

Windows 10 is reaching end of life: **Your options**



There's something that as business owners and managers we deal with less than our staff: **Unexpected change.**

We're the ones who decide what changes will happen and when, It's one of the advantages of leadership isn't it?

However there is an inevitable shift approaching that you can't avoid... although you do have some options to take control of it.

Microsoft is saying goodbye to Windows 10. It's officially reaching the end of its life.

If your business utilises Windows 10 systems, you need to be aware of this and decide what you want to do. The deadline may seem like a long way off, but early decisions can help cut costs and minimise potential disruptions.

This guide explores what this transition entails, its consequences for your business, and outlines your straightforward choices for the future.



The end of the road

First things first: What does it mean when we say that Windows 10 is reaching its end of life?

There are support and security implications.

Microsoft adheres to a lifecycle policy for its operating systems, a roadmap that dictates the lifespan of each version from birth to retirement. And for Windows 10, that journey is drawing to a close. After a decade of reliable service, on 14th October 2025, Windows 10 will gracefully exit the stage and reach its end of life.

When this occurs, the operating system doesn't simply stop working. It remains functional but is left vulnerable without the safety net of its usual regular updates.

Without being overly dramatic, it becomes a ticking time bomb. We'll explain why shortly.

As Windows 10 arrives at its final destination, you have a choice what to do - and four options to choose from.





Option #1: Pretend it's not happening

This is the “do-nothing” approach. You know, the classic “bury your head in the sand” move. It’s tempting. Change can be daunting, and at times, it feels simpler to stick with the familiar, even if it’s past its expiration date.

But here’s the thing: When Microsoft says they’re pulling the plug on support for Windows 10, they mean business.

What does it mean when an operating system like Windows 10 loses support?

It goes beyond just missing out on the newest features. The main issue is security. Without regular updates, your operating system becomes an easy target for cyber criminals. They WILL leverage unpatched vulnerabilities in Windows 10 once free security updates end.

For any business this can’t be acceptable. Think of all the

sensitive data that passes through your computer: Customer info, financial data, trade secrets.

Unsupported software is like leaving the front door wide open and hanging up a sign that says, “Come on in”.

And the repercussions of a security breach are not to be underestimated. It’s not just about the immediate headache (and expense) of cleaning up the mess. It’s the long-term damage to your reputation, the trust you’ve spent years building. All down the drain in one fell swoop.

Let’s explore some better alternatives...

Option #2: Upgrade to Windows 11

This is the obvious choice: Windows 11. If you've been considering the upgrade, there's no better time than now. Trust us, once you experience what Windows 11 has to offer, you'll be wondering why you waited so long.

Before anything else, you need to be aware of the system requirements. Windows 11 comes with its own specifications, so it's important to make sure your devices are up to the job. Corbel can help you with this so you can budget for any upgrades or replacements in plenty of time.

If your device meets the criteria, you're good to go. And if not, well, we'll cross that bridge when we come to it (in the next section, to be precise).

Now, let's dive into what makes Windows 11 so exciting. It's a productivity-boosting, timesaving, organisational wonder, thanks to a load of new features and improvements. From the revamped Start menu to the improved taskbar and redesigned Microsoft Store, everything is designed with one goal in mind: Making your life easier.

There are Snap Layouts and Snap Groups – your personal organisational assistants, helping you arrange your windows exactly how you like them for maximum productivity.

There are Widgets: Your personalised dashboard for staying up to date with news, weather, and your favourite apps.

And let's not overlook Copilot. This AI-powered assistant can help you with just about everything from scheduling meetings to finding the perfect GIF for your presentation. It can even summarise your Teams meetings and highlight the key points to you.

That's not to mention the extra security, smoother functionality, and all-round intuitiveness that comes with this latest version of Windows.

Transitioning to Windows 11 might seem like a daunting task, but trust me, the rewards are well worth the effort. With a bit of planning, you can make the move with minimal disruption or frustration.



Option #3: Invest in new devices

What if after running a compatibility check, you discover that your current devices don't meet the requirements for the Windows 11 upgrade?

It's a stumbling block, sure. But of course, there's a solution. Remember that sometimes embracing change is the key to unlocking new opportunities.

Investing in new devices can feel like a big expense. But think of it as an investment in the future of your business. If your devices are overdue for an upgrade, it's an inevitable step that you'll need to take sooner or later. And when you do, you'll benefit from improved performance, and even better default security features.

You're not just buying new hardware; you're buying peace of mind.

Then there's the disruption factor. Yes, transitioning to new devices might cause a little upheaval in your day-to-day operations. But with careful planning and expert guidance, you can minimise the impact and ensure a smooth transition for your entire team.

If you're not sure what you need, or what to expect, let's work through numbers together and figure out exactly what you're looking at in terms of cost. While we're at it, we can even take a closer look at your current set-up and see if there are any devices that might be salvageable or repurposed to help offset the cost.





Option #4: Pay for security updates (and extend Windows 10)

Perhaps you've considered your choices and opted to stick with good old Windows 10 for a bit longer? But you want to do it safely?

This can be done. Remember earlier we said, "When Microsoft says they're pulling the plug on support for Windows 10, they mean business?"

Well, that's not entirely accurate. Microsoft will still be developing security updates for Windows 10. They just won't be free.

This is known as the Extended Security Updates (ESUs) program. It's like a lifeline for businesses that aren't ready to say goodbye to Windows 10 yet.

For the first year, the cost of an ESU subscription will be \$61 (around £50) per device. Not too bad, right? But hold onto your hat because it gets worse. In year two, the price doubles. And in year three? You guessed; it doubles again. Ouch.

The total cost of a three-year ESU subscription is enough to make anyone's wallet cry. We're talking \$61 + \$122 + \$244 (£50 + £100 + £200), for a grand total of \$427 (£350) per device. And that's not even including any additional fees or taxes that might get tacked on.

You may be prepared to pay for security's sake. And if you're determined to stick with Windows 10, it's the right thing to do. Security updates are important, after all. But just remember, there are other options out there. You might just find that the grass is greener on the Windows 11 side of the fence.

Let's talk

If you're uncertain about which option is right for your business, we can help. This is what we help Suffolk businesses do every day of the week.

We can talk about how your business works, give you our bespoke recommendations, and support you with implementing whatever you choose in the least disruptive way possible.

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