

like your privacy and don't want to create an account with Microsoft in the first place.

Whatever your reason for doing so, it's easy to install or set up Windows 11 without using a Microsoft account. For better or worse, the method of bypassing Windows 11's Microsoft account requirement is changing and so the steps you follow may vary based on which build of Windows you use.

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For the current release builds of Windows (as of April 2025), you may use the OOBE/BYPASSNRO method. However, for builds 26100 and 26200 and beyond (and eventually the next release build), you must use the `start ms-cxh:localonly` method, which is similar but requires a different command.

Below, we'll show two methods: the first involves issuing some commands during the install / OOBE process. The second, which only works for a clean install, requires you to create a modified USB install disk using a free tool called Rufus. We've tested these methods on the latest major Windows 11 version, 24H2, and they work.

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How to Install Windows 11 Without a Microsoft Account (Current Method)

For current release builds of Windows 11 (24H2), there's a simple trick for setting up Windows 11 with a local account that involves issuing a command to keep the OOBE from requiring Internet and then cutting off Internet at just the right time in the setup process. This works the same way whether you are doing a clean install of Windows 11 or following the OOBE process on a store-bought computer.

1. Follow the Windows 11 install process until you get to the "choose a country" screen.

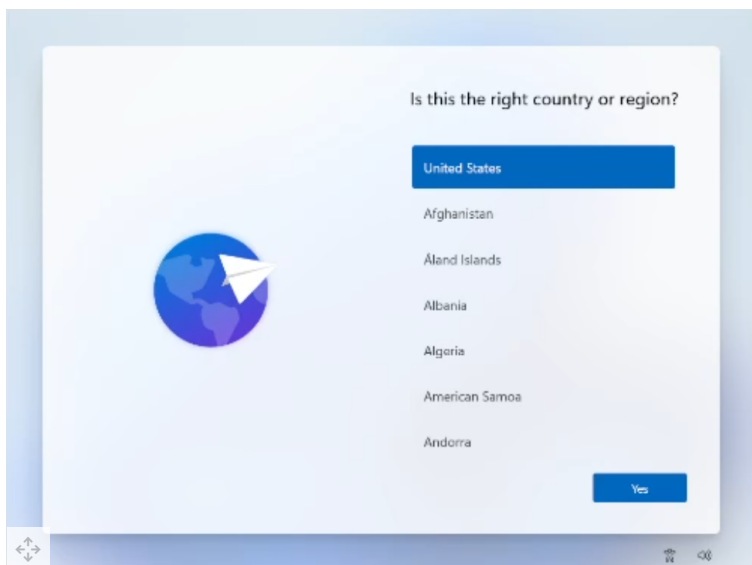
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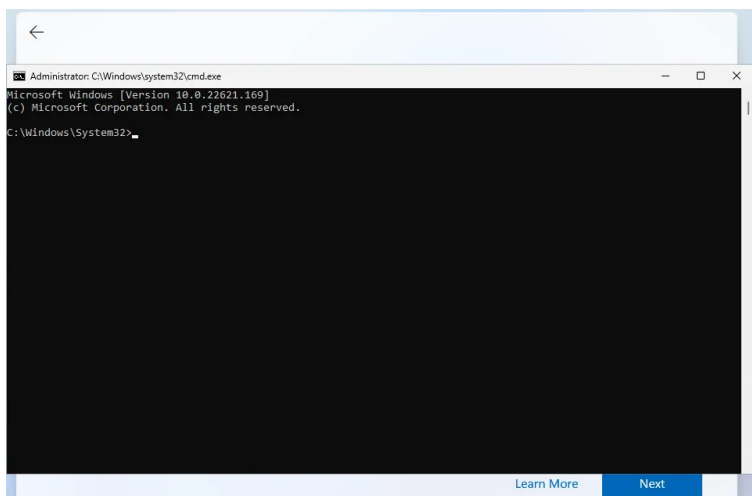
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(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

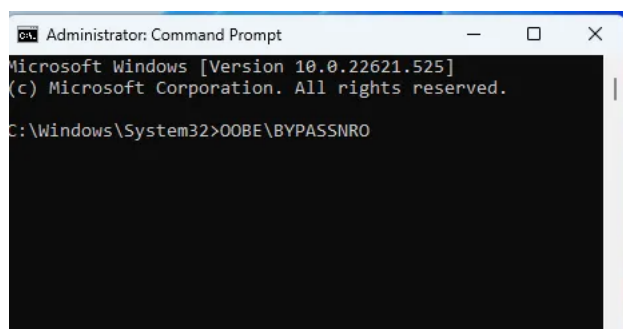
Now's the time to cut off the Internet. However, before you do, you need to issue a command that prevents Windows 11 from forcing you to have an Internet connection.

2. Hit **Shift + F10**. A command prompt appears.



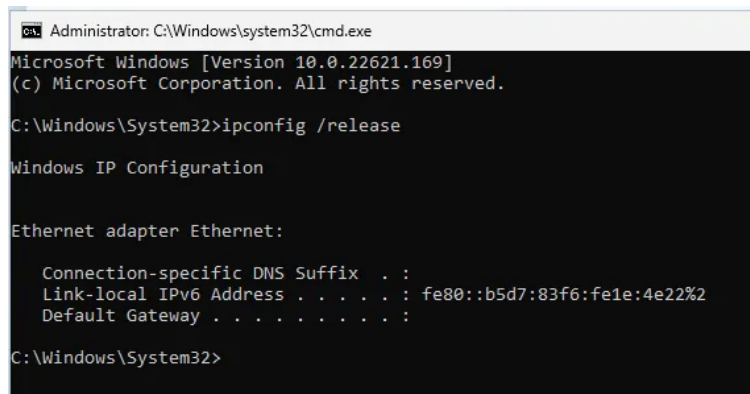
(Image credit: Future)

3. Type **Oobe\BypassNro** to disable the Internet connection requirement.



Note: if OOBEBYPASSNRO returns a "command not found" error, skip ahead to the next method in this how-to.

4. Hit **Shift + F10** again and this time Type **ipconfig /release**. Then hit **Enter** to disable the Internet. This effectively disconnects your computer from the Internet. If you're on Ethernet, you could just disconnect the plug, but this is just as easy if not easier.



```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22621.169]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\System32>ipconfig /release

Windows IP Configuration

Ethernet adapter Ethernet:

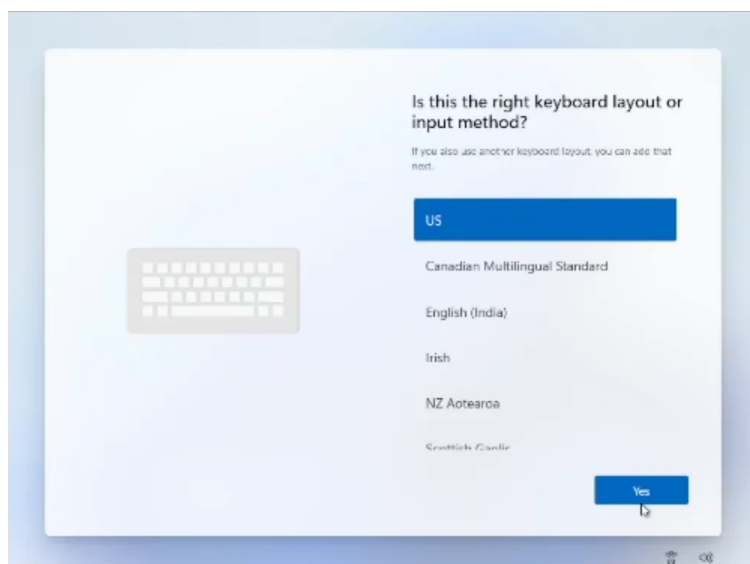
    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : 
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::b5d7:83f6:fe1e:4e22%2
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 

C:\Windows\System32>
```

(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

5. Close the command prompt.

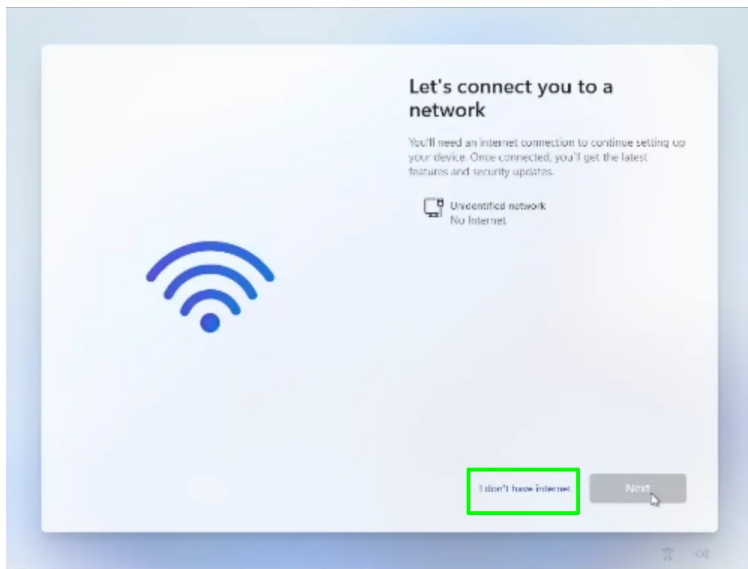
6. Continue with the installation, choosing the region, keyboard and second keyboard option.



(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

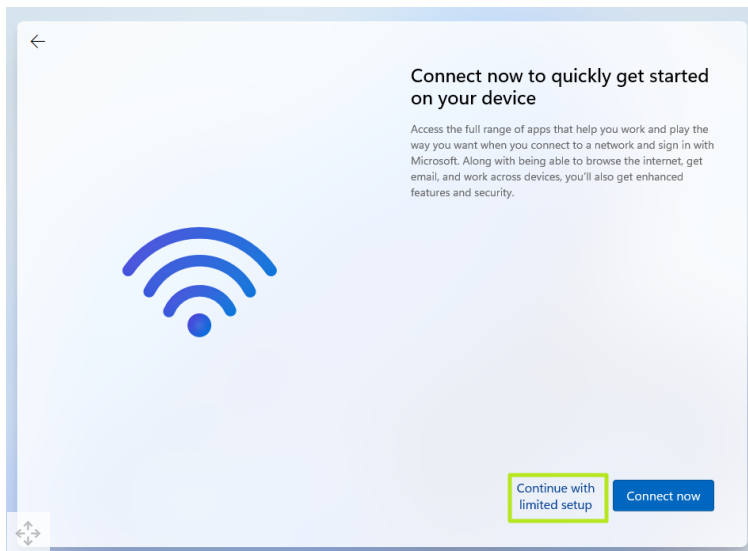
A screen saying "Let's connect you to a network" appears, warning you that you need Internet.

7. Click "I don't have Internet" to continue.



(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

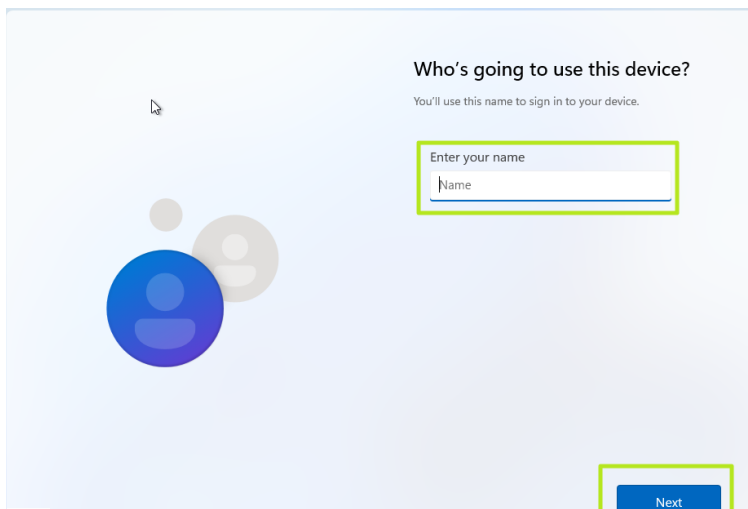
8. Click **Continue with limited setup** if prompted. The OOBE may skip this screen and take you straight to the next step.



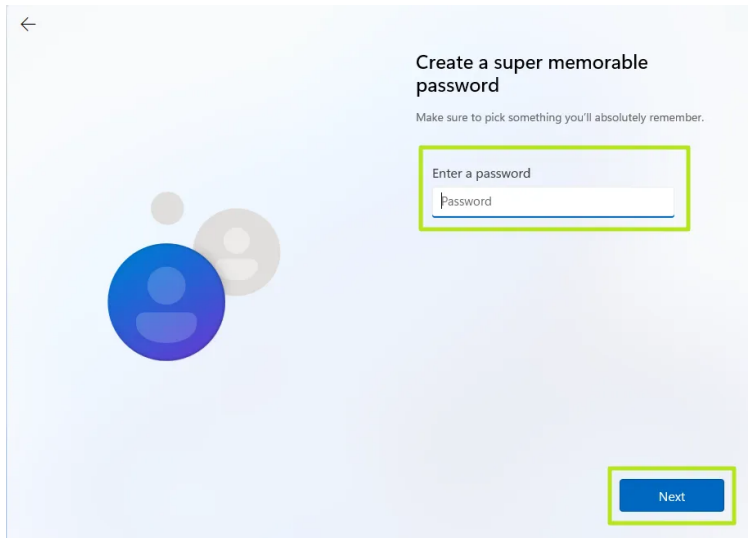
(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

A new login screen appears asking "Who's going to use this device?"

9. Enter a username you want to use for your local Windows 11 account and click **Next**.



10. Enter a password you would like to use and click **Next**. You can also leave this field blank and have no password, but that's not recommended.



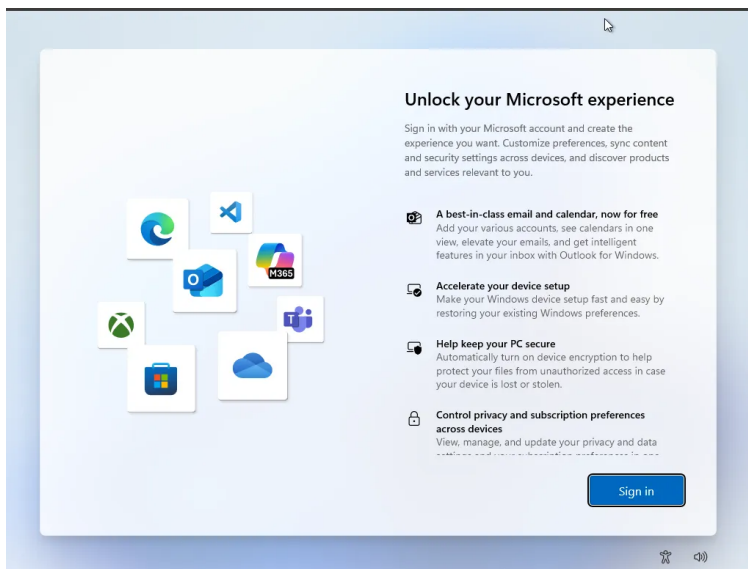
(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

11. Complete the rest of the install process as you normally would.

How to install Windows 11 with a local account (Builds 26120 and beyond)

On new preview builds of Windows (and eventually the next release version), the OOBE/BYPASSNRO command has been erased and no longer works. Instead, there's a new command called *start ms-chx:localonly* that does something similar. Here's how you use it.

1. Follow the Windows 11 install process until you get to the Sign in screen.



(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

2. Hit **Shift + F10**. A command prompt appears.

3. Enter *start ms-cxh:localonly* at the command prompt.