



Microsoft Ending Updates On Windows 7 *Act Now To Stay Secure*

Windows 7 has been a staple desktop and laptop operating system for the past decade but by January next year, the support for it will be withdrawn by Microsoft. At the same time, Microsoft are withdrawing support for Windows Server 2008, which still runs many networks. In both cases, updates and patches will no longer be available, causing an increasing risk of security issues or incompatibility with other software programmes.

This means that while your computers will continue to run, they will no longer be eligible to receive any support from Microsoft for any issue, software updates and security updates or fixes.

This ten-year period of support was a commitment made by Microsoft and has been highlighted for many years, but to some it may come as a shock and with seemingly little time to prepare going forward!

However, there are several options to ensure that the transition is a smooth one, which results in better supported devices that will be properly protected. It is of paramount importance to develop a strategy to replace, retire or upgrade devices still using Server 2008 or Windows 7 as soon as possible. Here are some useful tips:

Upgrading your current devices to Windows 10 and Server 2016 will provide the latest security updates, frequent patches from Microsoft and ongoing feature improvements to help keep you and your data safer.

If you have older hardware, an upgrade might not be viable so you should seek to replace the current devices in order to ensure Windows is running at a capacity which is fast, safe and trustworthy. There are a number of cashback and spread payment options in the market at the moment, many being supported by Microsoft so this is a good time to bag a deal on new hardware

If upgrade or replacement isn't an option, then you can still look to re-purpose or simply retire older hardware when it stops working properly as long as this is planned properly.

The starting point for any plan is to conduct an assessment of your current hardware and then put together a refresh plan. Fortunately, Computeam can help make this process much easier and ease any worries you have about running older systems!

We will work with you on an individual basis to:

- 1 Provide a report of your old hardware to see if it will run Windows 10, then put together an update plan with pricing if viable
- 2 Plan for any new equipment requirements including cashback for returning your out of date Windows 7 devices. More information will become available about specific offers throughout the process.
- 3 Offer alternative strategies for extending the life of existing hardware.
- 4 Discuss other security measures such as upgrading Anti-Virus protection if contracts are expiring.

It is important to understand that there are plenty of options available, despite Server 2008 and Windows 7 no longer being supported from next year. However, it is of paramount importance that you start planning now to avoid security risks and last minute issues which could be extremely damaging.

By addressing this sooner rather than later, the work can be completed in plenty of time to ensure all organisations are supported fully.

Do not hesitate to contact us directly, if you would like any clarification of anything in this document.

