

Upgrading to Windows 11 on "old" PCs



Before you start...

- Backup all your important files !!
Just in case anything should go wrong
- Make sure you have a 16GB USB memory stick
- Keep a copy of your Windows License Key...



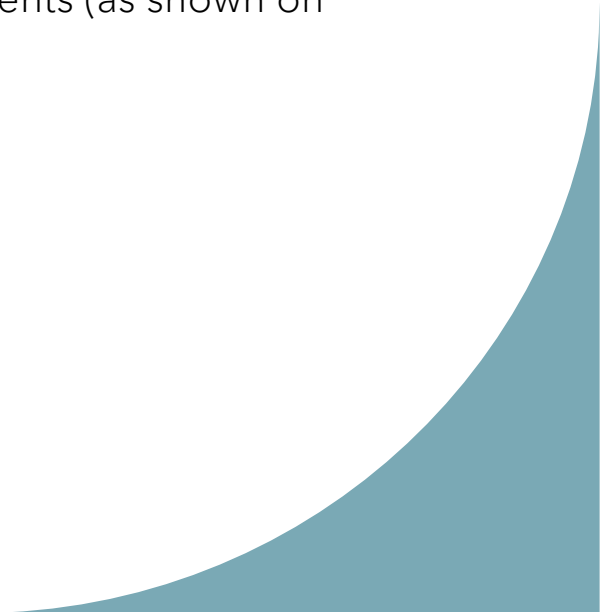
How to find your License Key

- Launch regedit in the “start” box (bottom left of your screen)
- Navigate to:
 - **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE**
 - SOFTWARE**
 - Microsoft**
 - Windows NT**
 - CurrentVersion**
 - SoftwareProtectionPlatform**
 - open the **BackupProductKeyDefault** key
 - Make a note of your Windows 10 product key



Your upgrade options...

- First, you should check whether you have a computer than can run Windows 11
- The easiest way to do this is to simply do a check for Windows updates and you will see the message warning that your PC does not meet the Windows 11 requirements (as shown on next slide)...



Settings

Home

Find a setting

Update & Security

- Windows Update
- Delivery Optimisation
- Windows Security
- Files backup
- Troubleshoot
- Recovery
- Activation
- Find my device
- For developers
- Windows Insider Programme

Windows Update

Status: Pending install

Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool x64 - v5.132 (KB890830)
Status: Installing - 0%

Intel - SoftwareComponent - 1.71.99.0
Status: Pending install

Intel - SoftwareComponent - 2408.5.4.0
Status: Pending install

Realtek - Net - 10.61.327.2024
Status: Pending install

Intel - System - 2406.5.5.0
Status: Pending install

[View optional updates](#)

This PC doesn't currently meet the minimum system requirements to run Windows 11

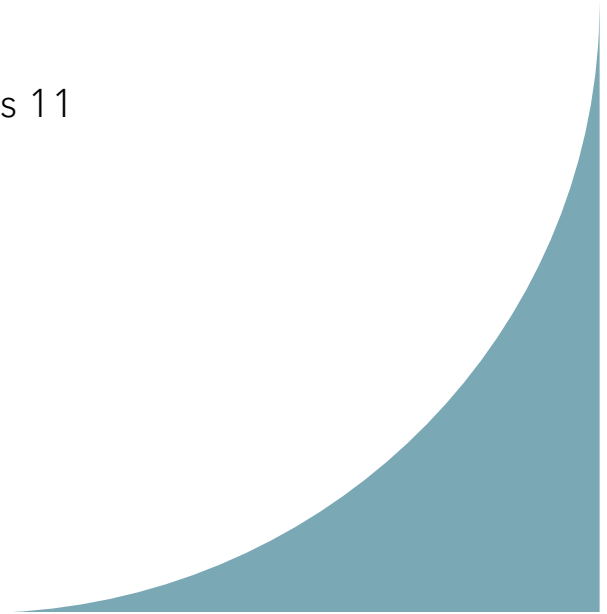
Get the details and see if there are things you can do in the PC Health Check app.

[Get PC Health Check](#)

Get the latest updates as soon as they're available
Be among the first to get the latest non-security updates, On

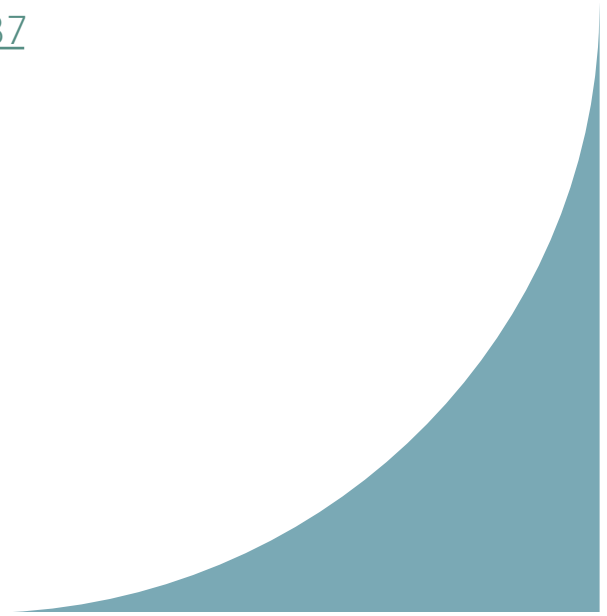
Your upgrade options (cont'd)...

- The other option is the Microsoft "PC Health Check" app from the Microsoft App store
- If you don't see the warning shown then you are good to update.
- You could always buy a new (or used) PC that is already running Windows 11
- Otherwise, carry on with the process described here...



Download Windows 11 ISO

- You are going to need a standard Microsoft Windows 11 “image” that they would in the past have put on a CD/DVD.
- You can get this from Microsoft’s own website here:
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/software-download/windows11/?msockid=29f238b13f7e620e01aa2b0e3b7e6087>



Microsoft | Software Download Windows Windows Insider Preview All Microsoft

Download Windows 11

(Current release: Windows 11 2024 Update I Version 24H2)

There are 3 options below for installing or creating Windows 11 media. Check out each one to determine the best option for you.


Before installing, check the [Windows release information status](#) for known issues that may affect your device. If you're running a prior version of Windows, see the [Upgrade to Windows 11:FAQ](#) for additional information.

Windows 11 Installation Assistant

This is the best option for installing Windows 11 on the device you're currently using. Click **Download Now** to get started.

Note: Windows 11 Installation Assistant doesn't run on Arm-based PCs; it only works for x64 processors.

> Before you begin using Installation Assistant



will need to revert the changes you made to the boot order. This ensures that the internal drive you just installed Windows on will boot normally.

[Download Now](#)

Download Windows 11 Disk Image (ISO) for x64 devices

This option is for users that want to create a bootable installation media (USB flash drive, DVD) or create a virtual machine (.ISO file) to install Windows 11. This download is a multi-edition ISO which uses your product key to unlock the correct edition.

Windows 11 ISOs for Arm64 devices are available [here](#).

Select Download ▼

> Before you begin downloading an ISO

[Download Now](#)

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[Download Now](#)

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Windows 11 (multi-edition ISO for x64 devices) ▾

> Before you begin downloading an ISO

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Windows 11 (multi-edition ISO for x64 devices) ▾

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Select the product language

You'll need to choose the same language when you install Windows. To see which language you're currently using, go to **Time and language** in PC settings or **Region** in Control Panel.

Choose one ▾

[Confirm](#)

> More download options

Windows 11 (multi-edition ISO for x64 devices) ▾

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[Download Now](#)

Select the product language

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English International ▾

[Confirm](#)

> More download options

virtual machine (.ISO file) to install Windows 11. This download is a multi-edition ISO which uses your product key to unlock the correct edition.

Windows 11 ISOs for Arm64 devices are available [here](#).

Windows 11 (multi-edition ISO for x64 devices) ▾

> Before you begin downloading an ISO

[Download Now](#)

Download - Windows 11 English International

[64-bit Download](#)

▼ Verify your download

If you would like to verify the data integrity and authenticity of your download, you can follow these steps:

1. Download the desired product ISO file and follow the installation guidelines.

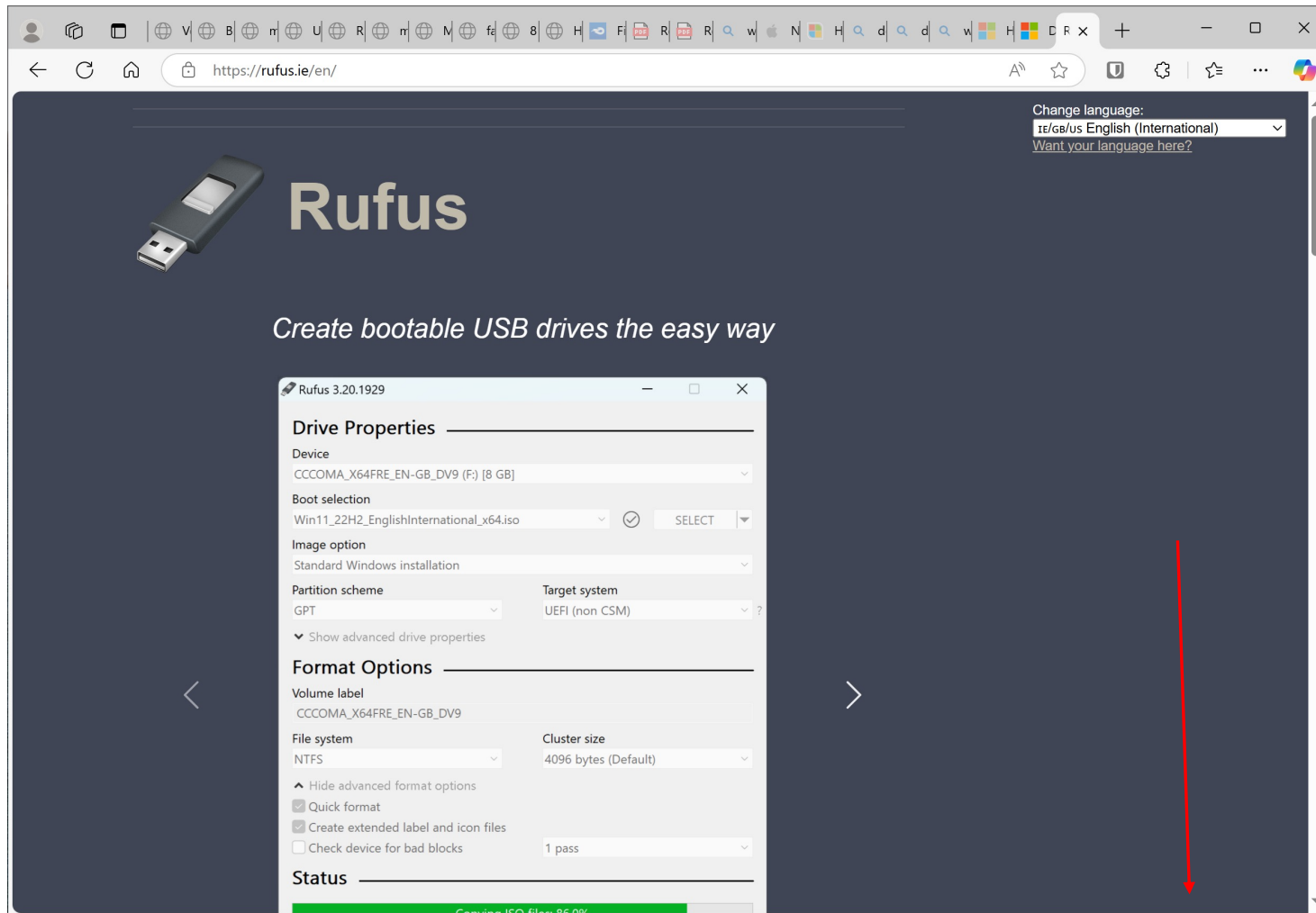
Downloads

Win11_24H2_EnglishInternational_x64.iso

4.4 MB/s - 376 MB of 5.4 GB, 20 mins left

See more

Get a copy of the Rufus app from rufus.ie



The image shows a browser window displaying the Rufus website at <https://rufus.ie/en/>. The website features a dark blue background with a USB drive icon and the text "Rufus" and "Create bootable USB drives the easy way". A language dropdown menu is visible in the top right corner, set to "en/en English (International)".

Overlaid on the website is a screenshot of the Rufus application interface (version 3.20.1929). The interface is divided into several sections:

- Drive Properties:** Device: CCCOMA_X64FRE_EN-GB_DV9 (F:) [8 GB]
- Boot selection:** Win11_22H2_EnglishInternational_x64.iso
- Image option:** Standard Windows installation
- Partition scheme:** GPT
- Target system:** UEFI (non CSM)
- Format Options:** Volume label: CCCOMA_X64FRE_EN-GB_DV9; File system: NTFS; Cluster size: 4096 bytes (Default)
- Advanced options:** Quick format; Create extended label and icon files; Check device for bad blocks; 1 pass
- Status:** Creating ISO files 85.0%

A red arrow points to the bottom right corner of the Rufus application window.

https://rufus.ie/en/

▼ Show advanced format options

Status

READY

START CLOSE

Show the log

1 device found 00:00:29

Rufus is a utility that helps format and create bootable USB flash drives, such as USB keys/pendrives, memory sticks, etc.

It can be especially useful for cases where:

- you need to create USB installation media from bootable ISOs (Windows, Linux, UEFI, etc.)
- you need to work on a system that doesn't have an OS installed
- you need to flash a BIOS or other firmware from DOS
- you want to run a low-level utility

Despite its small size, Rufus provides everything you need!

A non exhaustive list of Rufus supported ISOs is also provided at the bottom of this page. ⁽¹⁾

Download

Latest releases:

Link	Type	Platform	Size	Date
rufus-4.7.exe	Standard	Windows x64	1.6 MB	2025.04.09
rufus-4.7p.exe	Portable	Windows x64	1.6 MB	2025.04.09
rufus-4.7_x86.exe	Standard	Windows x86	1.6 MB	2025.04.09
rufus-4.7_arm64.exe	Standard	Windows ARM64	5.3 MB	2025.04.09

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rufus-4.7_x86.exe	Standard	Windows x86	1.6 MB	2025.04.09
rufus-4.7_arm64.exe	Standard	Windows ARM64	5.3 MB	2025.04.09

[Other versions \(GitHub\)](#)
[Other versions \(FossHub\)](#)

System Requirements:
Windows 8 or later. Once downloaded, the application is ready to use.

Supported Languages:
Bahasa Indonesia, Bahasa Malaysia, Български, Čeština, Dansk, Deutsch, Ελληνικά, English, Español, Français, Hrvatski, Italiano, Latviešu, Lietuvių, Magyar, Nederlands, Norsk, Polski, Português, Português do Brasil, Русский, Română, Slovensky, Slovenščina, Srpski, Suomi, Svenska, Tiếng Việt, Türkçe, Українська, 简体中文, 正體中文, 日本語, 한국어, ไทย, پارسی, العربية, עברית

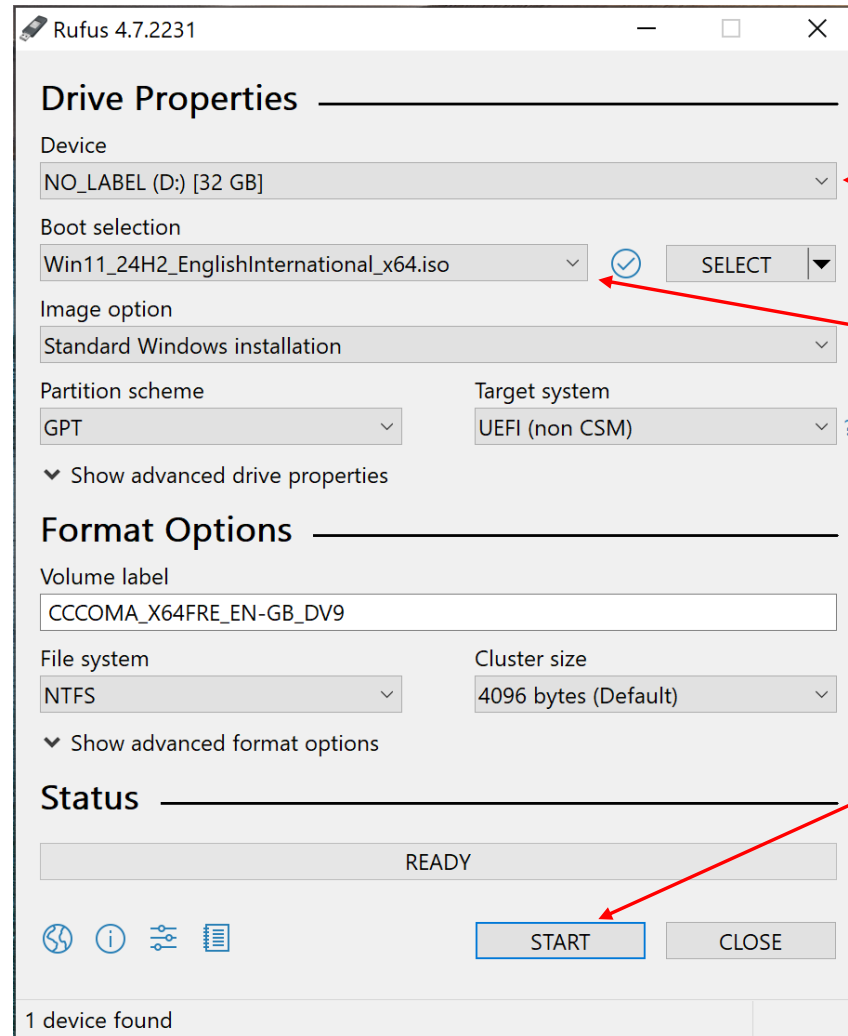
I will take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the translators who made it possible for Rufus, as well as this webpage, to be translated in various languages. If you find that you can use Rufus in your own language, you should really thank them!

Downloads

- [rufus-4.7.exe](#)
Open file
- [Win11_24H2_EnglishInternational_x64.iso](#)
Open file


[See more](#)

Plug in your USB stick and launch Rufus



Check the first 2 options and maybe the 3rd...

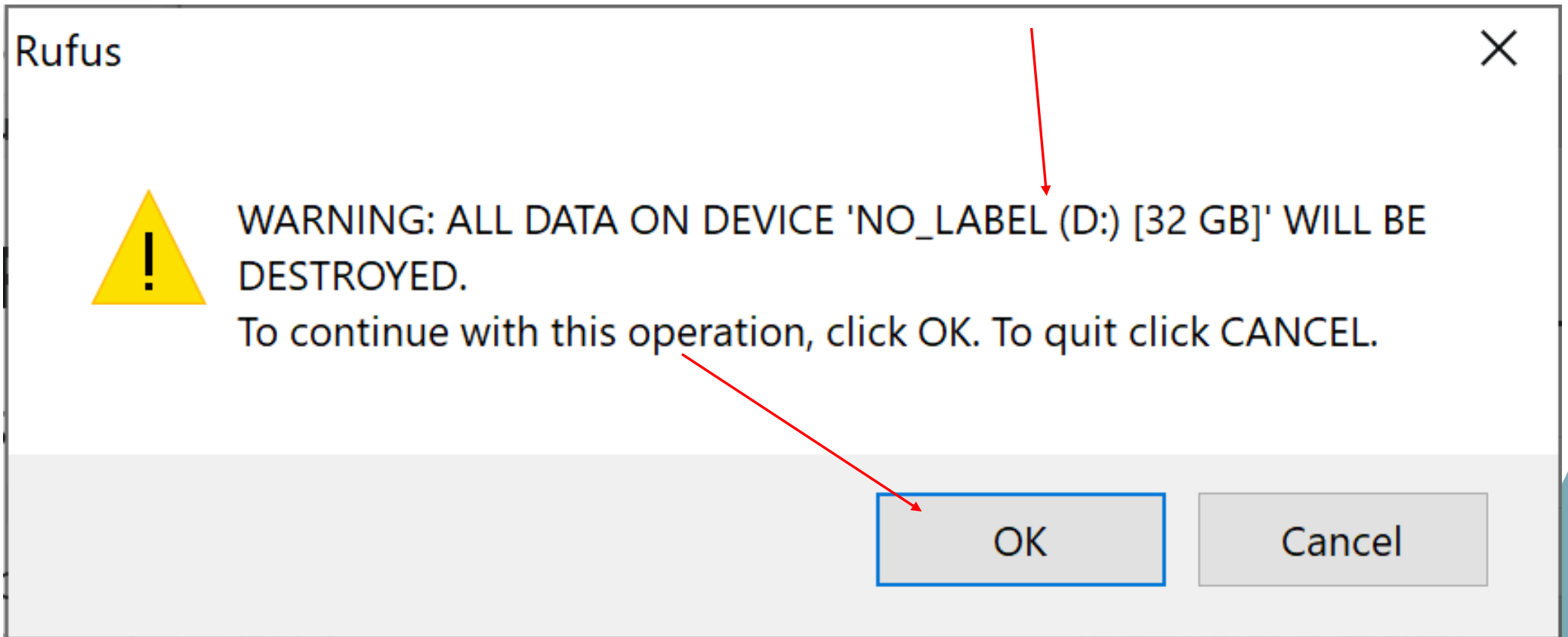
Windows User Experience

 Customize Windows installation?

- Remove requirement for 4GB+ RAM, Secure Boot and TPM 2.0
- Remove requirement for an online Microsoft account
- Create a local account with username:
- Set regional options to the same values as this user's
- Disable data collection (Skip privacy questions)
- Disable BitLocker automatic device encryption

OK Cancel

Check it is the USB stick that will be erased, then OK



Rufus 4.7.2231

Drive Properties

Device
CCCOMA_X64FRE_EN-GB_DV9 (D:) [32 GB]

Boot selection
Win11_24H2_EnglishInternational_x64.iso SELECT

Image option
Standard Windows installation

Partition scheme
GPT

Target system
UEFI (non CSM) ?

▼ Show advanced drive properties

Format Options

Volume label
CCCOMA_X64FRE_EN-GB_DV9

File system
NTFS

Cluster size
4096 bytes (Default)

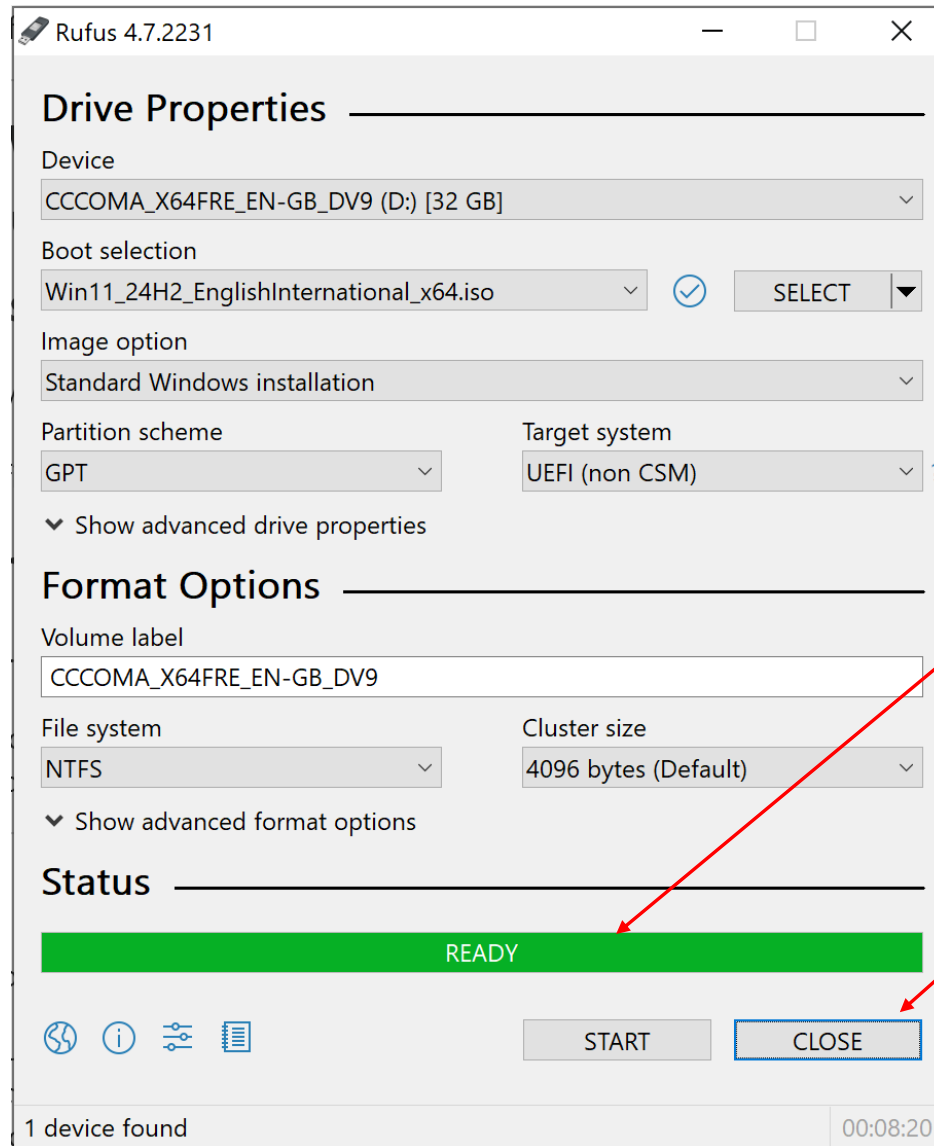
▼ Show advanced format options

Status

READY

START CLOSE

1 device found 00:08:20

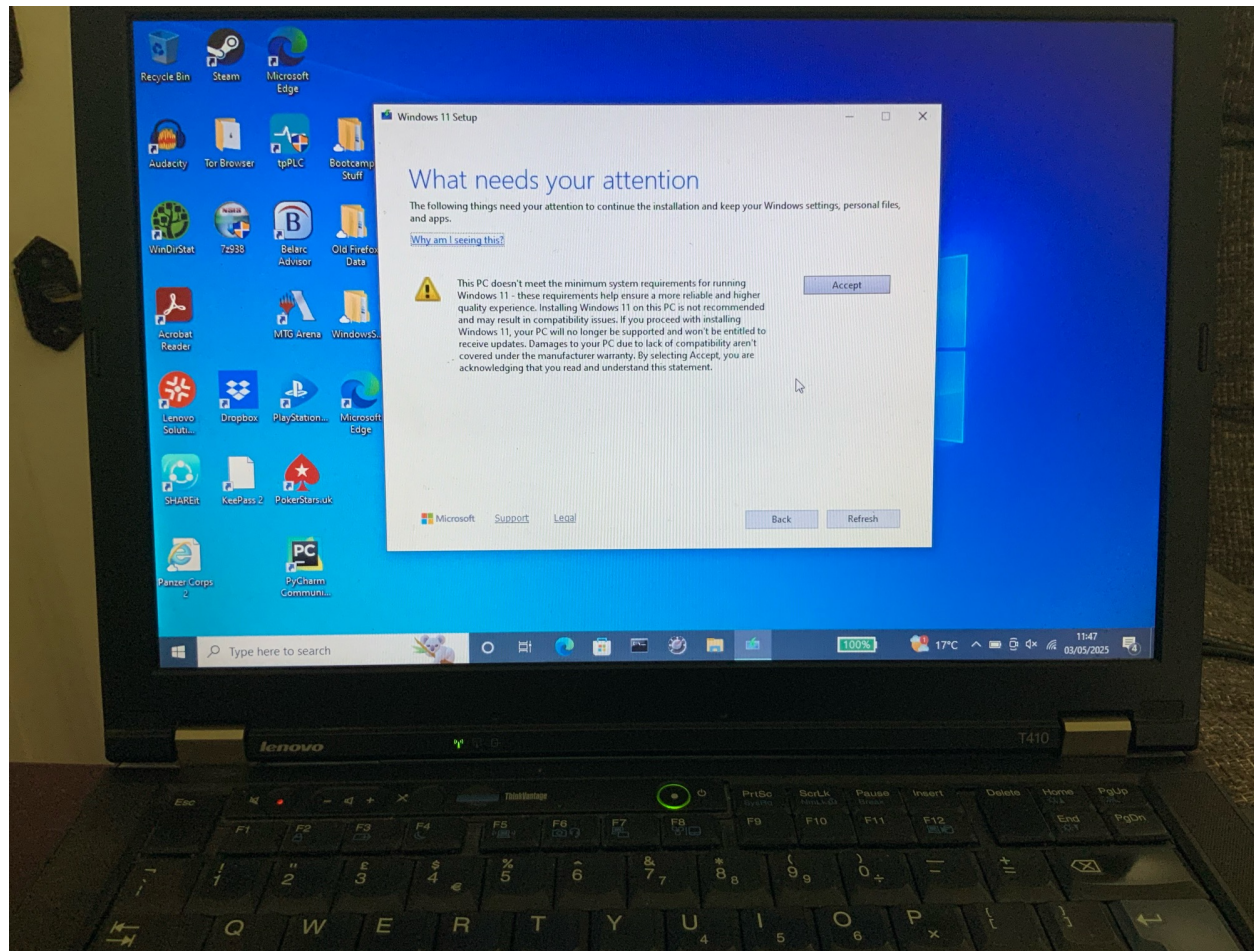


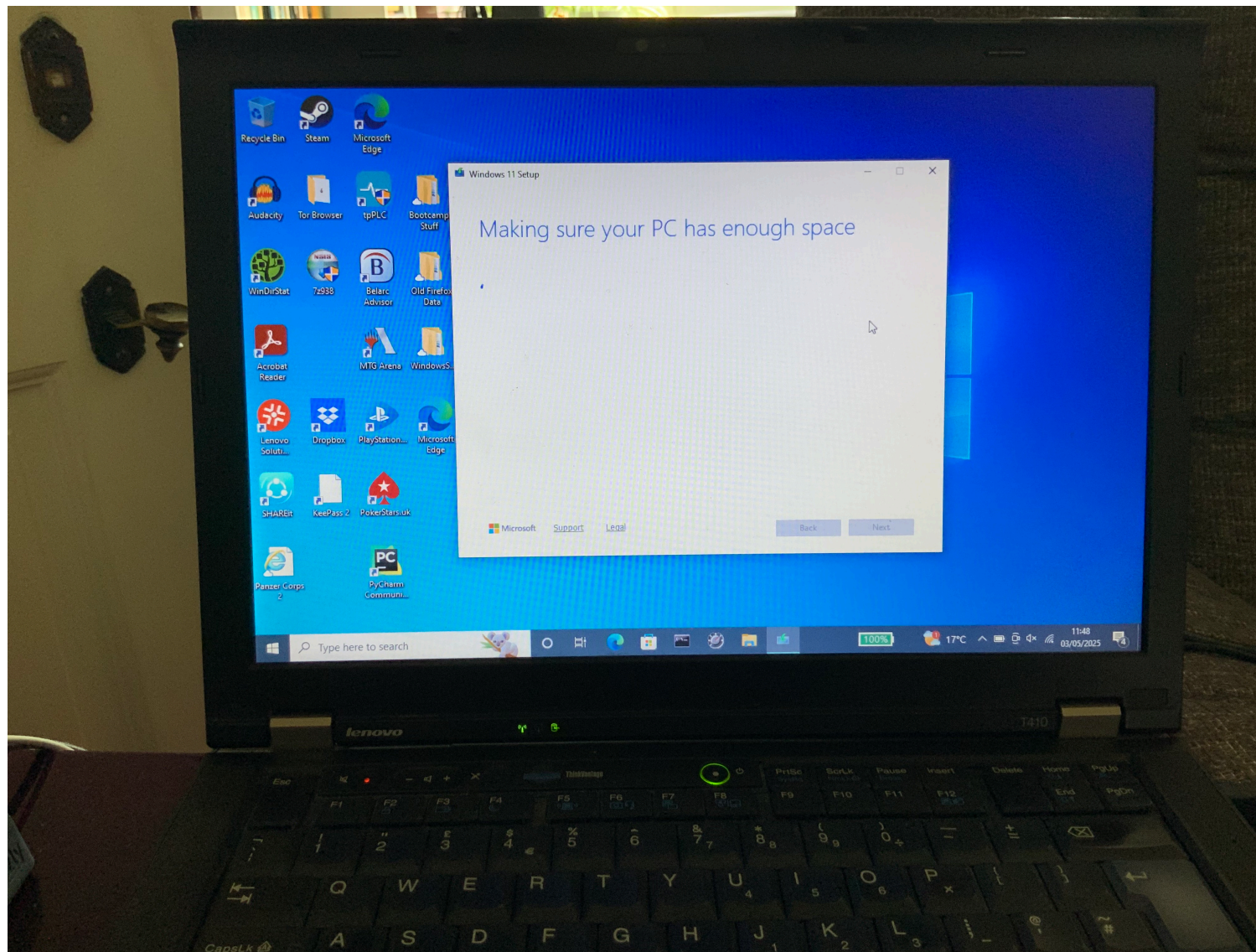
When done your USB stick should look like this...

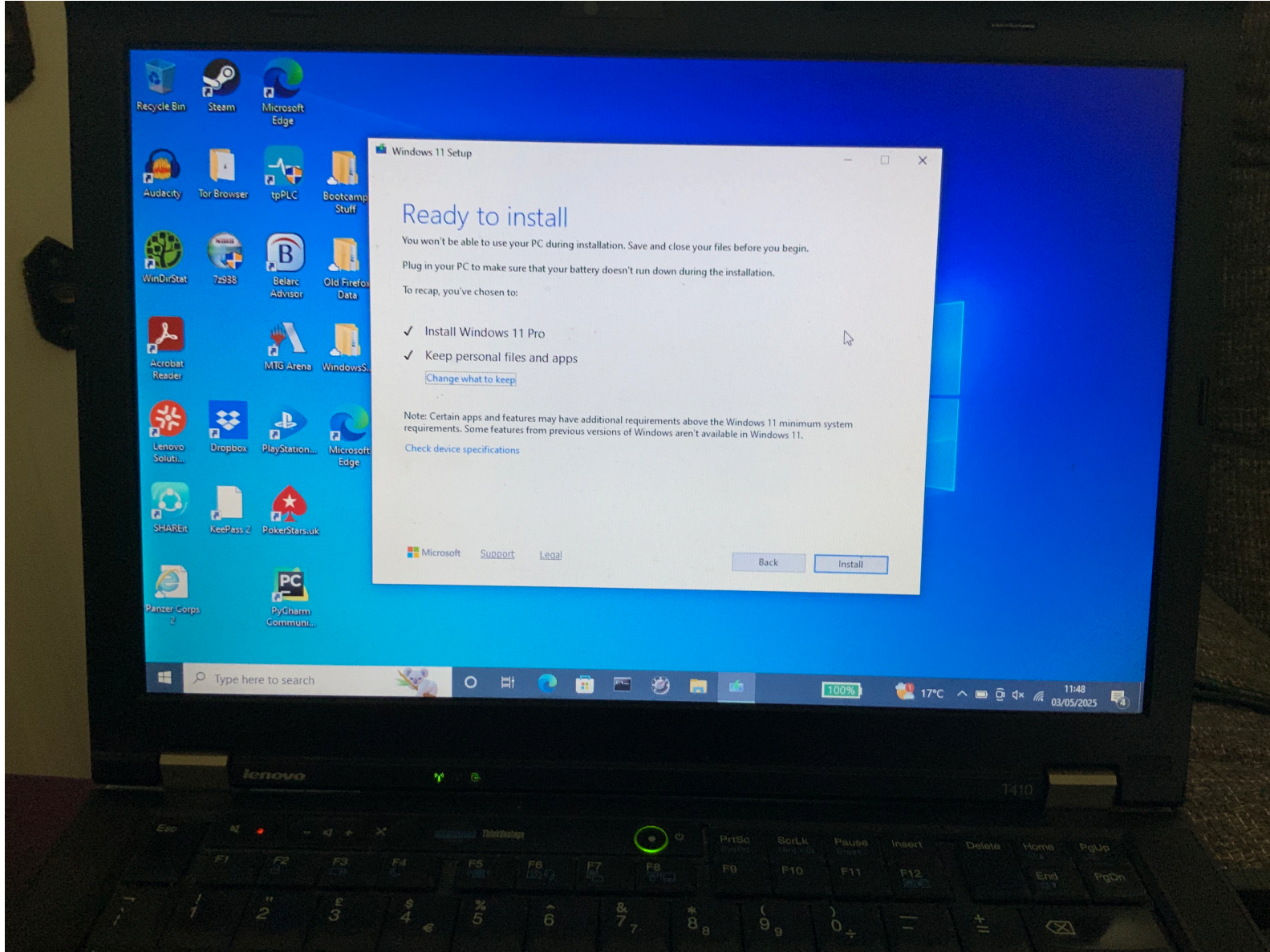
The screenshot shows a Windows File Explorer window titled "CCCOMA_X64FRE_EN-GB_DV9 (D:)" with the "Manage" tab selected. The address bar shows the path "This PC > CCCOMA_X64FRE_EN-GB_DV9 (D:)". The left sidebar shows the navigation pane with "This PC" expanded and "CCCOMA_X64FRE_EN-GB_DV9 (D:)" selected. The main pane displays a list of files and folders with columns for Name, Date modified, Type, and Size. A red arrow points to the "setup" file.

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
boot	01/05/2025 07:03	File folder	
efi	01/05/2025 07:03	File folder	
sources	01/05/2025 07:11	File folder	
support	01/05/2025 07:11	File folder	
__chunk_data	01/05/2025 07:03	File	231 KB
autorun	01/05/2025 07:03	Setup Information	1 KB
bootmgr	01/05/2025 07:03	File	463 KB
bootmgr.efi	01/05/2025 07:03	EFI File	2,682 KB
setup.dll	01/05/2025 07:03	Application extension	98 KB
setup	01/05/2025 07:11	Application	150 KB

Double click Setup to start your upgrade...







Windows 11 Setup

Ready to install

You won't be able to use your PC during installation. Save and close your files before you begin.

Plug in your PC to make sure that your battery doesn't run down during the installation.

To recap, you've chosen to:

- ✓ Install Windows 11 Pro
- ✓ Keep personal files and apps

[Change what to keep](#)

Note: Certain apps and features may have additional requirements above the Windows 11 minimum system requirements. Some features from previous versions of Windows aren't available in Windows 11.

[Check device specifications](#)

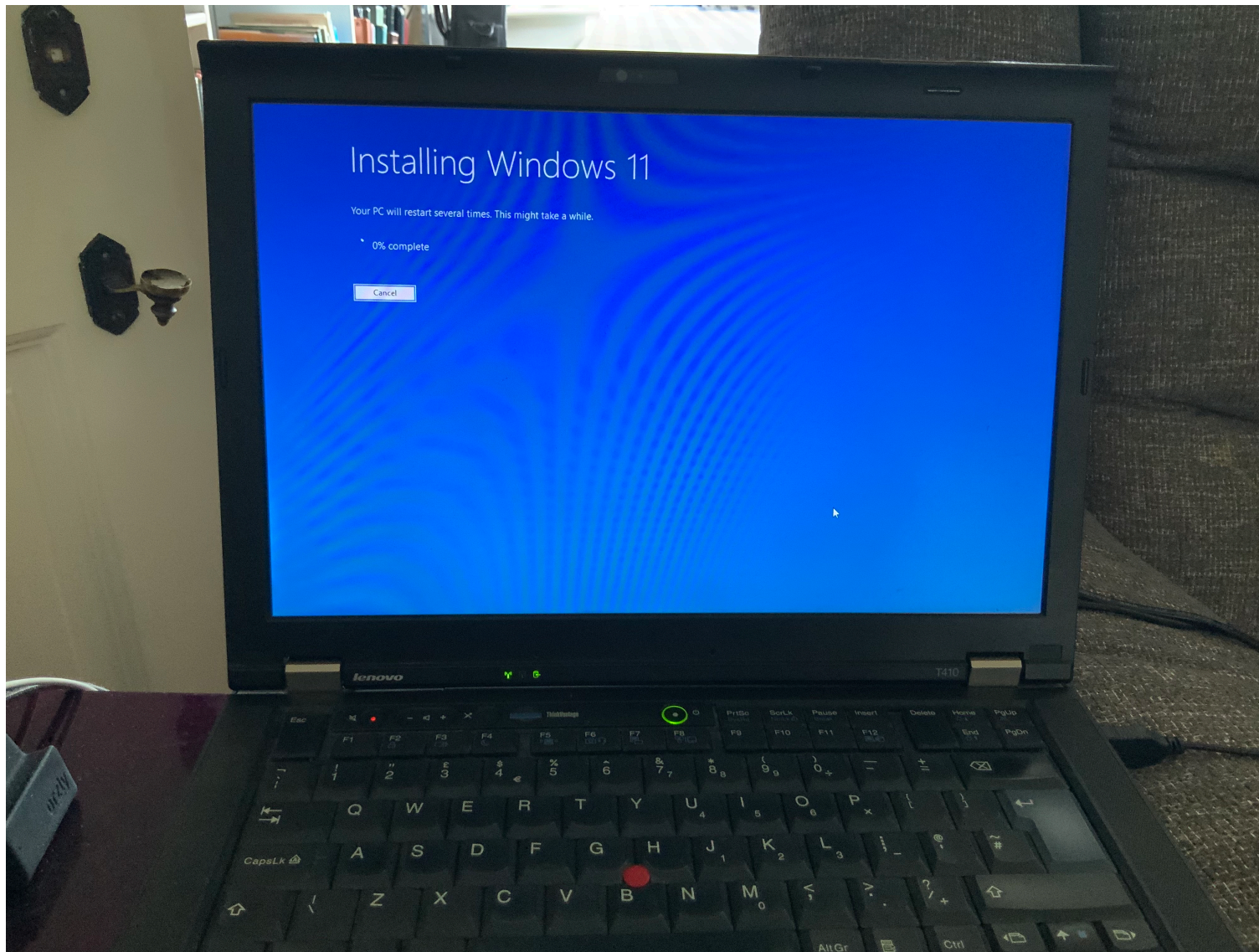
Microsoft [Support](#) [Legal](#)

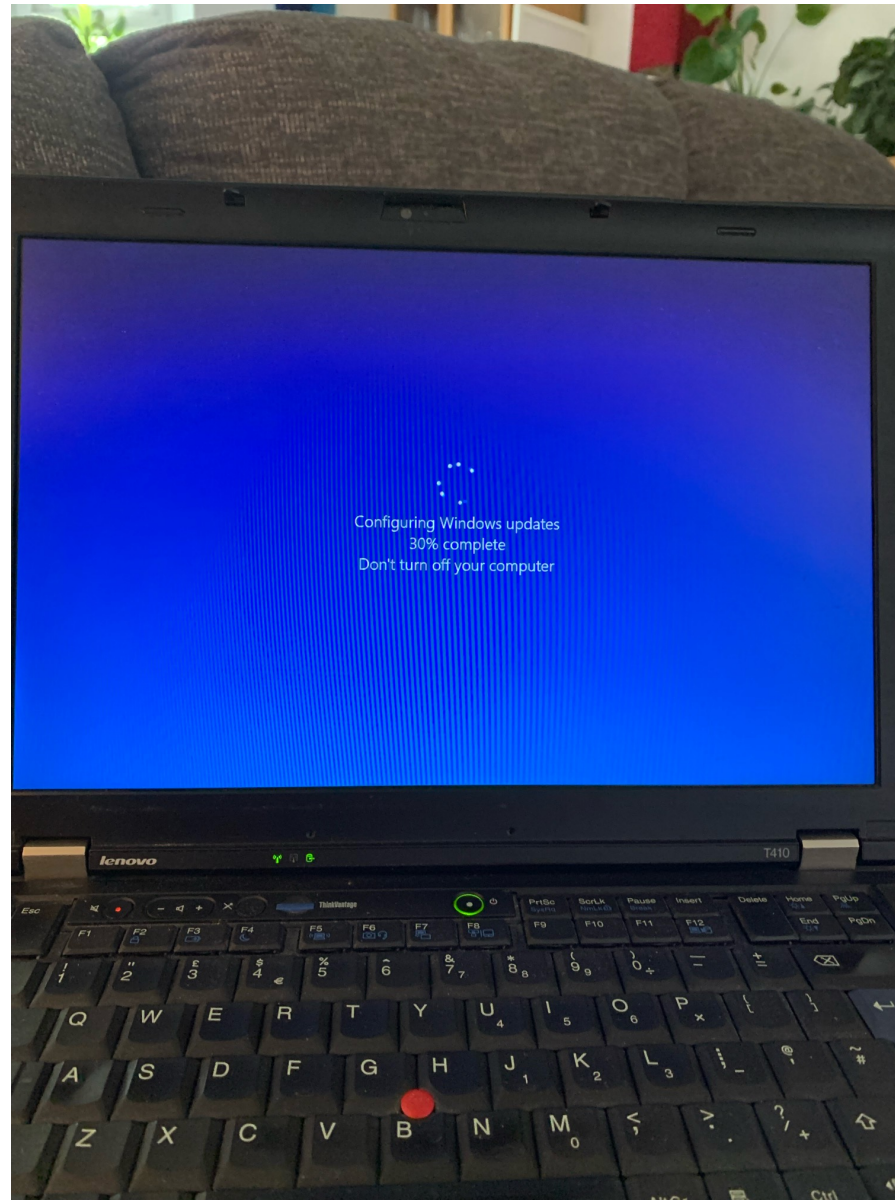
Back Install

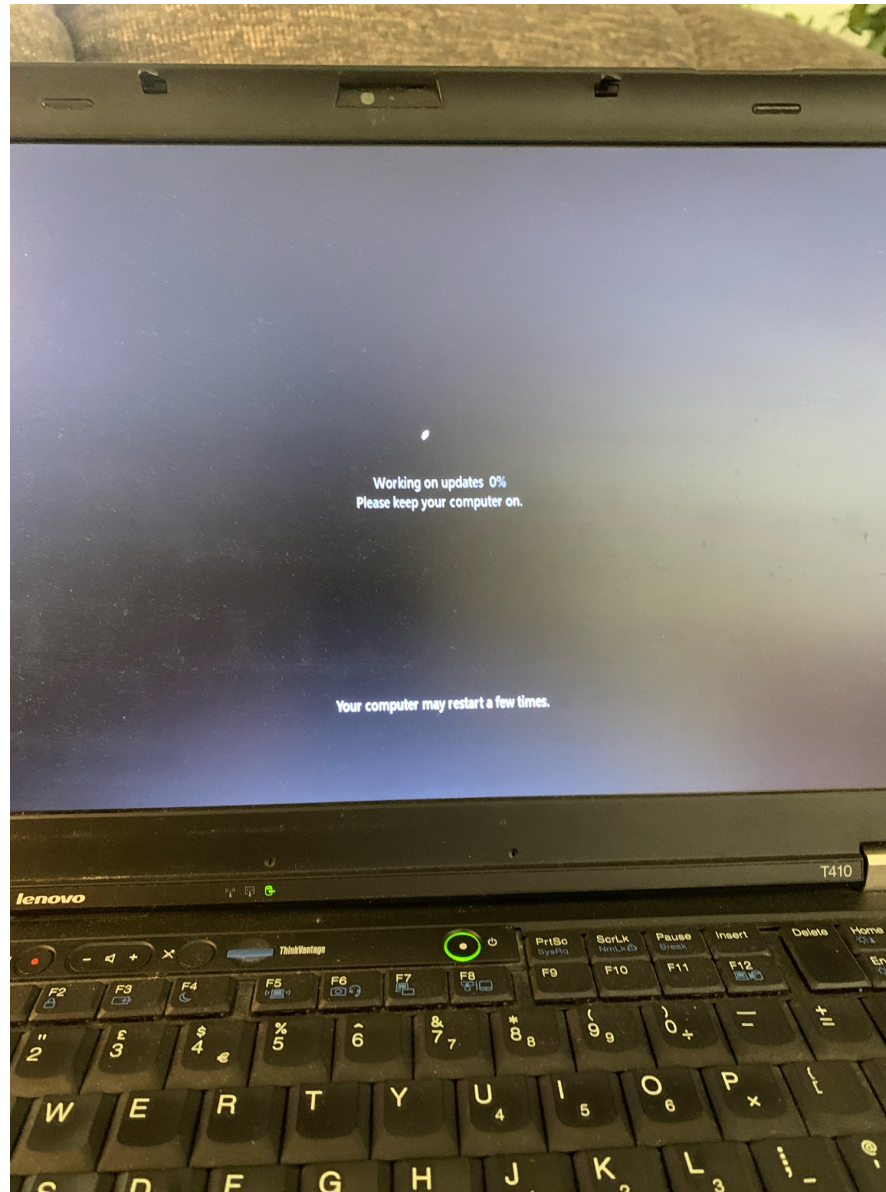
- Recycle Bin
- Steam
- Microsoft Edge
- Audacity
- Tor Browser
- tpPLC
- Bootcamp Stuff
- WinDirStat
- 7z938
- Belarc Advisor
- Old Firefox Data
- Acrobat Reader
- MTG Arena
- WindowsS...
- Lenovo Soluti...
- Dropbox
- PlayStation...
- Microsoft Edge
- SHAREit
- KeePass 2
- PokerStars.uk
- Panzer Corps 2
- PyCharm Communi...

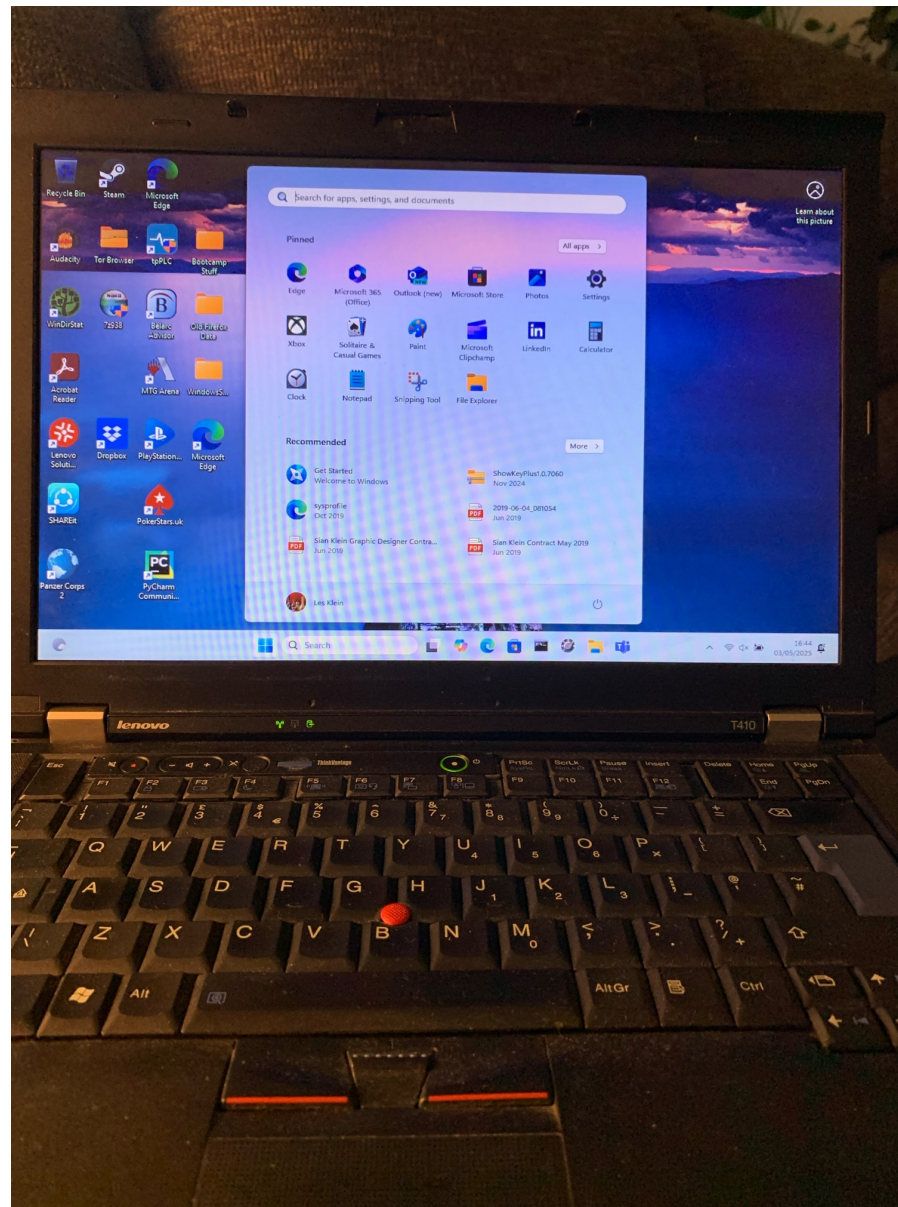
Type here to search

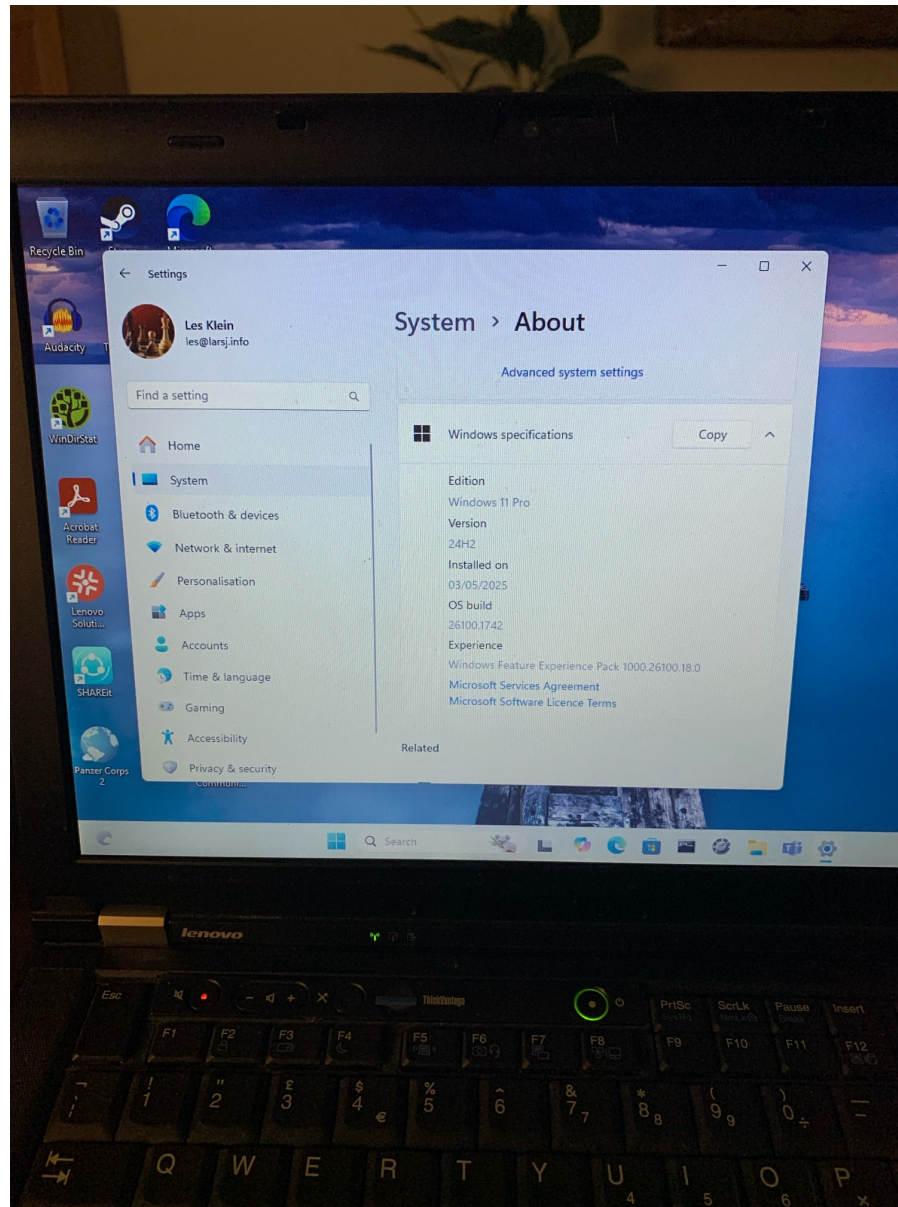
100% 17°C 11:48 03/05/2025











System > About

Advanced system settings

Find a setting

- Home
- System
- Bluetooth & devices
- Network & internet
- Personalisation
- Apps
- Accounts
- Time & language
- Gaming
- Accessibility
- Privacy & security

Windows specifications

Copy

Edition
Windows 11 Pro

Version
24H2

Installed on
03/05/2025

OS build
26100.1742

Experience
Windows Feature Experience Pack 1000.26100.18.0

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