
4. New Windows features – Windows 10 has had a number new features added over time. These large updates are released as new builds and usually get a name. The most recent was the “Anniversary Update” and the next will be the “Creators Update.”
Disable Flash Player in the Edge Browser

• In the Edge browser, click the **Settings** ellipses in the upper right corner of the Edge window: 

• Scroll to the bottom of the settings and click **Advanced settings**

• The third item from the top controls Flash Player, slide the switch to off:
Controlling Flash in Internet Explorer

- Click the **Settings** gear in the upper right hand corner of the IE window
- Choose **Manage add-ons** from the menu
- Use the scrollbar on the right side of the window to scroll down to **Shockwave Flash Object** and right-click it, then click **More information** at the bottom of the list of options
- Last, click the **Remove all sites** button. This will cause IE to request on each site whether or not to run Flash – you will find very few sites that really need Flash!
Other Security Recommendations

• Never do “normal computing” as an Administrator – always use a “Standard user” account for day to day computing and especially for surfing the web and checking email

• Reserve the Administrator account for installing software

Why?

• Over 80% of Windows vulnerabilities are mitigated by using a Standard user account

• Your are far less likely to get machine-killing malware

• Less important files are exposed if you accidentally get hit by ransomware
Other Security Recommendations

• Turn off **AutoPlay**

Why?

• Any malware infected USB drive or CD/DVD will immediately infect your computer if AutoPlay is set to on

• To turn AutoPlay Off, go to **Start, Settings**, then click the **Devices** button, click the **AutoPlay** button on the left, then slide the switch to off.
Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit

EMET version 5.52 is the current version
What is it?
Do you need it?
Usability
Customizing Windows 10 for Usability

Windows 10 introduced a new **Start menu** but kept the Windows 7 era **Taskbar**, which leaves three major customizing options:

1. Customize the **Start menu**
2. Customize the **Taskbar**
3. Customize the **Start menu and the Taskbar**

Number 3 is my chosen path to Windows 10 heaven!
Customizing the Windows 10 Start Menu

Suggested Methodology

• Make a list of programs your users use most
• Use the All Apps menu to scroll through the list and find those apps
• Then pin them to the **Start menu**
• When through with that process, group them together by your use cases and give them a title, for example “Office 2016”
• Then size the tiles to save space in the Start Menu
Customizing the Taskbar

Why customize the Taskbar?
• One click access to your most-used programs
• Easy to use **Jump list** of your last 11 files from that program
Windows 10 Start Button Right-Click Menu: a Power User’s Secret

• Programs and Features
• Power Options
• Event Viewer
• System
• Device Manager
• Network Connections
• Disk Management
• Computer Management
• Command Prompt
• Command Prompt (Admin)
• Task Manager
• Control Panel
• File Explorer
• Search
• Run
• Shutdown or Sign Out
• Desktop
Windows 10 Start Button Right-Click Menu

C:\Users\UserName\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\WinX\Group2

Icons in the group 2 right-click menu  File Explorer view of shortcuts in the folder
This presentation along with a Windows 10 Logo Key quick reference will be posted on the Featured Content section of the Engineering Intranet within 2 days.

http://coe-intranet.tamu.edu
Questions?