

Servium



Your Windows 7 extinction
survival guide

Time is up for Windows 7





Extinction is on the horizon for Windows 7



Microsoft will end its support for the Windows 7 operating system (OS) on 14th January 2020. This may still seem like an age away, but with less than a year to go, there's no time to lose if you're yet to make plans. As soon as support from Microsoft has officially drawn to a close next year, Windows 7 will no longer receive any technical assistance for issues, software updates, or security patches, leaving the OS at risk and ultimately vulnerable to viruses and malware. In short, Windows 7 is facing an extinction event, and it's essential you've taken steps to make sure your business' IT doesn't go the same way.

According to web analytics specialist, Net Applications, 36.5% of all PCs are still running Windows 7, with only 43.6% running Windows 10, even though it was released back in July 2015! As has been seen with previous end of support announcements, many organisations are demonstrating a reluctance to upgrade to Microsoft's latest operating system, Windows 10. While continuing with Windows 7 is certainly a choice, it's difficult to make the case to do so versus the considerable security exposure that goes with it. And as has been seen with recent high-profile security breaches that targeted XP, hackers are looking to pick off those with the weakest defences first.

Security risk isn't the only reason to make the move - sticking with Windows 7 will bring with it increased costs, an inferior user experience, and huge restrictions on the choices of applications available to legacy OS users. That's why we think it's time to let go of the past and embrace the future.

As such, we've created this handy guide on what you need to know to survive the Windows 7 extinction so that you're completely prepared for the impending meteor strike.



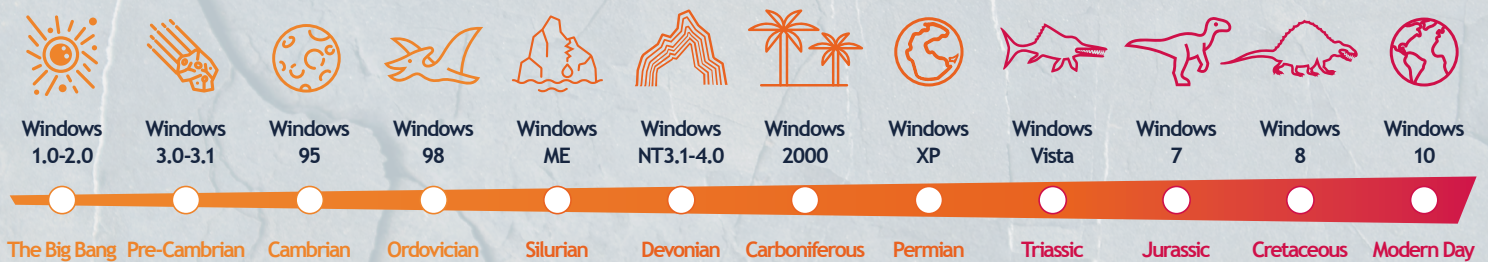


Time to evolve



Over the last 40 or so years, Microsoft has created a long line of operating systems that we've loved and then lost for the sake of evolving to a better, more modern alternative. This remarkable timeline has enabled us to continually experience Windows at its best, and now Windows 10 has become the next natural step in the evolution of the operating system.

It's also likely to be the last major release of the OS as Microsoft moves to a model of faster release cycles and micro updates set to occur on a continual basis. So, as the dinosaurs discovered when faced with their own extinction event, you have to evolve to survive.



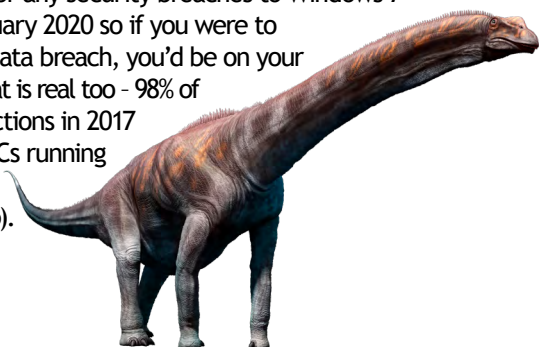
Don't stick with a fossil, be the top of the food chain

There's lots to love about Windows 7, which is why it's become one of the most popular Microsoft operating systems of all time, but its time is up. We've taken a leaf out of prehistory's book to bring you 5 reasons why your Windows 7 operating system needs to evolve, and why Windows 10 is the dominant species:

Security



Arguably one of the biggest issues of continuing with Windows 7 post-end of support is that there will no longer be any more security updates. That means your vulnerabilities will not be fixed, making your OS a prime target for cybercriminals. New malware is developed daily, and many hackers will already be aware of the Windows 7 end of support date and are poised to exploit this as soon as the change is implemented. You'll also be leaving your data open to attack, and with that data unprotected, your business is no longer GDPR-compliant. Microsoft has already stated that it will not be taking responsibility for any security breaches to Windows 7 after 14th January 2020 so if you were to experience a data breach, you'd be on your own. The threat is real too - 98% of WannaCry infections in 2017 originated in PCs running Windows 7 (Kaspersky Lab).



Thicker skin



Windows 10 was built with security in mind, and thanks to its impressive built-in security system, Windows Defender, offers the best level of security protection possible from any Microsoft OS. Including advanced endpoint protection and enhanced security for web browsing and email, not only does it defend two of the most vulnerable functions of your PC, but also greatly reduces the likelihood of cyberattacks due to continuous updates, credential protection, and a "block at first sight" smart screen. Harnessing the many advantages of Windows 10 Defender will also demonstrate to your customers that you're serious about security, making them feel more secure about keeping their data with you and building a greater level of trust. Ultimately, even with a great security plan in place, if your OS is not supported, you and your people are vulnerable - Windows 10 mitigates the risks.





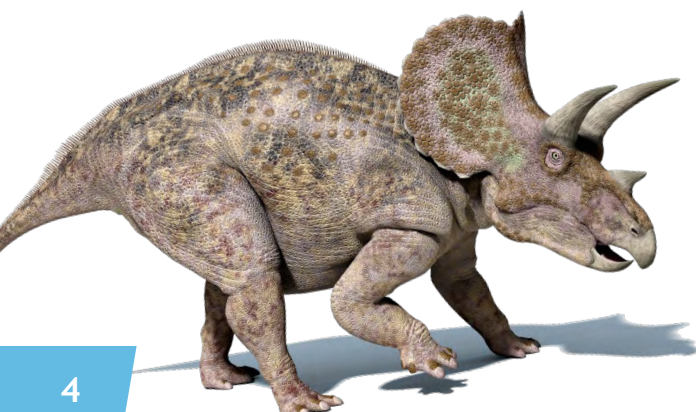
Compatibility

Of course, security updates aren't the only thing that users will be neglected of by sticking with Windows 7 - they also won't receive any feature updates or new applications, as much of the latest software is now incompatible with the legacy OS. Likewise, selected manufacturers are now ceasing their driver support for Windows 7 and many of the newest chipsets from the likes of Intel and AMD are only compatible with Windows 10. Your users will not, as a result, have access to the most up-to-date apps or hardware. This could seriously hamper their productivity and, given the growing generational demand for the latest and greatest technology, impact their overall satisfaction as an employee.



User experience

Windows 7 is slow. Its boot-up time is frustrating by today's standards, and the time it now takes to update and get through its increasing backlog of installs requires the patience of a saint. As it continues to age without any particular grace, it's also beginning to become far less reliable and isn't performing anywhere near as well as you need. This is most evident in its choice of default browser - Internet Explorer. IE is a dying breed, with many people now opting for Chrome or even Microsoft's new browser, Edge, which is not available for Windows 7. With Microsoft ending security updates for IE on Windows 7 as of 2020 as well, you'll be susceptible to even more security issues from an unsupported browser.



Highly adaptable

Windows 10 is an operating system that's constantly adapting. Due to its compulsory and continuous updates, your devices will never be behind the curve and are ready to power all the latest collaboration and workspace tools. The newest CPUs and GPUs are also only compatible with Windows 10, seeing you enjoy the very best hardware too. Windows 10 makes it far easier for businesses to deploy upgrades as and when they're needed, ensuring updates are cumulative and on a rolling basis, rather than dumped together in a single chunk. And because Microsoft has confirmed that Windows 10 will be its final operating system, upgrading to it will be the last big leap you'll ever have to take.



Fast and furious

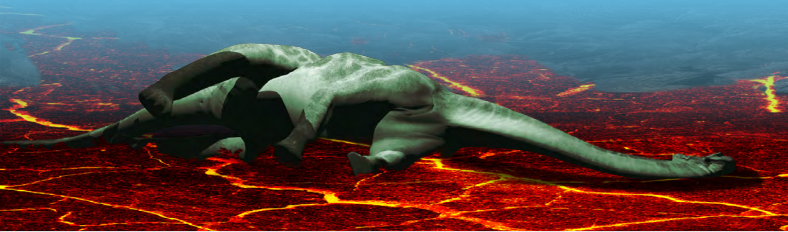
Much faster than its older ancestor, Windows 10 is more powerful, better performing, and far more user-friendly. Since the introduction of the Windows 8 Start Screen was met with disapproval by many users, Microsoft has combined the best of both worlds with Windows 10 - reintroducing the familiar Start Menu of Windows 7 while maintaining the customisable tile function of Windows 8. Accompanying this welcomed change is a vastly improved browsing experience, made possible by the fastest browser on the market - Edge. The addition of Microsoft's virtual assistant, Cortana, to the Start Menu, is equally a breath of fresh air, making the sourcing of files via voice commands far quicker and more efficient - she's even got a wicked sense of humour.





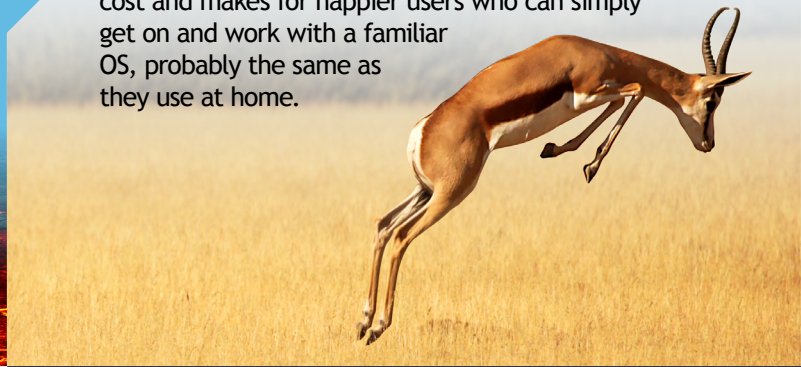
Productivity

Windows 7 is now a highly restricted operating system. Outdated, its waning features and capabilities cannot provide your users with the functionality they seek to produce their best work. Without the right apps and business-critical features at their fingertips, it's becoming more and more difficult for them to stay as productive as possible. And in the mobile-first world that we live in, Windows 7 is also not an ideal solution for employees who work on-the-go, offering minimal flexibility for users that spend a lot of time off-site. More tech-savvy users expect more sophistication from their workplace technology, and the confines of Windows 7 no longer cut it.



Greater agility

A single universal system, Windows 10 can be used across all of your Windows devices. Thanks to cross-platform apps and intelligent interoperability, your users can easily switch between their different devices as they work. This “work on one device, continue on another” approach is ideal for mobile-first users, giving them the freedom to work from any device, anywhere, at any time. This seamless experience creates a significant reduction in cost and makes for happier users who can simply get on and work with a familiar OS, probably the same as they use at home.



Connectivity

Your people are constantly getting more creative, and so need the right tools at their disposal to make the most of their ideas. This is becoming increasingly reliant on the many collaborative innovations and smart technologies made available through the Internet of Things (IoT). In fact, Gartner has estimated that there will be 20.8 billion IoT devices by 2020. However, because Windows 7 has now entered the realms of being a legacy OS, it is largely unable to support the demands of complex IoT devices and users cannot reap the benefits of being truly “connected”. Similarly, the idea of a collaborative workspace isn't achievable using Windows 7, as so much of this technology requires speed and performance, something Windows 7 is sadly lacking.



Smarter instincts

Windows 10 is ready for IoT. With superior security than its predecessors, IoT devices can more easily and securely integrate with the OS, ensuring the “connected” experience is much more seamless and therefore satisfying.

And thanks to Windows 10 IoT Core and Enterprise, it's possible to build all sorts of connected things into your workplace. Unlike the OS for computers, Windows 10 IoT is the lightest variant of the OS and is ready to help you secure, manage and provision exciting new devices as part of your cloud strategy.



An evolving OS needs a powerful PC

While you're still able to install Windows 10 onto an existing PC, it's not recommended or particularly cost-effective. Instead of having to take on this mammoth task, the best way of upgrading to Windows 10 is via a brand-new device. Choosing the right device is almost as important as making the switch itself. Windows 10 is a hugely feature-rich OS, built around the natural interfaces of touch and audio. It requires machines that are both powerful and versatile.





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Why HP for Windows 10

HP's Premium Family of business laptops have been designed in concert with Windows 10, enabling the user to maximise its potential and introducing complementary features that further enhance the experience. They're the perfect choice for any organisation serious about making the switch to Windows 10 and making the process as easy as possible. Above all else, extraordinary built-in security features such as Sure Start, Sure Click, Sure Run, and Sure Recover build on the measure inherent in Windows 10 to keep every device secure from the word go.

A line-up of modern, sleek designs ensures every user looks good while working and a 16-hour battery life means they spend less time worrying about when they next need to power up. Likewise, flexible mobility features made possible by its clever 2-in-1 designs and ultra-fast 4G LTE also make the devices ideal on-the-go companions, helping your remote users take advantage of the many mobile-ready benefits of Windows 10. By moving to a HP device, you're also automatically upgraded to Windows 10, meaning no more stress over hardware compatibility.

DaaS simplifies the switchover

Clearly, making the migration carries a significant investment for most organisations. Finding the money to upgrade some or all your device estate is a big financial drain. Until now.

Device as a Service from HP is a brand-new model for acquiring, managing, and refreshing your devices. Simply choose the technology you want, decide on the refresh period and accompanying lifecycle services - whether that's device monitoring, helpdesk support, or a host of other value-adding options - and pay a simple cost-per-user fee. No big capital expenses, just a more manageable ongoing fee for your devices.

DaaS is a fantastic vehicle for assisting migration to Windows 10 and relieves the financial burden of navigating a path to the new OS.

- 1 Choose your devices**
- 2 Select your lifecycle services**
- 3 Agree your term**
- 4 Receive your monthly service invoice**
- 5 The right technology in the hands of your users**

Evolve with Servium and HP

As one of HP's leading partners in the UK, we're ready to help you evolve to Windows 10 on secure, powerful devices that improve the user experience, support better mobility, and enhance productivity. Our Windows 10-specific services help you successfully implement Windows 10 into your business environment - whether that means simple device rollout or more complex application packaging, we're on hand to see everything goes off smoothly. If you would like to learn more about HP's Premium Family of business laptops or how Windows 7 end of support could affect your business, please contact your Account Manager, email us at hello@servium.com, or speak to one of the team on **+44 (0)303 334 3000**.

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