Mirazon®

Prepping for Windows 10 End of Life

Planning, Implementing, and Understanding What it Means For You and Your Business

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Prepping for the End of Life for Windows 10

Even good software must come to an end. Support for Windows 10 will be officially shutting down on October 14, 2025.

This means Microsoft will no longer offer security updates, technical support, or patches for the long-standing operating system.

What Does That Mean for You and Your Business?

While the official end of life for Windows 10 support is a way's off from happening, keeping your operating system up to date can critically affect your business. Upgrading to Windows 11 (or higher) will ensure that you continue receiving important security updates, access to new features, and compatibility with the latest software.

If you're already on Windows 11, there's nothing to worry about. But if you're still using Windows 10, it might be worth planning an upgrade in the near future to avoid potential risks and disruptions.

Let's look at how the end of support life for Windows 10 can affect your business.

Risks of Not Updating to Windows 11 or Higher

System Vulnerability

Any vulnerabilities discovered after the end of life for Windows 10 wouldn't be resolved, leaving your system and business exposed to digital threats.

Compliance Failure

Operating systems that are no longer supported by the manufacturer may fail to comply with industry regulations and standards. Compliance frameworks like GDPR, HIPAA, and PCI DSS often mandate the use of supported and secure software. Non-compliance can also result in significant fines and reputational damage.

Out-of-Date Software and Apps

Newer apps and software will no longer be compatible with your system, as developers will be focused on supporting the newest operating systems.

Operational Disruptions

Without ongoing support and updates, you may encounter compatibility issues with software and hardware, leading to operational inefficiencies. Critical business applications may cease to function optimally, impacting productivity and service delivery.

Less File Protection

Along with the system vulnerability, your files and data are now at high risk, and with the lower security, potential hackers and cyber threats can get through and corrupt or steal your data.

Benefits of Updating to Windows 11 or Higher

Malware Resistant

For those migrating to Windows 11, they'll find the system is much more secure and resistant to malware and other potential threats.

Built-In Generative AI — Copilot

Microsoft's generative AI tool Copilot combines the most relevant updated data using ChatGPT and Bing web-scraping, quickly becoming the favored AI assistant for Windows 11 users.

Improved Included Apps

All apps that are included in Windows 10 are much improved when making the move to Windows 11, including a better overall experience with music and podcast players, a new video editor app, a refreshed screenshot tool, and focus sessions.

Consistent and Appealing Interface

Windows 11 is a professional-grade interface, including easy-to-navigate tools and menus, monitor docking, all new organizational layout tools and widgets, HDR performance, and really, it just looks nicer.

How Can You Prepare for the End of Life for Windows 10?

Don't worry, we'll walk you through the next steps, and you can check these off your list at any time before the official final days of Windows 10.

☐ ## Install Updates

Before Windows 10 reaches its end of life, make sure your system is fully updated with the latest security patches, drivers, and feature updates. This helps ensure stability and protection against vulnerabilities before official support ends.

☐ ## Back Up Your Files

Protect your important data by creating backups on an external drive or cloud storage. Consider setting up automated backups to ensure critical files, applications, and system settings are safely stored in case of migration issues or unexpected failures.

☐ ## Evaluate Compatibility

Review your current hardware and software to determine if they meet Windows 11's system requirements. Check for driver support, legacy applications, and performance benchmarks to ensure a smooth transition without disruptions.

☐ ## Plan for a Budget

Assess the financial impact of upgrading to Windows 11 or an alternative OS. Factor in potential hardware replacements, software licensing costs, IT support, and training expenses to avoid unexpected costs and downtime.

Moving on...Now or Later?

Honestly, you can make the move now, later, or even after Windows 10 support is no longer around. The choice is yours. Once you understand the risks with staying on the unsupported operating system, the big to-do is actually making the switch.

Switching to Windows 11 for free is the move we recommend making, sooner rather than later. Here's how you can update:

☐ **Complete All Prep Items in the Above List**
Before you begin updating, check off the items on the prep list to prepare for the move over.

☐ **Install Windows 11**
To check if Windows 11 is ready for your device, select Start > Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update > Check for updates. You can also visit the Microsoft Windows 11 Download page and update manually, or troubleshoot through Microsoft's website.

☐ **Train Your Employees**
All apps that are included in Windows 10 are much improved when making the move to Windows 11, including a better overall experience with music and podcast players, a new video editor app, a refreshed screenshot tool, and focus sessions.

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