Don't Forget! - May 2025 Edition

This new section is dedicated to reminding you about important dates or events in IT.

Note that this list will never be 100% complete – there is just too much!

Eol and Eos dates can change at any time, so information provided here is to be considered as a guide only.

This document is written to allow you to take sections from it as necessary to use in your own motivations and reports in your company when addressing EoL, EoS, Migration and Deprecation issues.

Please refer to the Tables at the end of the document that summarise important changes for the next 12 months

Introduction

This document focuses on the changes expected in the Microsoft ecosystem over the next 12 months, marking a significant transition within it.

Organisations that work with First Technology Group to embrace these changes strategically will be best positioned to manage costs, enhance security, and leverage the powerful new capabilities emerging across the Microsoft ecosystem.

The convergence of major product end-of-life deadlines, particularly the October 14, 2025 event, coupled with ongoing feature deprecations, evolving pricing structures, and a relentless focus on AI integration, demands immediate attention and strategic planning from all organisations reliant on Microsoft technologies.

Proactive migration away from EOL products like Windows 10 and Office 2016/19 is paramount to mitigate security risks and ensure continued functionality.

While ESU's provide a temporary safety net, their cost structure reinforces the strategic imperative to modernise. Similarly, deprecating legacy APIs, protocols, and development models necessitates timely adaptation to modern standards like Microsoft Graph and SPFx.

Budgeting requires careful consideration of new pricing realities, including the NCE monthly payment premium and increases for standalone services, as well as the costs of migration and potential ESU enrollment.

For many customers, the shift away from traditional Enterprise Agreements necessitates a thorough evaluation of the alternatives to NCE and CSP.

Microsoft's strategic direction is clearly focused on its cloud platform and the widespread integration of AI, especially through Copilot. The security portfolio is rapidly progressing to support this, with enhanced capabilities in Defender, Sentinel, Entra, and Purview—the latter becoming essential for governing AI use.

Successfully navigating this period requires organisations to move beyond reactive problem-solving. It demands a proactive approach encompassing thorough license and dependency audits, robust migration planning, diligent budget forecasting, continuous monitoring of Microsoft communications (which TOP STORIES helps with), investment in user and IT skilling, and strategic alignment with Microsoft's cloud-first, AI-driven future.

Updates for April

NO MORE FREE TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM MICROSOFT

Microsoft has ended it's programs where you could get free support. Please contact your First Technology account manager to hear about our more cost effective solutions to this problem.

Microsoft Planner Transition set for August

On the 2nd May, Microsoft announced that Project for web, including Project and Roadmap apps in Teams, are being retired in August. Microsoft now wants you to transition to Planner as it consolidates into one work experience, and then goes on to explain what features will not be available. There will be no licensing changes or any Migration steps to undertake. You can **read all about this migration here.**

No more updates for Microsoft Maps

This is now being deprecated and will be removed from the Microsoft Store by July 2025. You can **read more about this here**.

CRITICAL UPDATE: Microsoft 365 Apps Support on Windows 10 Extended:

- **Microsoft has announced that security updates for Microsoft 365 Apps (e.g., Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook) running on Windows 10 will continue for three years *after* the Windows 10 end-of-support date. This means Microsoft 365 Apps on Windows 10 will receive security updates until October 10, 2028.** (Source examples: ExtremeTech, Microsoft Support Document, TechRepublic, The Register, Bleeping Computer, Windows Central, Directions on Microsoft, Lowyat.NET, PC Gamer, TECHi, Lifehacker, daily.dev, Source: Microsoft Support Document, Source: Microsoft Learn)
- **Important Caveats:**
  - This extension applies to **security updates** for M365 Apps only. The Windows 10 OS itself still reaches end of support on October 14, 2025 (unless ESUs are purchased for the OS).
  - If an issue with M365 Apps occurs *only* on Windows 10 (and not on Windows 11), Microsoft support will advise moving to Windows 11. Troubleshooting assistance may be limited if unable to move to Windows 11.
  - Bug reports or feature requests for M365 Apps on Windows 10 will not be accepted after October 2025.
- This significantly impacts planning for organisations, offering more flexibility for the M365 Apps component while still necessitating a Windows 11 migration strategy for the underlying OS.

Product End-of-Life and Support Transitions (Next 12 Months)

The period between April 2025 and April 2026 is marked by several critical end-of-support (EOL) dates for widely deployed Microsoft products. These deadlines necessitate careful planning and timely migration, facilitated by partners like First Technology Group, to maintain security, support, and functionality.

The October, 2025 End-of-Support Cliff

A uniquely significant date is October 14, 2025, when support ends simultaneously for a large cohort of foundational Microsoft products across client operating systems, productivity suites, and on-premises servers. This coordinated EOL event includes:

- **Windows 10:** All retail editions (Home, Pro) and commercial editions (Enterprise, Education, IoT Enterprise) will reach end of support. Version 22H2 is confirmed as the final feature update for Windows 10.
- **Microsoft Office 2016 and 2019 Suites:** Support ends for the entire perpetual Office 2016 and 2019 suites, including standalone applications like Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Project, Visio, Publisher, and Access.
- **Microsoft Publisher**
  This needs special mention as Publisher in ALL variants of Office will reach the end of Life in October 2026, after which M365 Subscribers will no longer be able to open or edit Publisher files.

You have until then to save the files in other formats. The perpetual version of Publisher will continue to work (without support). **You can read more detail here**.
Microsoft notes that "*documents may not be a one-to-one replication of your original Publisher file. If your document has a lot of graphics, you may see significant changes.*"

- **Exchange Server 2016 and 2019:** Mainstream and extended support conclude for these widely used on-premises mail servers.
- **Skype for Business Server 2015 and 2019:** Support ends for these on-premises communication servers.
- **Other Products:** Also reaching EOL on this date are:
    - Windows 10 Team (for Surface Hub),
    - Windows 10 LTSC 2015,
    - Visual Studio 2015,
    - Visual Studio Team Foundation Server 2015,
    - Certain Windows Defender components tied specifically to Windows 10.
- **Unlicensed OneDrive accounts to lose data**
    - As advised in **TOP STORIES #95**, OneDrive accounts will be archived after 93 days.
    - After another 93 days, they get PERMANENTLY deleted. Up until then, you can still re-activate the accounts. You can **read about how all this is working here**. **THE FINAL DEADLINE (for a price) is before 29 July 2025!**
    - (disclaimer - Microsoft can change the rules anytime - so get your data out FAST!!!)

Implications

The implications of this mass EOL event are substantial. Continued use of these products after October 14, 2025, exposes organisations to significant security risks, as Microsoft will no longer provide security updates, non-security updates, bug fixes, or technical support.

For organisations using Office 2016 or 2019 to connect to Microsoft 365 services (like Exchange Online), while connectivity might not be immediately blocked, it will no longer be supported. This can lead to unexpected performance, reliability issues, and lack of access to newer service features over time. Furthermore, support for Microsoft 365 Apps (the subscription version of Office) running on Windows 10 also ceases on this date, aligning the support lifecycle.

The sheer volume of the products retiring on this single date strongly suggest a deliberate strategic move by Microsoft. It accelerates the transition away from older perpetual licence models and on-premises infrastructure towards the Windows 11 operating system and subscription-based Microsoft 365 cloud services. By establishing a common, hard deadline for such critical components, Microsoft intensifies the pressure on organisations to modernise their IT estate.

While this simplifies Microsoft's long-term support burden, it concurrently creates a major planning and execution challenge for customers, potentially leading to resource constraints and budget pressures as many organisations attempt large-scale migrations simultaneously. **Partners like First Technology Group can assist in navigating these challenges.**

Other Notable Retirements & End-of-Servicing (Apr 2025 - Apr 2026)

Beyond the dominant October 2025 deadline, numerous other Microsoft products, services, and specific versions will reach end-of-support or end-of-servicing within the next 12 months. Organisations must track these dates based on their specific deployments:

- **Azure Services:** The Azure platform sees continuous evolution, leading to retirements. Key examples include:

- Azure Database for MariaDB (September 19, 2025).
- Azure Basic Load Balancer, Azure HPC Cache, Azure Remote Rendering, Azure Service Map, Azure SQL Edge, Azure Unmanaged Disks, Azure vFXT (all retiring September 30, 2025).
- Various specific VM sizes (e.g., Standard_NC24rs_v3) and APIs/SDKs (e.g., Azure AD Graph API phases, older Storage Track 1 SDKs, older Data Factory connectors) have retirement dates within this window.[1] Monitoring Azure Updates is crucial.

- **Dynamics 365:**
  - End of support for 2015 versions (CRM, NAV, SL, GP) occurs in early 2025.
  - Dynamics 365 Business Central on-premises (Modern Policy) versions reach end of servicing: v23.x on April 2, 2025, and v24.x on October 7, 2025.
  - Dynamics 365 Translation Service retires October 15, 2025.
- **Windows Client/Server Versions:**
  - Windows 11 Enterprise, Education, and IoT Enterprise, Version 22H2, reach end of servicing on October 14, 2025.
  - Windows 11 Home and Pro, Version 23H2, reach end of servicing on November 11, 2025.
  - Windows Server Annual Channel, Version 23H2, reaches end of servicing on October 24, 2025.
  - Support for Microsoft 365 Apps on Windows Server 2016 and Windows Server 2019 ends October 14, 2025.
- **Outlook Classic**
  - **Outlook "Classic" will EOL 2029**
    Outlook Classic for Enterprises switches to "Opt-in" from April 2026, meaning it has been removed from Office install. You now have to download and install it separately.
    Unfortunately, the “New Outlook” has many features that are missing which Microsoft is promising to add, but is far away from achieving feature parity.
    Some features will never be added to the New Outlook, which can seriously impact companies that have been using Outlook for the last few decades.
    These issues are addressed in TOP STORIES #95
- **Developer Tools:**
  - Visual Studio 2022 LTSC channel versions reach end of support: v17.6 on January 14, 2025, and v17.8 on July 8, 2025.
  - Visual Studio App Centre retires March 31, 2025.
  - **Configuration Manager (Current Branch):**
  - Version 2309 reaches end of servicing on April 9, 2025.
  - Version 2403 reaches end of servicing on October 22, 2025.
- **SQL Server:**
  - Extended Security Updates (ESU) Year 3 for SQL Server 2012 ends July 8, 2025.
  - ESU Year 1 for SQL Server 2014 ends July 8, 2025.
  - SQL Server 2019 moves from Mainstream to Extended Support on February 28, 2025.

- **Contextual EOL (Just Beyond Window):** Office LTSC 2021 and Office 2021 (perpetual) reach end of support on October 13, 2026.
  Mainstream support for Windows Server 2022 ends October 13, 2026.

These varied EOL dates underscore the need for organisations to maintain a detailed inventory of their Microsoft software and services and track their specific lifecycles using official resources like the Microsoft Lifecycle Policy pages.

The end of servicing for specific Windows 11 versions reinforces the requirement to adopt the annual feature update cadence to remain supported.

The continuous churn in Azure services and APIs necessitates that development and infrastructure teams remain vigilant, monitoring Azure updates and adapting applications and configurations accordingly.
This reflects the inherent nature of cloud platforms governed by the Modern Lifecycle Policy, which emphasises continuous updates and servicing over the long, fixed support timelines typical of traditional on-premises software under the Fixed Lifecycle Policy.
Organisations must embrace this agility and incorporate ongoing monitoring and adaptation into their cloud management practices, potentially with support from partners like First Technology Group.

Extended Security Update (ESU) Options

For organisations unable to complete migrations before key EOL dates, Microsoft offers Extended Security Updates (ESUs) for certain products, providing security patches beyond the official end-of-support date, but typically at an additional cost.

- **Windows 10 ESU:** Microsoft has confirmed a paid ESU programme for Windows 10, extending security updates for up to three years past the October 14, 2025 deadline.
  - *Commercial Pricing:* Starts at $61 USD per device for the first year, with the price doubling to $122 for the second year, and doubling again to $244 for the third year.
  - *Consumer Pricing:* For the first time, an ESU option will be available for individual consumers at $30 USD for the first year. Current information suggests this might be limited to only one year for consumers.
  - *Availability:* Enrolment for the Windows 10 ESU programme is expected to open during 2025.
  - *Windows 365 Inclusion:* Customers using Windows 365 Cloud PCs will receive ESUs for their local Windows 10 devices connecting to the service at no additional charge for up to three years.
- **Server ESUs:** ESU programs also exist for older server products.
  - Windows Server 2012 and 2012 R2 ESU Year 2 concludes on October 14, 2025, but the ESU programme continues, offering updates until October 13, 2026.
  - SQL Server 2014 has an ESU programme, with Year 1 ending July 8, 2025, and Year 2 ending July 14, 2026.

ESUs serve as a critical, albeit temporary, solution for maintaining security compliance on systems that cannot be immediately upgraded or replaced.

The introduction of a consumer ESU option acknowledges the vast Windows 10 user base and the hardware compatibility challenges associated with Windows 11.

However, the escalating annual cost for commercial ESUs clearly signals Microsoft's intent for this to be a short-term bridge, not a long-term strategy. The cost of ESUs, particularly in the second and third years, can quickly exceed the cost of new hardware or migration projects, strongly incentivising organisations to move to supported platforms like Windows 11 or cloud-based solutions such as Windows 365. **It is crucial to remember that ESUs provide only critical and/or important security updates; they do not include new features, non-security updates, or standard technical support.**

First Technology Group can help organisations evaluate the cost-effectiveness of ESUs versus migration.

Important EoS Dates

Windows 10 - End of Support (EoS) October 2025

Everyone should be aware of this, but it is important to remember that Extended Support is available if you cannot get rid of Windows 10 in time, albeit very expensive.
It will only protect you from vulnerabilities Microsoft chooses to protect you from. You can get more information on **the program here**.
Plan "C" comes from a company called **0patch**.
NOTE!!!!!!! ALL support for any product, INCLUDING O365 running on Windows 10, also ends.
The exception - Windows 10 LTSC 2019 is supported till 2029.
Note the use case for LTSC is very narrow (POS, Medical Devices, ATM's etc.) and not recommended for general use.

Windows 11 - End of Support (EoS)

It is very important to make sure you are trying to deploy Win 11 24H2 and NOT earlier builds.....

- Win 11 22H2 October 2025 (**Note: Microsoft will force upgrade this version**)
- Win 11 23H2 November 2026 – VBS security feature is already being removed from this version
- **Win 11 24H2 October 2027**
- Win 11 Ent. LTSC 2029

Windows Server End of Support

Windows Server 2012 ESU ends October 2026 - **that's 100% the end of the line**.
Windows Server 2016 Support ends Jan 2027, ESU ends Jan 2029

SQL Server End of Support

2012 SP4 ESU July 2025
2014 SP3 ESU July 2027
2016 SP3 July 2026 (this is your next big one to worry about)
2017 Oct 2027

Azure AD and MSOnline End of Support

Both these services come to end of support on 30 March 2025
Microsoft has posted detailed information about this **here**.

Tables of changes that can be expected in the next 12 months

Note that this information is subject to change at any moment, and some of them may not apply to SA, and as always, please verify this with your First Technology Licensing specialist to understand the implications that may apply to YOUR licensing agreement.

Table: Key Microsoft Products Reaching End of Support (April 2025 - April 2026)

The heavy investment in Purview features specifically targeting AI governance and security underscores the criticality of data protection and compliance as prerequisites for widespread enterprise AI adoption. Microsoft is building the necessary guardrails directly into Purview, making it, and often the associated M365 E5 Compliance licence , essential for organisations seeking to deploy tools like Microsoft Copilot responsibly and securely. Enhancements in areas like policy visibility, data observability, and richer DLP/IRM capabilities aim to provide administrators with more effective control over their data estate. First Technology Group can assist in configuring Purview for optimal AI governance.

Product/Version	Edition(s)	End of Support/Servicing Date	Key Impact	Recommended Action	ESU Availability/Notes
Windows 10 (v22H2)	Home, Pro, Enterprise, Education, IoT Ent	October 14, 2025	No security/non-security updates, no support; Significant security risk	Upgrade to Windows 11 (check hardware compatibility) or replace device	Paid ESU available for up to 3 years (commercial), 1 year (consumer). Win365 includes ESU.
Microsoft Office 2016 / 2019	All (Suites & Standalone)	October 14, 2025	No security/non-security updates, no support; Unsupported M365 connectivity	Migrate to Microsoft 365 Apps (subscription) or Office LTSC 2024 (perpetual)	No ESU available.
Exchange Server 2016 / 2019	Standard, Enterprise	October 14, 2025	No security/non-security updates, no support; Significant security risk	Migrate to Exchange Online (M365) or upgrade to Exchange Server SE	No ESU available.
Skype for Business Server 2015 / 2019	Standard, Enterprise	October 14, 2025	No security/non-security updates, no support; Significant security risk	Migrate to Microsoft Teams or upgrade to Skype for Business Server SE	No ESU available.
Windows 11 (v22H2)	Enterprise, Education, IoT Enterprise	October 14, 2025	No further updates/support for this version	Update to a supported Windows	N/A (Update required)

Product/Version	Edition(s)	End of Support/Servicing Date	Key Impact	Recommended Action	ESU Availability/Notes
				11 version (e.g., 23H2, 24H2)	
Windows 11 (v23H2)	Home, Pro	November 11, 2025	No further updates/support for this version	Update to a supported Windows 11 version (e.g., 24H2)	N/A (Update required)
Azure Database for MariaDB	N/A	September 19, 2025	Service retirement; No new deployments or support	Migrate to Azure Database for MySQL or PostgreSQL	N/A (Service retirement)
Azure Basic Load Balancer	Basic SKU	September 30, 2025	Service retirement; No new deployments or support	Migrate to Azure Standard Load Balancer	N/A (Service retirement)
Azure Unmanaged Disks	N/A	September 30, 2025	Service retirement; No new deployments or support	Migrate to Azure Managed Disks	N/A (Service retirement)
Dynamics 365 Business Central (Modern, OnPrem)	v23.x	April 2, 2025	No further updates/support for this version	Update to a supported version	N/A (Update required)
Dynamics 365 Business Central (Modern, OnPrem)	v24.x	October 7, 2025	No further updates/support for this version	Update to a supported version	N/A (Update required)
Microsoft Configuration Manager (Current Branch)	v2309	April 9, 2025	No further updates/support for this version	Update to a supported ConfigMgr version	N/A (Update required)
Microsoft Configuration Manager (Current Branch)	v2403	October 22, 2025	No further updates/support for this version	Update to a supported ConfigMgr version	N/A (Update required)
SQL Server 2012	All	July 8, 2025	End of ESU Year 3	Migrate to supported SQL Server version or Azure SQL	ESU programme ends.
SQL Server 2014	All	July 8, 2025	End of ESU Year 1	Migrate to supported SQL	ESU programme continues (Year 2 ends July 2026).

Product/Version	Edition(s)	End of Support/Servicing Date	Key Impact	Recommended Action	ESU Availability/Notes
				Server version or Azure SQL	
Visual Studio 2015	All	October 14, 2025	End of Extended Support	Migrate to a supported Visual Studio version (e.g., VS 2022)	No ESU available.
Visual Studio App Centre	N/A	March 31, 2025	Service retirement	Migrate to alternative services (e.g., App Centre Test retirement alternatives)	N/A

Key Security Feature Updates (Apr 2025 - Apr 2026)

Security Area	Key Feature/Capability/Change	Status	Target Rollout/Date (Approx.)	Significance/Impact
Defender Suite	Security Copilot Agents (e.g., Phishing Triage)	Preview/GA	Rolling out 2025	Autonomous AI for SOC tasks, improving efficiency but requiring oversight.
Defender Suite	Automatic Attack Disruption Enhancements (TI-based, OAuth apps)	GA	Ongoing	Improved automated response to contain attacks across domains.
Defender Suite	Defender for Cloud: Enhanced Container/Kubernetes Security	GA/Preview	March 2025	Improved vulnerability assessment, malware detection, and deployment gating for containers.
Defender Suite	Defender for Cloud: Agentless VM Scanning for CMK	GA	March 2025	Extends agentless scanning capabilities to VMs using customer-managed keys.
Sentinel	Unified SecOps Platform Integration (Multi-workspace/tenant)	Preview	April 2025	Centralised management of SIEM/XDR across complex environments via Defender portal.
Sentinel	Case Management	GA	April 2025	Native incident grouping and workflow management within the unified platform.
Sentinel	Threat Intelligence Modernisation (New Tables, STIX support)	Preview/GA	Apr 2025 - May 2026	Richer TI context and hunting capabilities; requires migration from legacy table by July 31, 2025.
Entra	Permissions Management (MEPM) Retirement	Retiring	Oct 1, 2025	Standalone CIEM product retired; requires migration to partner/integrated solutions.
Entra	Azure AD Graph API & Legacy PowerShell Module Retirement	Retiring	Mar-July 2025	Mandatory migration to Microsoft Graph API and PowerShell SDK for all scripts/apps interacting with Entra ID.
Entra	Entra ID Governance Licence for Guests	GA	Q2 2025	New MAU-based licence required for governing external collaborators.
Purview	Data Security Posture Management for AI	Preview	Ongoing	Tools to identify risks and apply policies specifically for Copilot/AI interactions.
Purview	AI Governance Features (DLP, IRM, Comm Compliance for AI)	Preview/GA	Rolling out 2025	Extending core Purview capabilities to monitor and control AI usage and data handling.
Purview	Policy Sync Status Visibility	GA	May 2025	Improved admin visibility into policy deployment status across M365 services.
Purview	Information Barriers (IB) v2 Upgrade Path	Preview/GA	Oct 2025 - Mar 2026	Enables migration to more scalable and flexible IB capabilities for existing v1 tenants.
Purview	Language-Specific Trainable Classifiers	Preview/GA	Nov 2025 - Feb 2026	More precise classification by targeting specific languages, reducing false positives.

Feature Deprecation and Removals (Next 12 Months)

Feature/Component	Affected Product(s)	Status	Date/Version (Approx. Removal/Change)	Impact Summary	Recommended Action/Alternative
WordPad	Windows Client/Server	Removed	Win 11 24H2 / Server 2025	Basic text editor removed.	Use Microsoft Word (rich text) or Notepad (plain text).
NTLMv1	Windows Client/Server	Removed	Win 11 24H2 / Server 2025	Legacy insecure authentication protocol removed.	Ensure no dependencies; use NTLMv2 or Kerberos.
Windows Mixed Reality (WMR)	Windows 11	Removed	Win 11 24H2	WMR Portal, WMR for SteamVR removed.	Use alternative VR platforms; devices on 23H2 work with SteamVR until Nov 2026.
TLS 1.0 / 1.1	Windows Server, M365 Services	Deprecated	Disabled by default Server 2025	Use of older TLS versions discouraged/blocked due to security.	Ensure all clients/servers use TLS 1.2+.
DirectAccess	Windows Client/Server	Deprecated	Future Removal	Legacy VPN-like remote access solution no longer developed.	Migrate to Always On VPN.
VBScript	Windows Client/Server	Deprecated	Future Removal (becomes FoD first)	Legacy scripting language being phased out.	Migrate scripts to PowerShell.
Classic Teams Desktop App	Microsoft Teams	Retired	July 1, 2025	Older Teams client will cease to function.	Migrate all users to the New Teams client.
Mail and Calendar Apps	Windows 10/11	Retired	End of 2024 (planned)	Built-in Windows apps replaced by New Outlook for Windows.	Migrate users to New Outlook for Windows or Classic Outlook.
Classic Outlook for Windows	Outlook (Desktop)	Transitioning	April 2026 (Forced Toggle)	Microsoft plans to transition enterprise users to New Outlook for Windows.	Prepare users for New Outlook; evaluate feature parity.
Office 365 Connectors	Microsoft Teams	Retiring	End of 2025	Webhook-based integrations will stop working.	Migrate integrations to Power Automate or other supported methods.
Basic Authentication (SMTP AUTH)	Exchange Online	Retiring	September 2025	Legacy authentication method for SMTP submission will be blocked.	Migrate applications/devices to use OAuth 2.0 client credential flow.
Azure AD Graph API	Microsoft Entra ID / Azure	Retiring	July 1, 2025 (Full Retirement)	Legacy API for Entra ID interaction will stop working.	Migrate all applications and scripts to use Microsoft Graph API.
MSOnline / AzureAD PowerShell Modules	Microsoft Entra ID / Azure	Retiring	Apr-May 2025 (MSOnline), Post-July 2025 (AzureAD)	Legacy PowerShell modules will stop working / become unsupported.	Migrate all administrative scripts to Microsoft Graph PowerShell SDK.

Feature/Component	Affected Product(s)	Status	Date/Version (Approx. Removal/Change)	Impact Summary	Recommended Action/Alternative
SharePoint 2013 Workflows	SharePoint Online	Retiring	April 2, 2026 (Existing Tenants)	Legacy workflow engine will stop functioning.	Migrate workflows to Power Automate.
SharePoint Add-ins	SharePoint Online	Retiring	April 2, 2026 (Existing Tenants)	Older model for SharePoint customisation/apps will stop functioning.	Migrate solutions to SharePoint Framework (SPFx).
Azure ACS Authentication	SharePoint Online	Retiring	April 2, 2026 (Existing Tenants)	Legacy authentication method for custom apps accessing SPO will stop working.	Migrate apps to use Microsoft Entra ID (Microsoft Graph) authentication.
Viva Topics	Microsoft Viva	Retired	February 2025	Knowledge management feature retired.	Leverage integrated knowledge features in Microsoft Copilot.
Viva Goals	Microsoft Viva	Retiring	December 2025	Goal-setting module retiring.	Explore alternative goal management tools or integrated M365 features.
Dynamics 365 Translation Service	Dynamics 365	Retiring	October 15, 2025	Service for translating D365 content retiring.	Download existing translations; explore alternative translation solutions.
Making Tax Digital (MTD) VAT (On-Prem)	Dynamics 365 Finance (On-Prem)	Deprecated	June 6, 2025	Direct submission for UK VAT from on-prem D365 Finance deprecated.	Migrate to D365 Finance cloud or use manual/alternative submission methods.
Entra Permissions Management (Standalone CIEM)	Microsoft Entra	Retiring	October 1, 2025	Standalone multi-cloud permissions management product retires.	Migrate to partner solution (Delinea) or integrated Defender for Cloud features.

Summary of Announced Price Increases & Licensing Changes (Effective Apr 2025 - Apr 2026)

Change Type	Affected Product/Programme	Effective Date	Description/Details	Potential Impact
Billing Premium	NCE Annual/Triennial Term, Monthly Pay (M365, O365, D365, Win365, Power Platform, etc.)	April 1, 2025	5% price premium compared to annual/triennial upfront payment for new/renewing subscriptions.	Increased cost for organisations preferring monthly payments on committed terms. Incentivises annual upfront payment.
Price Increase	Teams Phone Standalone (Standard, Frontline)	April 1, 2025	Standard increases from $8 to $10/user/month; Frontline from $4 to $5/user/month (USD).	Increased cost for standalone Teams Phone users; encourages adoption of M365 E5 suite.
Price Increase	Power BI Standalone (Pro, PPU)	April 1, 2025	Pro increases to ~$14/user/month; PPU to ~$24/user/month (USD).	Increased cost for standalone Power BI users; encourages adoption of M365 E5 suite.
Price Increase	On-Premises Servers (Exchange, SharePoint, SfB)	July 1, 2025	10% price increase for standalone server licences.	Increased cost for on-premises deployments/upgrades; encourages cloud migration.
Price Increase	On-Premises CAL Suites (Core, Enterprise)	July 1, 2025	Core CAL Suite increases 15%; Enterprise CAL Suite increases 20%.	Increased cost for accessing on-premises servers; encourages cloud migration.
Price Increase	System Centre (2025 & 2022 versions)	April 1, 2025 (CSP)	10% price increase compared to previous 2022 pricing.	Increased cost for datacentre management tools.
Price Increase	Office 365 G1 (Government)	March 1, 2025	Final 5% increment of phased price increase takes effect.	Increased cost for government customers using O365 G1.
Licensing Programme Shift	Enterprise Agreement (EA)	Jan 2025 onwards	Phasing out renewals for customers < 2400 users. Requires transition to MCA-E or CSP.	Major shift in procurement model for affected organisations; need to evaluate MCA-E vs. CSP. Loss of some traditional EA benefits/predictability.
Licensing Framework Update	New Commerce Experience (NCE)	Feb 1, 2025	Change Indicator and End-of-Sale price lists move from beta to GA.	Improved visibility into upcoming price list changes and product retirements within NCE.
Partner Programme Update	Microsoft Partner Agreement (MPA)	Oct 4, 2025	Updated MPA becomes effective for CSP partners.	Partners need to review and adhere to updated agreement terms.
Partner Programme Update	Partner of Record (POR) Validation (CSP)	April 14, 2025	Stricter validation for assigning indirect resellers as POR on new CSP subscriptions.	Ensures compliance, may impact indirect provider/reseller workflows if resellers are non-compliant.
Promotion End Date	Microsoft 365 E5 (New Customers)	June 30, 2025	15% discount promo ends.	End of opportunity for discounted E5 adoption for new customers.
Promotion End Date	Microsoft 365 Copilot (New Customers)	June 30, 2025	Extended 15% discount promo ends.	End of opportunity for discounted Copilot adoption for new customers via CSP.

Change Type	Affected Product/Programme	Effective Date	Description/Details	Potential Impact
Promotion Start/End Dates	Microsoft E5 Compliance (Copilot Customers)	Feb 1, 25 - Feb 1, 26	50% discount available for eligible Copilot customers.	Opportunity to acquire E5 Compliance capabilities at reduced cost alongside Copilot investment.

ESU Availability and End Dates

Products	End of Extended Support/ESU Start Date	ESU End Date Year 1	ESU End Date Year 2	ESU End Date Year 3	Type of Security Update
Windows Embedded POSReady 7*	October 12, 2021	October 11, 2022	October 10, 2023	October 8, 2024	Critical, Important
SQL Server 2012	July 12, 2022	July 11, 2023	July 9, 2024	July 8, 2025	Critical
Windows Server 2012/R2	October 10, 2023	October 8, 2024	October 14, 2025	October 13, 2026	Critical, Important
SQL Server 2014	July 9, 2024	July 8, 2025	July 14, 2026	July 12, 2027	Critical
Windows 10***	November 11, 2025	October 13, 2026	October 12, 2027	October 10, 2028	Critical, Important