



## Windows 7 – End of Life: What does it mean to Accounting Core users?

Jan 14, 2020: Microsoft ended support for Windows 7 OS (operating system).

**Windows 7 support** will **end** on January 14, 2020. If you continue to use **Windows 7** after **support** has **ended**, your PC will still work, but it will become more vulnerable to security risks and viruses because you will no longer receive software updates, including security updates, from **Microsoft**. Nov 7, 2019

Date TBD: M3 will disable access to [www.clientportal.m3as.com](http://www.clientportal.m3as.com) for users' systems who are on Windows 7. This date was previously set for April 14, 2020.

Rationale: M3 is chartered with securing customer data. In order to do this, M3 must prevent the ability of parties that would like to hack in and cause damage. We have all seen reports of local governments such as Atlanta and New Orleans that have had their systems breached. M3 takes this threat seriously and has put resources into play to protect our customers' data. To ensure our processes are effective, we must require our customers to aide in this manner by upgrading their operating systems to an updated and supported operating system.

### Windows:

Windows 10

### Citrix: For the version Windows 1907

<https://www.citrix.com/downloads/workspace-app/legacy-workspace-app-for-windows/workspace-app-for-windows-latest1.html#ctx-dl-eula>

Article : <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/techburger/article/Still-using-Windows-7-Support-ends-next-week-14955967.php>

On Jan. 14, Microsoft shut the door on support for Windows 7. The company will no longer issue fixes and security patches for the aging operating system, which was first released in 2009. If you're one of the many still using Windows 7, your computer will be increasingly vulnerable to malware and hacking.

The time, as they say, is nigh. If you have not upgraded to Windows 10, you should. I asked veteran tech journalist Ed Bott — author of “Windows 10 Inside Out” — about options for Windows 7 users at this late hour. He graciously provided insight, along with a tip on how you may still be able to get a free upgrade to Windows 10.

**Microsoft really won't just abandon Windows 7 users to malware and hacks, will it? Weren't there some emergency patches issues for XP after it reached end-of-life?**

**Yes, they really will.** There was an emergency patch for the WannaCry malware outbreak in May 2017, but that was an extremely rare exception. If something similar happens in the months or years after support ends for Windows 7, it would likely mean there was a similarly widespread and damaging outbreak, which would not be good news.

**END OF LIFE: Rice University scrambles to update its Windows 7 computers**

**Microsoft will sell security patches to businesses, yes? Can consumers buy them?**

These so-called Extended Security Updates (ESUs) are available to anyone running Windows 7 Pro, Ultimate or Enterprise. They cost \$50 (or more, depending on what your reseller charges) for the calendar year 2020, \$100 for 2021 and \$200 for 2022.

To enable these updates, you have to establish a commercial relationship with a Microsoft partner that is part of the Cloud Solution Provider (CSP) program. That company sells you a product key, and then you have to go through some technical mumbo-jumbo to apply the key and enable the updates.

I tried finding a CSP that would sell me an ESU license back in December. If you already have a relationship with a CSP, this might not be difficult, but otherwise, expect to jump through a lot of hoops.

**For someone who decides to upgrade now to Windows 10 on a home machine, what's involved?**

It's a simple process.

Before getting started, I recommend checking for any essential driver updates, and especially for systems that were originally sold in 2015 or earlier, for BIOS updates. I also recommend temporarily uninstalling third-party antivirus and low-level system software. (You can reinstall it after the upgrade is complete.) Then disconnect any unnecessary external storage devices until the upgrade is complete.

### **OLD RELIABLE: In praise of older computers**

With that out of the way, you go to Microsoft's [Windows 10 download site](#). There, you can download a utility called the Media Creation Tool, which runs under Windows 7 and lets you perform the upgrade. It takes an hour or more (sometimes a lot more, especially for an older system), but it doesn't require a product key, and when you finish, you have a digital license for Windows 10.

### **Is it too late to get a free upgrade from Windows 7 to Windows 10?**

It's not too late! I wrote about this [back in 2017](#) for the first time and have been [updating my post regularly](#) since then. I continue to get several mails a day from people sharing success stories and thanking me for posting the instructions. I don't anticipate that Microsoft will turn off this option.

### **If a computer can't be upgraded to Windows 10 because it's too old, what are the options?**

The obvious answer is to replace it with something more modern. Systems that won't upgrade to Windows 10 typically either are old and slow or are affected by some sort of compatibility block.

If you like the hardware and want to keep it, you're better off replacing the unsupported OS with something like Linux, which can probably handle most common workloads such as web browsing.