

Microsoft Windows 7 End of Life: What this Means for your Business



Microsoft has publicly announced January 14, 2020, as the end date for extended support, also known as End of Life (EOL), for the Windows 7 operating system. As of this date, Microsoft will no longer produce any patches or updates to address known or otherwise newly discovered issues for the Windows 7 platform. This potentially exposes users of devices with the Windows 7 operating system to vulnerabilities that could potentially be exploited by threat actors—exploits, bugs, viruses, and ransomware. So, if you're one of the 40% of global organizations still using Windows 7 as your main operating system*, we'd like to help you successfully migrate off of Windows 7.

Prepare and Plan

We will conduct an audit of your technology assets to determine if there are Windows 7 devices and other soon-to-be-unsupported hardware or software components in use. To migrate successfully, devices need to have a minimum hardware specification to run Windows 10 at a productive level. We'll provide a detailed report showing you which devices are running Windows 7, Office 2010, how old they are and if replacing or upgrading is the right strategy.

Successfully Migrate

Once we determine the right path, we can automate the migration process using Datto RMM, our cloud-based remote monitoring, and management solution, to perform the upgrade process. This will take place with little to no impact on your day-to-day operations. Should your organization need to follow a replacement path: typically the Windows 7 replacement will consist of a [Microsoft Windows 10](#) primary device, [Office 365 ProPlus](#) and other upgraded lines of business applications all deployed by our service delivery team.

How you Benefit

Our top priority with this migration is to minimize security vulnerabilities and help you avoid major downtime. We appreciate that this introduces change in your organization and requires an investment of both time and money. We can help you with educating your employees to help minimize any disruption and make recommendations so you can make the best decision—upgrade or replace—for your business outlining the costs and implications of both scenarios.

There is a silver lining with this migration: Microsoft plans to make Windows 10 the 'last' Windows. You won't ever need to upgrade to a new operating system again. Incremental updates will happen behind the scenes without major upheaval and with no costly and difficult upgrades.

Contact us

If your business is still using Windows 7, we can prepare you for Windows 7 End of Life and determine the best strategy to migrate to Windows 10.

*NetMarketShare February 2019 data

Microsoft Windows 7 Upgrade vs. Replacement Checklist



Upgrade vs. Replacement

With Windows 7 End of Life, your organization will need to determine whether upgrading devices is sufficient or replacement of devices is necessary.

To help you make this choice, here is a checklist to consider when looking to migrate from Windows 7 to Windows 10 successfully.

- Check hardware details.** Identify devices that will meet the minimum hardware specifications necessary for a desirable and productive level of performance. The minimum hardware recommendations from Microsoft are often insufficient toward being productive in the long term, resulting in device hardware being replaced sooner than expected.

These are Microsoft's basic requirements for installing Windows 10 on a PC.

Processor:	1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster processor or System on a Chip (SoC)
RAM:	1 gigabyte (GB) for 32-bit or 2 GB for 64-bit
Hard drive space:	16 GB for 32-bit OS 32 GB for 64-bit OS
Graphics card:	DirectX 9 or later with WDDM 1.0 driver
Display:	800x600

- Verify application compatibility.** Determine which applications you have installed on your current Windows 7 estate, and check they will be compatible with the new Windows operating system. Any applications with known incompatibilities will receive a recommendation from us on how to proceed.

- Confirm licensing compliance.** The audit of devices and applications is the ideal time to verify your business has sufficient licenses for Windows 10. In some cases, newer Windows 7 devices may already have a license for an upgrade to Windows 10. Microsoft has become vigilant in pursuing companies out of compliance with licensing. We will help to ensure your devices are properly licensed for use.
- Decide whether to replace the device,** perform a clean install or an in-place upgrade on the current device. There are several factors to bear in mind when considering an "In-Place" migration.
 - Are there any 32-bit operating systems needing to become 64-bit? If so, does the hardware architecture support it, and will it need additional or improved/ upgraded resource (eg more RAM)?
 - Are there any Professional edition devices upgrading to Enterprise, or Enterprise to Enterprise?
 - Are there any Home edition devices used in the business?
- Train users.** If users are unfamiliar with Windows 10 we can provide training to minimize the disruption to their operation.
- Perform a pilot deployment.** Our advanced toolset will allow us to automate the in-place upgrades with ease. A pilot deployment will ensure the execution of the migration proceeds as expected. Deploying to a small test group first will pay dividends over the duration of the project.

If you find that a majority of your devices have aged out and do not meet minimum specifications for an upgrade, here are our recommendations for replacement of devices.

We'd like to work with you to help you find the right path forward. Contact our team today.