

Windows 7 Ends in 2020. Why Upgrade Now?

It's time to put the upgrade plan in place while there is time for a measured and slower pace to a technical upgrade. For those wondering, when is Windows 7 no longer supported, well [the official date is in January of 2020](#). While it will work for a little while longer, think of that as cushioning in case the upgrade takes longer than necessary.



Why hurry? After Windows 7 goes dark, the machines running it are on borrowed time as vulnerabilities. This is particularly true of security vulnerabilities that will rapidly be released to take advantage of systems running Windows 7 being security patchless.

Imagine, some nefarious sort hanging out in the dark and dusty corners of the internet, this is just the kind of opportunity they've been waiting for: static systems with increasing decay that could contain vulnerabilities compatible with ransomware or valuable privacy data.

Even if firewalls and other network security are kept up to date, there is still exposure. It's like putting thousands of dollars in a cardboard box behind a security fence. No matter how high the fence is, once the bad guy has scaled it, they only have the cardboard between them and the cash. That also assumes that network upgrades will continue to account for Windows 7 as new things are discovered, which is highly unlikely. Network and security software will probably not continue to support a product that has moved into its end of life by the company that created it.

Why start the upgrade now? If a company uses more than a handful of machines, it can take months to upgrade the OS for each computer. It typically takes several hours to upgrade an OS and reconfigure the user's settings then connect to all the software and network spaces that the user needs.

That means a single IT Support Specialist can do just a few machines per day. It also means making sure machines are provisioned for users who will experience downtime on their usual machines so that they don't lose productivity. Starting soon gives IT the time it needs to make a plan to get an upgrade all the way across the finish line before security and stability become serious concerns and without losing productivity for employees.

It's a less frustrating and ultimately, an easier transition. It's worth calling out that Windows 8 is no longer supported either, so Windows 10 is the best Windows OS option. Windows appears to potentially be moving to a different versioning model, too. They seem to be working towards something similar to Apple's iOS versioning model.

More Like Apple? What?

Microsoft has a goal of Windows 10 being the OS for one billion devices. One billion. That's a lofty goal. In order to get there, all their resources need to be focused on Windows 10. In fact, since 2016, consumers could only buy machines with Windows 10.

Windows 7 and 8 were outdated and pointed toward the extinct row in the Computer History Museum. It makes good business sense that the company is focusing on support and patches for the standard bearing software, Windows 10.

This keeps resources available to stay on top of bugs, security issues, and new devices as they grow toward that massive number of machines.

Frankly, Windows 7 users were lucky to get an extension for as long as they did. For years companies received regular Windows 7 updates and patches. It's time to move forward as Microsoft prepares to follow a new standard in OS iterating.

Overwhelmed?

IT professionals can get swamped with the Windows 7 enterprise end of life transition. Between loaner machines and training new users, there's a lot of work outside the actual installation process. Reach out now [CDS Office Technologies' Network Assessments](#) to locate critical upgrades first and make a solid plan for your company to minimize the friction points during the upgrade.