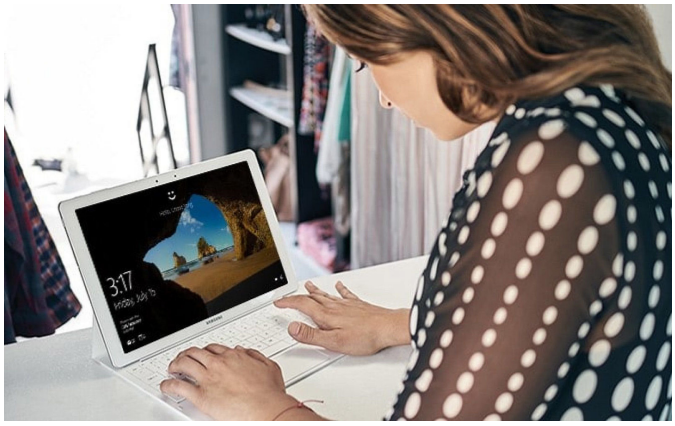
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Microsoft opens the 2017 Build developer conference with the announcement that Windows 10 machines total 500 million, 8 months after it revealed 400m devices run on the latest version of the OS.



Back in April 2016 the company was hoping to have 1 billion devices running on Windows 10 by 2018. However, by July 2016 it was forced to revise the perhaps overly optimistic forecast, especially following the failure of Windows-powered smartphones to capture the imagination.

In fact, Microsoft was hoping to sell 50 million Windows 10 Mobile devices-- a number currently clocking at, well, around zero, leaving something of a gap in the expected userbase.

Still, reaching the half a billion mark in little more than 2 years makes Windows 10 the fastest growing version of Windows of all time. Admittedly such growth was spurred by the free upgrade offered to Windows 7 and 8.1 users during the first year, and customers can still install and activate the latest Creators Update version of Windows 10 if running a machine on a valid Windows 7 or 8.1 key.

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