

Windows 7 End of Life and what it means to your organization

What	When	Why
Microsoft ends support for the Windows 7 operating system.	January 14, 2020	Windows 7 is 10 years old.

Windows 7 will continue to work after January 14th. However, Microsoft will no longer provide security and maintenance patches.

If your organization is using Windows 7, then these computers are likely to be at least 4 years old, and probably much older. After 5 years, it's a good time to replace desktop computers. (Laptops can lose usefulness well before 5 years.)



So, what are the options?

1. Replace the computer.

This is the ideal choice. While some computers may last up to 10 years, the likelihood is low. Components will fail. A new computer with Windows 10 is a sound solution for years to come.

2. Upgrade the computer.

Nextworks can upgrade your computer to Windows 10. All of your applications and data will still be as they were. However, this doesn't always work. Sometimes the update will fail, or in a few cases, some application will not work.

Updating is time consuming. One must consider the opportunity cost. Nevertheless, if upgrading is deemed the best route, then it might also be a good time to replace the hard drive with a faster one. This will also provide insurance as old drives do eventually fail.

3. Do nothing.

For non-essential, or seldom used computers, this is certainly an option. Windows 7 will continue to function. Page 2 explains the implications.

Important: Various compliance regulations will not permit Windows 7. (Examples: healthcare, banking regulation, and criminal justice)

What are the “real world” implications of no longer receiving Microsoft Windows 7 support?

Most Windows 7 patches are security updates. These automatically download on a weekly cycle. And of these security patches, most of these are focused on computers that are directly on the Internet and/or have little or no anti-virus protection.

These patches will discontinue.

As a Nextworks Managed Services client, your network firewall provides a protection barrier. Nextworks keeps your firewall patches current. You will also have Avast anti-virus installed on all computers. This is also patched regularly. Together, these *help* to protect all the computers in your organization.

Microsoft is also discontinuing Windows 7 technical support. Because you have Nextworks as a partner, this support is not required.

How do I know if I have Windows 7 or Windows 10?

In the lower left corner of your screen, you will see the Windows logo as follows:

