Windows 8.1 Upgrade ©©

- **PRE-REQUISITE UPDATES:** You will not be offered the Windows 8.1 update or be allowed to download it until all your Windows Updates are installed and up to date.

- **WHERE DO YOU GET THE UPGRADE?** Go to the Metro (Tiles) screen and click on the "Store" Icon. *Note: The Windows 8.1 upgrade is NOT part of "Windows Update".*

- **LOCAL USER ACCOUNT vs LIVE USER ACCOUNT**:
  - ✓ Do you have a Local Account or a Microsoft Live Account for your User Log-in? To find out, go to *(Control Panel > User Accounts).* It will tell you there.
  - ✓ During the upgrade, Microsoft wants you to log in to a "Live" Account. To keep your Local Account, see this tip to keep your "Local" Account: http://social.technet.microsoft.com

- **CUSTOMIZE upgrade vs EXPRESS upgrade**. When asked during the setup, choose "Customize", and not "Express". Otherwise you will miss an opportunity to choose your privacy settings and other decisions that EXPRESS will make for you to benefit Microsoft and invade your privacy.

- **IMAGE BACKUP**: I strongly suggest you do a FULL Image backup before attempting the 8.1 upgrade. There is always the possibility that the upgrage will make your PC unbootable (bricked). Note: ACRONIS must be at the latest version of Acronis TI Home 2013 or Acronis TI Home 2014.

- **WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE UPDATE**: When you download the 8.1 upgrade, it will start installing on its own. It takes quite a while. Here are the steps I observed: 1) Downloading, 2) Getting the Update ready, 3) Applying changes, 4) Gathering info, 5) Preparing to restart, 6) PC needs to Restart (It will auto resart after 15 minutes or so, or you can click"Restart now") The restart takes a long, long time and includes these messages, "Setting up, Getting Ready, Applying PC settings, Setting up a few more things", 7) The "License Terms" screen requires that you click "I Accept", 8) At the Log in screen, log in to your normal account, 9) At the "Settings" screen, choose CUSTOMIZE (not EXPRESS) and answer all the questions, 10) At the "Sign in" window, either log in to your Microsoft Live Account or if you have a Local Account, click Create new Account, then click Use Existing Account. *(Note: I may have these slightly out of order, but you get the idea. Step 7 is the first manual intervention.)*

- **STEP BY STEP:**
  1) Make sure there is plenty of disk space available.
  2) For laptops, make sure that the power adapter is plugged in.
  3) Back up all Data files in case things go wrong. An image backup is even better.
  4) Make sure all Windows Updates; "Critical", "Important", and "Optional" (Drivers) are all installed.
  5) Temporarily turn off any antimalware programs.
  6) Verify that the Power Options are set so that the PC never Hibernates or Sleeps.
  7) Verify that the current user account is a "Local User Account" or a "Live User Account". See above for details.
  8) Go to the Metro (Tiles) screen and select the "Store" Icon, then download the update. *The update should start automatically when done downloading.* This all takes a very, very long time.
  9) Eventually after the Restarts, you get the License Terms screen. Click I accept.
  10) On the "Settings" screen, when asked "Express" or "Customize", Always select "Customize" and answer the questions as desired.
  11) At the log in screen, put in the password for your normal Account,

12) You are next asked to sign in to your Microsoft (Live) account. If you are using a Local user Account instead, and not the Microsoft Live account, then click on "Create a new account", then (at the bottom left of the screen), click "Use my existing Account". You should end up back at the "Metro" screen,

13) CLASSIC MENUS: If you are using "Classic Shell" Start Menu, or "Start8" Menus, you may have to start it manually to get it going again and the "Boot to Desktop". Worst case, remove and reinstall it.

14) Redo all your display preferences.

- **IE10:** If you were running IE10, the Windows 8.1 update will install IE11.

- **PERSONALIZE:** The Windows 8.1 update willl reset your wallpaper and all display Personalizations.