



READY OR NOT Windows 10 IS COMING TO END-OF-LIFE

Your Essential Guide to **Navigating**
End-of-Life, **Mitigating Risks**, and
Upgrading with Confidence



The Countdown to End-of-Life

14th October 2025 marks the official end of support for Windows 10. From that day forward, Microsoft will no longer deliver:

- **Security updates and vulnerability patches** to protect against emerging threats
- **Bug fixes** for performance and reliability issues
- **Technical support**, including troubleshooting assistance
- **New feature updates** or compatibility improvements

Many organisations underestimate how quickly these deadlines arrive. Delaying preparation increases the chance of unplanned outages and rushed migrations.





The Hidden Risks of Staying on Windows 10

Remaining on Windows 10 past the end-of-life date can expose your business to a wide range of threats and challenges:



Heightened Cyber Security Vulnerabilities

Unsupported operating systems are a magnet for attackers. Once security updates stop:

- Any newly discovered vulnerability will remain permanently unpatched
- Cyber criminals will quickly exploit known flaws
- Even robust security tools can only do so much if the underlying system is unsupported

The cost of a data breach or ransomware incident often far exceeds the cost of timely upgrades.



Compliance Gaps and Regulatory Risk

If your business handles personal data or operates in regulated sectors, running obsolete software could:

- Breach GDPR requirements for “appropriate technical measures”
- Undermine Cyber Essentials or ISO 27001 certification
- Lead to contractual non-compliance with clients or suppliers

Auditors and insurers increasingly view unsupported systems as a material risk.



Operational Dysfunction and Productivity Loss

Beyond security, unsupported systems are more prone to:

- Software incompatibility as vendors stop testing against Windows 10
- Driver issues with newer peripherals and hardware
- Reduced performance as updates for critical applications cease

Over time, you may find essential tools simply stop working, impacting employees and customers alike.



Reputational Damage

If an incident occurs because you failed to upgrade, the reputational fallout can be lasting. Clients and partners expect businesses to take basic steps to protect systems and data.



The Advantages of Windows 11

Windows 11 offers substantial improvements across security, productivity, and manageability. Here are some of the most important benefits to expect:

Next Generation Security

Windows 11 was designed for today's threat landscape, combining hardware and software protections:

- **Trusted Platform Module (TPM) 2.0** for cryptographic security
- **Secure Boot** to prevent tampering during startup
- **Virtualisation-Based Security (VBS)** and **Hypervisor-Protected Code Integrity (HPCI)** to isolate sensitive processes
- **Windows Hello** for fast, passwordless authentication

These capabilities help reduce the attack surface and align with zero trust security principles.



Modern Productivity Features

Windows 11's streamlined design helps employees work faster and more intuitively:

- **Snap Layouts** and **Snap Groups** for effortless multi-tasking
- An updated **Start Menu** and Taskbar designed for clarity and speed
- **Direct integration with Microsoft Teams** for instant collaboration
- Improved **touch, pen, and voice input** for modern devices

For hybrid and remote teams, these enhancements can drive tangible productivity gains.



Compatibility and Performance

Windows 11 is optimised for the latest processors and hardware:

- Faster resume times and better battery efficiency
- Enhanced support for high-resolution displays and modern GPUs
- Compatibility with new applications and cloud platforms



Long-Term Support

By upgrading, you ensure:

- Continued access to security updates and feature improvements
- Compatibility with Microsoft's roadmap of services and products
- A stable, supported platform for years to come



How to Prepare for the Transition

Moving to Windows 11 is not just an IT task - it's a strategic priority.

Follow this approach to mitigate disruptions:



Asses Your Environment

- Create an inventory of all Windows 10 or earlier devices
- Check compatibility with Windows 11 (processor, TPM, RAM)
- Identify critical systems and applications

Use Microsoft's [Compatibility Checker Guide here](#) to see if your device is able to upgrade to Windows 11.



Develop a Migration Plan

- Set timelines for pilot testing and full deployment
- Budget for potential hardware upgrades
- Communicate plans and timelines to all stakeholders



Train and Support Users

- Provide training resources to help teams adapt
- Offer support channels during and after migration



Execute Early

- Avoid the last-minute rush as the end-of-life date nears
- Reduce risk by completing the transition before October 2025





Your Windows 11 Transition Partner

Apex Computing is here to help you take the stress out of this major change.

We can support you with:
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Windows 10