

ASCCEND

Windows 10

End-Of-Life

I S C O M I N G . . .



What Is It & Why Should You Care?

If you're reading this, chances are you've used Windows 10 for years, and it has served you well! But like every version before it, Windows 10 has an expiration date...

On October 14, 2025, Windows 10 will officially reach its end-of-life (EOL), which means it will no longer receive updates, security patches, or support from Microsoft.

If you're not sure what Windows 10 is (like many users), don't worry! Windows 10 is like the foundation of a house for your computer. As the operating system, Windows 10 holds up everything your computer does, from its programs to its security features!

As time goes on, this foundation needs maintenance, and eventually, it may not support heavier "floors" (new programs and features) that your computer needs.

Keeping Windows 10 past end-of-life is like discovering cracks in your home's foundation and not fixing them. Your home / computer may still hold up for a while, but it's no longer safe to rely on as it once was...

To reinforce why this matters, let's start by taking a look at what's at stake.



The Risks That Come With Windows 10 End-Of-Life



Outdated Software and Cybersecurity

Once Microsoft stops updating Windows 10, your computer **becomes vulnerable to new security threats**. Without regular updates, hackers can exploit any **unpatched vulnerabilities** to access your data! These cyber-attacks may not happen **immediately**, but vulnerabilities will spring up as **Windows 10 becomes more outdated**. This means its **only a matter of time** until an attack finds your business if you lag behind on upgrading from Windows 10!

It's not just small threats: major security breaches could happen if you continue using an unsupported operating system. As we mentioned, hackers are already gearing up to target any weaknesses in Windows 10 **after its end-of-life date**.

Your business isn't too small to be targeted: without ongoing security updates, outdated systems become low-hanging fruit for cybercriminals!

Do you remember the transition from **Windows 7**? Many businesses faced security incidents because they delayed upgrading, leaving them exposed to threats that were **easily preventable**. Maybe this affected your business! Regardless, it's an issue that you **do not want to take lightly**.

Be on the lookout for increased **phishing scams** and **fraudulent messages** as hackers aim to capitalize on Windows 10 end-of-life! Businesses are at greater risk of falling for fake upgrade prompts or malicious links disguised as official Microsoft notifications, **especially as October 14th draws closer...**



Compatibility Concerns

This risk is easy to miss but extremely relevant!

As Microsoft phases out support for Windows 10, **other vendors will too**. This includes everything from **software providers** to **device manufacturers**. If you rely on third-party applications or peripherals, such as printers, **you may experience sudden compatibility issues!** And let's be honest: we all **rely on these tools** and take their usage for granted...

Outdated drivers and **unsupported software** can easily lead to a consistent loss of productivity for your business, as well as unplanned expenses if you're left scrambling to find workarounds!





The Cost of **Last-Minute Solutions**

Speaking of scrambling at the last minute, waiting too long to start the upgrade process is more than just stressful: **it's a costly mistake!**

Many businesses find themselves scrambling to upgrade as the end-of-life date approaches, leading to them paying for **band-aid IT services** and vastly increasing the chance of **downtime for clients** if the process doesn't go smoothly (**which it rarely does**).

Proactive planning is key to avoiding the rush and the higher costs associated with last-minute upgrades. It's much better to pinpoint an issue with end-of-life upgrading sooner rather than later, while you still have time to **calmly solve the problem!**



The Risk of **Not Prioritizing The Upgrade**

For many companies, Windows 10 EOL can feel like **"just one more thing"** on an already full plate.

We get it: **day-to-day responsibilities** are demanding, and preparing for an operating system transition can easily get **pushed down your priority list**. However, remember this:

Dragging your feet will lead to paying a much steeper price later.

If this is your business, don't worry: **it's not all doom and gloom!** You're already taking a much-needed step by reading through this E-Book that many businesses won't.

As we'll explain in the next sections, there are many benefits to prioritizing the upgrade to Windows 11 **other than just preventing risks.**



It's Not All Risks: The Opportunities That Come With A **Timely Upgrade**



A Fresh Start with **New Hardware (And A New OS)**

The end of Windows 10 presents a perfect opportunity to review your **current technology setup!** New hardware means **better performance** and **fewer disruptions**, and Windows 10 EOL gives an excellent reason to make the switch. It's often **cheaper in the long run** to replace your oldest workstations with new Windows 11 compatible hardware!

Here are some guidelines to gauge if your hardware is in need of a fresh start:

- If you're using computers that are **five years or older**, it's time for an upgrade.
- For businesses with relatively new hardware within 3 years of usage, upgrading the Windows license to Windows 11 can **extend the life of these machines** without the expense of a full replacement.
- For workstations that are within a year of usage, you may already be using Windows 11! If not, **upgrading the license should be seamless.**

Windows 11 has also matured a lot since its initial launch! Today's version is user-friendly and optimized for business use, combining **familiar functionality** with updated versions of the tools that you are already used to.



Enhanced Security and **Future-Proofing** Your Technology

If one of the biggest risks of Windows 10 EOL is the **decreased security that comes with support ending**, it should come as no surprise that some of Windows 11's biggest benefits are its **support** and **airtight security features!**

From **built-in security layers** to **regular patches**, Windows 11 offers a more comprehensive defense against cyber threats, and not just after October 14th: these benefits are present in its **current form**. Additionally, making the move to Windows 11 doesn't just upgrade your workstations for today; **you're setting your hardware up for the future!**

Ensuring that you aren't left behind as Windows 10 support expires will help your business avoid the pitfalls of sudden disruptions and costs down the road.



So,
what
next?

Preparing for the Transition: A Step-by-Step Look

Well, we aren't just going to give you all this information and then leave you to figure it all out yourself!

Here are actionable steps that we recommend to **prepare for the Windows 10 end-of-life transition** and **put your business in the best possible position**:

01

Consult with Your IT Provider

Work with your IT provider to create an **upgrade strategy**. From helping you select the right hardware to handling software upgrades, an IT expert can manage the details **so that you don't have to**. This means that you and your team can focus on **your core business tasks** while a significant portion of the transition is **taken off your plate**!

02

Assess Your Current Hardware

Determine the **age** and **condition** of your devices. Machines older than five years need to be replaced, while newer ones may just need a Windows 11 license upgrade. **This assessment will guide your planning and budgeting in the next steps!**

03

Communicate with Your Team

Keep your employees informed about the **strategy you discuss with your IT Provider**. Set expectations for the **upgrade process** and make sure they understand the risks of **phishing scams** related to Windows 10's end-of-life.

04

Upgrade Aged Workstations and Licenses

This step is simple if you and your IT Provider took the time to properly assess your current hardware in Step 2! **Replace old workstations** and **upgrade licenses** as needed before moving on to Step 5.

05

Use A Phased Rollout

Instead of waiting until the last minute, **consider a phased rollout with your IT team**. Upgrade workstations for a small group of employees first **to test compatibility and get feedback**, then gradually move more employees to Windows 11 over time! This method reduces disruptions and **makes the adoption process much smoother** for everyone involved!



Have **Additional Questions?**

We're Here To Help As Well!

We hope this E-Book has helped you to **understand Windows 10 end-of-life** and **how it affects your business!**

Don't let October 14th sneak up on you – start preparing today with the steps we've outlined and your technology will be set up for the future in no time.

If you don't have an IT Provider currently (or have concerns about their abilities), **we're always available to help!**

Give us a call if you have any questions: We're available on **01952 936789** or at **hello@ascend-it.co.uk**.

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