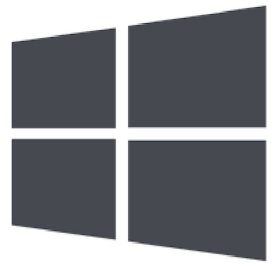


Windows 10 is reaching end of life: Your options

ILUX[®]



Windows 10

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

As decision makers, we generally determine what changes will occur and when they will be implemented.

However, there is a significant change on the horizon that can't be ignored.

Microsoft has announced that Windows 10 is officially reaching the end of its life.

You do however, have options...

If your business still relies on Windows 10 machines, it is crucial to be aware of this development and decide on your course of action.

While the deadline is still some time away, making decisions now will help reduce costs and minimise potential disruption.

This guide will explain what the end of Windows 10 means, the implications for your business, and outline your straightforward options moving forward.



Understanding End of Life

What do we mean when we say that Windows 10 is reaching its end of life?

Microsoft follows a lifecycle policy for its operating systems, which outlines the lifespan of each version from inception to retirement.

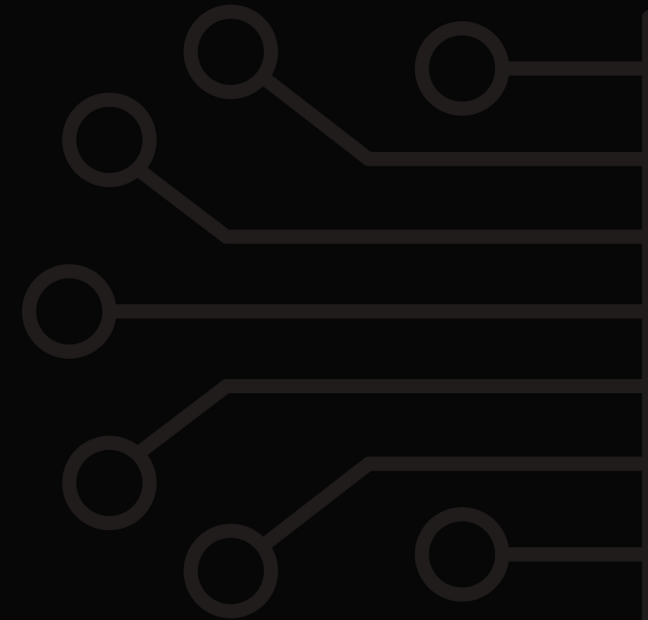
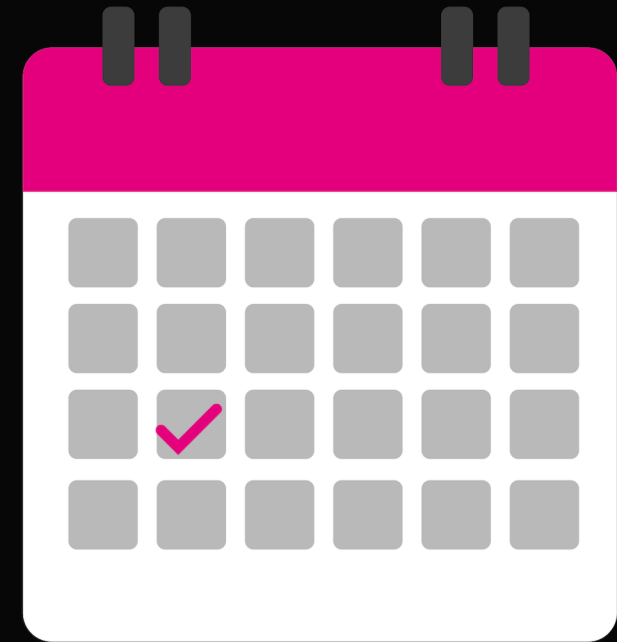
For Windows 10, this journey is nearing its end.

After a decade of service, Windows 10 will reach its end of life on 14 October 2025.

When this happens, the operating system will not cease to function immediately. However, it will no longer receive regular updates, leaving it vulnerable to security risks.

Without being overly dramatic, it becomes a ticking time bomb. We will explain the reasons for this shortly.

As Windows 10 reaches the end of its life, you have a decision to make, with three options available to you.



Option #1: Pretend it's **not happening**

This is the classic "bury your head in the sand" move. It's tempting - change is hard, and sometimes it's easier to stick with what you know, even if it's past its expiration date. However, when Microsoft announces the end of support for Windows 10, they mean it.

What Happens When Windows 10 Becomes Unsupported?

It is more than missing out on new features. The primary concern is security. Without regular updates, your operating system becomes vulnerable to cyber threats. Cybercriminals will target and exploit unpatched vulnerabilities in Windows 10 once free security updates end.

For any business, this is a huge risk. Consider the sensitive data that passes through your computers: customer information, financial data, trade secrets.

Running unsupported software is like leaving your front door wide open with a sign saying, "Come on in."

The Consequences of a Security Breach

The fallout from a breach is severe. Of course there is the immediate cost and hassle of dealing with the breach. But it is also about the long-term damage to your reputation and the trust you and your team have built with your clients - years of hard work can be undone in an instant.

Let's explore some better alternatives...



Option #2: Upgrade to Windows 11

This is the obvious choice: upgrading to Windows 11. If you've been considering the upgrade, now is the perfect time.

Upgrading to Windows 11 is not just about the present; it's about securing the future of your organisation. It ensures your systems are always supported, secure, and equipped with the latest features. The enhanced performance, improved security measures, and modern user interface are designed to boost productivity.

By making this transition now, you're future-proofing your business and fortifying your IT infrastructure against emerging threats.

Before proceeding, it's essential to be aware of the system requirements for Windows 11. Ensuring that your devices meet these specifications is crucial. A compatibility checker can help you determine if your devices are up to the task, and we can assist with this process.

If your device meets the criteria, you're good to go. If not, we look at your options in the next section.

Why Windows 11?

Windows 11 is designed to boost productivity, save time, and enhance organisation through a host of new features and improvements. Here are some highlights:

- **Revamped Start Menu:** A cleaner, more intuitive Start Menu
- **Improved Taskbar:** Enhanced functionality for better workflow
- **Redesigned Microsoft Store:** Easier access to apps and content

Productivity Features

- **Snap Layouts and Snap Groups:** These features help you organise your windows precisely how you like them for maximum productivity
- **Widgets:** A customised dashboard to keep you updated with news, weather, and your favourite apps.
- **Copilot:** An AI-powered assistant that can help with everything from scheduling meetings to finding the perfect GIF for your presentation. It can even summarise your Teams meetings and highlight key points.

Windows 11 offers extra security, smoother functionality, and overall improved intuitiveness.

Transition Planning

Upgrading to Windows 11 may seem daunting, but with careful planning, you can make the transition with minimal disruption. The rewards of enhanced security, productivity, and modern features make the effort well worth it.

Option #3: Invest in new devices

What happens if you've done the compatibility check and found that your current devices aren't suitable for the Windows 11 upgrade? This might seem like a significant hurdle, but it's an opportunity in disguise.

Why Invest in New Devices?

Investing in new devices can feel like a substantial expense. However, think of it as an investment in the future of your business. If your devices haven't been upgraded for some time, this is a step you'll need to take sooner rather than later. Upgrading will bring improved performance and enhanced default security features.

When you invest in new hardware, you're not just buying new equipment; you're investing in peace of mind.

Managing the Transition

Switching to new devices might cause some temporary disruption in your daily operations. However, with our expert guidance, you can minimise the impact and ensure a smooth transition for your entire team.

Cost Considerations

If you're unsure about what you need or what to expect, we can help you analyse the costs and determine the best options for you and your business. We can also review your current setup to identify any devices that might be salvageable or repurposed to help offset the cost.

Key Benefits of New Devices

- **Enhanced Performance:** New devices come with advanced hardware, leading to better overall performance
- **Improved Security:** Modern devices have built-in security features that provide a stronger defence against cyber threats
- **Future-Proofing:** Upgrading now ensures your business is ready for future software updates and innovations

Investing in new devices is a strategic move that will pay off in the long run by ensuring your business remains secure, efficient, and competitive.

Let's talk

Don't panic about the options; we are able to advise you on the best approach to ensure your business remains in peak condition and doesn't fall behind with the changes being imposed by Microsoft.

We can discuss how your business operates, provide tailored recommendations, and support you in implementing your chosen solution with minimal disruption.

Let's work together to ensure your business remains secure and efficient during this transition.

T: 01480 501500
www.ilux.co.uk

The ILUX logo is displayed in a bold, pink, sans-serif font. The letters are thick and blocky, with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end of the word.