

Microsoft Office 2010 Coming Soon

As a reminder, Office is not just one program; Office is a “suite” of programs bundled under the name of Microsoft Office. The programs included are Microsoft titles such as Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher, Access, and OneNote. Depending on which version of Office 2010 you purchase you will get some or all of the listed programs.

Office Home and Business 2010 includes: Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and OneNote

Office Professional 2010 includes: Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, OneNote, Access and Publisher.

Office Professional Plus 2010 includes: Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, OneNote, Access, Publisher, InfoPath, Communicator, and SharePoint.

Office Home and Student 2010 includes: Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote

Microsoft is also including **Web and Mobile versions** based versions of their software in the upcoming Office 2010. Here’s what they say about these apps:

Microsoft Office Web Apps

Extend your Office 2010 experience to the Web. Store your Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote files online and then access, view, edit, and share content through the web.

Microsoft Office Mobile 2010

Stay current and respond quickly using enhanced mobile versions of Office 2010 applications, specifically suited to your Windows Mobile-based smartphone.

I notice that the mobile version is **ONLY** for Windows based phones, **NOT** the popular iPhone or any Android powered phones.

Microsoft is touting their **Outlook Social Connector** as a feature and benefit of buying the newest version of Office. The Outlook Social Connector will import all of your social networking sites and information into your Outlook program. At this time they have a connector ready for LinkedIn and for MySpace. The popular site FaceBook and Windows Live connectors are listed as “coming soon”. In my experience this is just another Microsoft play (ploy) to gain market share in an area, such as social networking, that another company has the greater foothold, like FaceBook.

And now for the most annoying part of Microsoft’s penchant for releasing new versions of their software, the changes in the layout and the look and feel of the program. Microsoft is changing the menus and the location of commonly used items. There are two new items, the **Backstage View** and the **Ribbon**. Here is how Microsoft describes each:

“Microsoft Office Backstage view replaces the file menu across the core Microsoft Office 2010 applications. Backstage view helps you find commonly accessed commands when opening or finishing a document, including opening new or existing files, defining document properties, and sharing your information. ”

“The Ribbon replaces traditional menus and toolbars with a fresh, highly visual layout of commands, organized into a set of tabs, to help you find the features you need fast. The Ribbon was introduced in Office 2007, when it enhanced a few of the Microsoft Office applications. It made the available commands and tools more visible and easier to access

so you could focus more easily on your content. "

The release date for this new version of Office is "first half of 2010". Pricing will be announced at a later date. There is NO Macintosh version of Office 2010 available, the latest Mac version is still Office 2008.

At the time of writing this column, I haven't even seen Office 2010. Microsoft has available a free download of the beta version, I think I'll go get it. The beta version expires October 31, 2010.

<http://www.microsoft.com/office/2010/en/default.aspx>