

# Prepping for the end of life for Windows 10

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What it means for you and your business



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Even good software must come to an end. Support for Windows 10 will be officially shutting down on **October 14, 2025**. This means Microsoft will no longer offer security updates, technical support, or patches for the long-standing operating system.



## What does that mean for your and your business?

While the official end of life for Windows 10 support is a ways off from happening, keeping your operating system up to date can critically affect your business. Upgrading to Windows 11 (or higher) will ensure that you continue receiving important security updates, access to new features, and compatibility with the latest software.

If you're already on Windows 11, there's nothing to worry about. But if you're still using Windows 10, it might be worth planning an upgrade in the near future to avoid potential risks and disruptions.

Let's look at how the end of support life for Windows 10 can affect your business.

# Risks of Not Updating to Windows 11 or Higher

## **System Vulnerability**

Any vulnerabilities discovered after the end of life for Windows 10 wouldn't be resolved, leaving your system and business exposed to digital threats.

## **Compliance Failure**

Operating systems that are no longer supported by the manufacturer may fail to comply with industry regulations and standards. Compliance frameworks like GDPR, HIPAA, and PCI DSS often mandate the use of supported and secure software. Non-compliance can also result in significant fines and reputational damage.

## **Out-of-Date Software and Apps**

Newer apps and software will no longer be compatible with your system, as developers would be focused on supporting the newest operating systems.

## **Operational Disruptions**

Without ongoing support and updates, you may encounter compatibility issues with software and hardware, leading to operational inefficiencies. Critical business applications may cease to function optimally, impacting productivity and service delivery.

## **Less File Protection**

Along with system vulnerability, your files and data are now at high risk, and with the lower security, potential hackers and cyber threats can get through and corrupt or steal your data.

# Benefits of Updating to Windows 11 or Higher

## **Malware Resistant**

For those migrating to Windows 11, they'll find the system is much more secure and resistant to malware and other potential threats.

## **Built in Generative AI - Copilot**

Microsoft's generative AI tool Copilot combines the most relevant updated data using ChatGPT and Bing web-scraping, quickly becoming the favored AI assistant for Windows 11 users.

## **Improved Included Apps**

All apps that are included in Windows 10 are much improved when making the move to Windows 11, including a better overall experience with music and podcast players, a new video editor app, a refreshed screenshot tool, and focus sessions.

## **Consistent and Appealing Interface**

Windows 11 is a professional grade interface, including easy to navigate tools and menus, monitor docking, all new organizational layout tools and widgets, HDR performance, and really, it just looks nicer.



## How can you prepare the for the end of life for Windows 10?

Don't worry, we'll walk you through the next steps. The checked items are covered in your Technology OneSource Agreement. NetGain will handle those items for you!

### **Install Updates**

Regularly check for and install Windows updates to ensure your system remains secure and up-to-date.

### **Back Up Your Files**

Before making any changes, ensure you have a complete backup of your important files, photos, settings, and applications. This will help you restore your data if anything goes wrong during the transition.

### **Evaluate Compatibility**

Ensure your critical applications will work post-transition by checking compatibility with newer operating systems, contacting software vendors for upgrade options, and considering alternative software solutions if needed.

### **Plan for a Budget**

Budgeting for the transition is crucial. Allocate funds for new hardware if needed, account for potential software upgrade costs, and consider the long-term cost benefits of modernizing your IT infrastructure.

# Moving on.... Now or Later?

Honestly, you can make the move now, later, or even after Windows 10 support is no longer around. The choice is yours. Once you understand the risks with staying on the unsupported operating system, the big to-do is actually making the switch.

Switching to Windows 11 for free is the move we recommend making, sooner rather than later. Here's how you can update:

## ■ Complete all Prep Items

Before you begin updating, check off the items on the prep list to prepare for the move over.

## ■ Install Windows 11

To check if Windows 11 is ready for your device, select Start > Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update > Check for Updates. You can also visit the Microsoft Windows 11 Download page and update manually, or troubleshoot through Microsoft's Website.

## ■ Train Your Employees

All apps that are included in Windows 10 are much improved when making the move to Windows 11, including a better overall experience with music and podcast players, a new video editor app, a refreshed screenshot tool, and focus sessions.



Contact us for more details or information.

