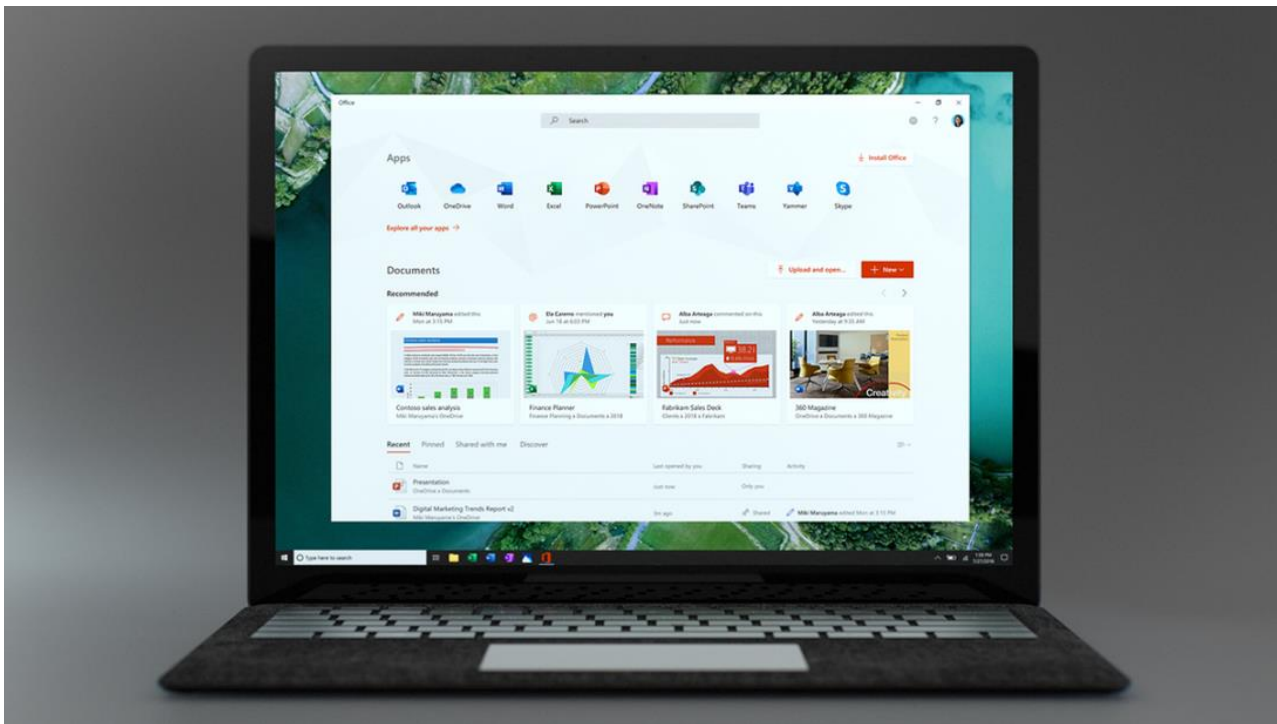


New Microsoft Office won't require you to pay for a subscription

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A 2021 version of Microsoft Office won't require a subscription.

Microsoft

Microsoft will release a new, flat-price version of its Office productivity software in 2021, moving away from the subscription service model it introduced earlier this year, according to a Tuesday [blog post](#) from the company. The post, first spotted by [Windows Central](#), only includes one line about the software, but it's pretty clear: "Microsoft Office will also see a new perpetual release for both Windows and Mac, in the second half of 2021."

In April, Microsoft transitioned Office 365 into [Microsoft 365](#), a subscription service that added more features to the suite of software tools, but required a monthly payment of \$6.99 for an individual plan or \$9.99 for a family of up to six people. While you can use Microsoft 365 apps like Word, PowerPoint and Excel [online for free](#) with limited functionality, you'll need either a perpetual version or a subscription to take full advantage of their capabilities.

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Some wondered if [Office 2019](#) would be the last perpetual version of the software, since Microsoft 365 came along. But now we know a new version is on the way.

Microsoft didn't include any information about price, availability or a specific release date for the new version of Office.