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Microsoft to enable Windows 10 PC users to directly buy, connect to mobile data plans

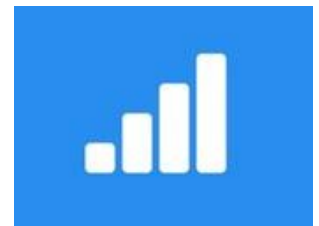
Microsoft's Cellular Data app for Windows 10 will enable PC and tablet users to buy and connect to mobile data plans using their Microsoft Accounts.



By [Mary Jo Foley](#) for [All About Microsoft](#) | January 8, 2016 -- 14:05 GMT (14:05 GMT) | Topic: [Windows 10](#)

There's a new Microsoft Cellular Data app available in the Windows Store that will allow users to connect and pay for mobile data plans directly from their Windows 10 PCs and tablets.

From the [description of the app in the Store](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/apps/cellular-data/gnblgggz5zb2?tduid=(1b4f9edd126a1d13c7e253f1ef87fec2)(256380)(2459594)(TnL5HPStwNw-KGuohNrFSsLKz8qjxU3LIA)()&ad=US) ([https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/apps/cellular-data/gnblgggz5zb2?tduid=\(1b4f9edd126a1d13c7e253f1ef87fec2\)\(256380\)\(2459594\)\(TnL5HPStwNw-KGuohNrFSsLKz8qjxU3LIA\)\(\)](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/apps/cellular-data/gnblgggz5zb2?tduid=(1b4f9edd126a1d13c7e253f1ef87fec2)(256380)(2459594)(TnL5HPStwNw-KGuohNrFSsLKz8qjxU3LIA)()&ad=US)):



"Connect with - and pay for - a mobile data plan on your Windows 10 device using only your Microsoft account information. That means no fixed contract and no long term commitments to a mobile network operator. Now you can buy and use mobile data at your own convenience. This is the easiest way to get online using a trusted nationwide network. Purchase a plan via Windows Store anywhere network coverage is available."

(Thanks to [The Verge](http://www.theverge.com/2016/1/7/10734648/microsoft-sim-card-cellular-data) (<http://www.theverge.com/2016/1/7/10734648/microsoft-sim-card-cellular-data>) for the link to the app.)

The plans are prepaid and charged to users via their Microsoft Accounts. They are not long-term plans; they are one-time purchases for the amount of data and time specified by the plans

.The app will work with "specific" Windows 10 devices (according to the Store, only Intel-based ones) and requires a "Microsoft SIM card."

The app can be downloaded now, and includes a frequently-asked questions document that mentions that cellular data plans will be available initially in France, the UK and the U.S. According to the FAQ, the plan is valid in the country where it is purchased and does not including roaming, so it won't work in other countries beyond where it was purchased.

There's also mention in another accompanying document of [Transatel, a mobile virtual network enabler and aggregator](http://www.transatel.com/) (<http://www.transatel.com/>). Transatel enables non-telcos to act as MVNOs. To me, it looks like Transatel is the company providing what is designated as the required Microsoft SIM card for the new Windows 10 cellular app, as there's a "Transatel DataSIM for Microsoft Windows 10 enabled devices" mentioned in the document, which notes that the SIM card and cellular services are being provided by Transatel.

Microsoft has only [a couple of models of its Surface tablets that have built-in LTE](http://www.zdnet.com/article/microsoft-starts-trickling-out-surface-3-with-4g-lte/) (<http://www.zdnet.com/article/microsoft-starts-trickling-out-surface-3-with-4g-lte/>) connectivity. I've heard from a number of users who wish the Pro family would include built-in LTE as an option. Maybe this new app will fit the bill for them and for other users of non-Surface Windows 10 PCs and tablets who want this option.

The [Cellular Data App](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/apps/cellular-data/gnblgggz5zb2?tduid=(1b4f9edd126a1d13c7e253f1ef87fec2)(259740)(2542549)(d_wp)(0)) ([https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/apps/cellular-data/gnblgggz5zb2?tduid=\(1b4f9edd126a1d13c7e253f1ef87fec2\)\(259740\)\(2542549\)\(d_wp\)\(0\)](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/store/apps/cellular-data/gnblgggz5zb2?tduid=(1b4f9edd126a1d13c7e253f1ef87fec2)(259740)(2542549)(d_wp)(0))) in the Store isn't marked as a preview or beta. I've reached out to Microsoft to find out when it will be functional and how much the data plans will cost.

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