

# ?? System Upgrade Report: Windows 11 Compatibility Review

## ? 1. Current System Specifications

| Component        | Details   |
|------------------|---|
| Case             | Kolink Observatory ATX Mid-Tower                      |
| CPU              | Intel Core i7-7700 (Kaby Lake, 4C/8T, 3.6–4.2 GHz)    |
| Motherboard      | Gigabyte GA-Z270-Gaming K3 (LGA 1151, Z270 chipset)   |
| RAM              | Corsair 32GB DDR4-3000MHz (4x8GB Vengeance LPX)       |
| Graphics Card    | Asus RoG Strix GeForce GTX 1070Ti (8GB, Dual HDMI/DP) |
| Primary SSD      | Samsung 970 EVO 500GB NVMe PCIe 3.0 M.2               |
| Secondary SSD    | Samsung Evo 850 500GB SATA SSD                        |
| Optical Drive    | 24x DVD-RW SATA Drive                                 |
| Power Supply     | Cooler Master V850 850W 80+ Gold (Modular)            |
| CPU Cooler       | Cooler Master MasterLiquid Lite 120 AIO               |
| Operating System | Windows 10 Pro 64-bit                                 |

## ? 2. Incompatible Components (Windows 11 Requirements Not Met)

| Component         | Issue                       | Windows 11 Requirement          |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| CPU: i7-7700      | Not supported by Windows 11 | Requires Intel 8th Gen or newer |
| Motherboard: Z270 | No TPM 2.0, no Secure Boot  | Requires TPM 2.0 & Secure Boot  |

### ? 3. Recommended Substitutes

| Old Component     | Recommended Replacement         | Reason   |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| CPU: i7-7700      | Intel Core i7-10700 (LGA 1200)  | 8C/16T, supported by Windows 11                  |
| Motherboard: Z270 | Gigabyte Z590 AORUS ULTRA (ATX) | ATX, DDR4, TPM 2.0, Secure Boot, modern features |

☐ Existing RAM, SSDs, GPU, PSU, and AIO cooler are compatible with these upgrades.

### ? 4. Optical Drive – Include or Leave Out?

| Option                   | Pros                                  | Cons / Notes  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Keep the Optical Drive   | No added cost; still useful for discs | Check if new motherboard has available SATA ports       |
| Remove the Optical Drive | Cleaner build; improved airflow       | Rarely used today                                       |
| Alternative (External)   | Use a USB DVD drive only when needed  | Simple, modern solution (~£20); keeps front panel clean |

**Recommendation:**

If you no longer use DVDs regularly, consider **removing the optical drive** and covering the bay with a **blanking plate**. For occasional use, a **USB external drive** is a flexible option.

### ? Final Notes

- Your current build is still very capable — only the **CPU and motherboard** need replacing to meet Windows 11 requirements.
  - This limited upgrade gives you:
    - ☐ Windows 11 support
    - ☐ Better CPU performance
    - ☐ Compatibility with all existing components
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