

## Windows 7: Saying Goodbye to an Old Friend

Within the technology world, it is no secret that Microsoft has dominated the field. Microsoft’s easy to use Office suite, video games, widespread programming platforms, etc., are only a handful of the popular products from Microsoft. However, when we generally think of this technological behemoth, we often associate it with its extensive operating systems (OS). Windows NT, Windows 95, and Windows XP were among the operating systems that created a legacy for Microsoft.

Another OS of Microsoft that will leave a lasting impression is Windows 7. Windows 7 was released in July 2009. Since its release, users of Windows 7 have been largely loyal to this OS. Specifically, in 2018, Windows 7 held 43.43% of the market share, while Windows 10, which was released in July 2015, held only 33.21%.\* This oddly wide gap between the two operating systems can be attributed to the idea that we do not like change, especially if there is a high level of comfort and ease with one system already.

Unfortunately, Microsoft confirmed end users’ worst fears and issued several reminders on an EOL (end-of-life) for Windows 7. Windows 7’s EOL has been set for **January 14, 2020**. What this EOL means for Windows 7 is that Microsoft *will no longer offer its users security updates* for this OS. While Windows 7 computers will still be functional after this date, Microsoft *strongly* urges its customers to update to a more modern OS, such as Windows 10. This push by Microsoft to get users updated is becoming more apparent, because Windows 7 users, who regularly patch their systems, will continue to receive those “pesky” notifications about Windows 7 nearing the end of support.

Although these notifications can be annoying to some, the reality that needs to be understood is the danger of having an unpatched system. Having an unpatched system can equate to your becoming more vulnerable to security risks and malware. As we have seen in past news articles, malware, for example, has the potential to spread across your networks and cause detrimental and, sometimes, unrecoverable destruction. Therefore, for best practices and security purposes, it is very important to upgrade your OS to Windows 10 before Windows 7’s EOL deadline.

Below is a reference list that shows Microsoft’s EOL on its other operating systems:

Client operating systems	Latest update or service pack	End of mainstream support	End of extended support
Windows XP	Service Pack 3	14 April 2009	8 April 2014
Windows Vista	Service Pack 2	10 April 2012	11 April 2017
Windows 7 *	Service Pack 1	13 January 2015	14 January 2020
Windows 8	Windows 8.1	9 January 2018	10 January 2023
Windows 10, released in July 2015 **	N/A	13 October 2020	14 October 2025

Please contact [security@catic.com](mailto:security@catic.com) with any questions.

\*Techrepublic.com

\*\*Forbes.com