



# The Next Step in Your Digital Transformation –

*Embrace Windows 11 for Your Enterprise*



# It's not time to mourn. It's time to upgrade.

Windows 10, released by Microsoft in 2015, is one of the most popular operating systems worldwide.

However, with technology constantly evolving, Microsoft is now concentrating on Windows 11, the next iteration of their operating system. Windows 11 provides improved security, boosted performance, productivity features, and enhanced gaming capabilities. This transition brings new possibilities for users, including a more seamless experience between devices and new ways to personalize their operating system.

Understanding the significance of Windows 10's end-of-life (EOL) is crucial for businesses. EOL, or End-of-Life, signifies when a publisher terminates support and security updates for a particular operating system version. For Windows 10, Microsoft has stated that the EOL date is October 14, 2025. Subsequently, Microsoft will cease issuing critical security updates, exposing businesses to potential threats.

Organizations must move toward the new platform before the final updates are released to ensure devices are supported and secure. This eBook will examine the risks and challenges of not upgrading, the benefits of upgrading, and how to plan and execute a smooth transition.



# Understanding the Risks and Challenges of Windows 10 EOL

The most basic and important thing you can do is keep your devices patched. Software updates help protect your data, correct problems that could corrupt files, and preserve compatibility. Once Windows 10 reaches EOL, security patches will no longer be included in the standard deployment. There will be no bug fixes or optimizations, which can crater productivity.

The transition to Windows 11 ensures that businesses can continue to receive crucial security updates, protecting their data and systems from potential cyber threats. But that's not the only issue. With updates come bug fixes that prevent issues down the road. It's important to keep up to date, not just with Windows but also with the components built into the applications.

If your devices are behind schedule, you'll find it hard to catch up. Quickly pivoting to mitigate a threat will be difficult. Having the proper tool sets available is critical so you can react properly. Simply put, your ability to fix any issues will be extremely limited because you won't have the latest and greatest tools.

By understanding the timeline and implications of Windows 10's EOL, businesses can stay proactive in adapting to the changing technological landscape and maximize the benefits of newer operating systems.

# Financial and compliance implications





If you don't have cybersecurity insurance, you should. Your rates are based on your compliance, security, and management footprint. Not upgrading to Windows 11 will open the door to a breach with many implications. You'll have to pay in more ways than one. A data breach has heavy reputational and financial costs. A single data breach has an average cost of \$164 per breached record. It adds up fast, and that doesn't include the increase in the cost of insurance.

## Remaining on Windows 10 poses substantial security risks




- With support ending on October 14, 2025, that means no further security updates, leaving you vulnerable to any new risks.
- This makes your systems easy pickings for cybercriminals. They target outdated systems without updated security to plant their malware, viruses, and other threats.
- Compatibility issues with other software become an additional security risk – you may be unable to use the latest, most secure versions.
- Access to technical support ends after the support end date, making it more difficult to resolve security issues quickly.

# The Benefits of Upgrading to Windows 11

Windows 11 brings advantages for businesses, including optimizations under the hood that aren't visible. For example, new compression technology means installing the operating system takes less space in the C drive. On the user side, there are features such as tabs for Explorer and an updated, more modern start menu. Other benefits include:

-  ▪ **Improved performance** with faster boot times and improved power efficiency.
-  ▪ **Enhanced security features** that provide robust protection: Microsoft Defender, secure boot, and TPM 2.0.
-  ▪ **Seamless integration** with Microsoft 365 will enable your business to leverage the full potential of productivity tools such as Teams, Outlook, and OneDrive to streamline communication and collaboration.
-  ▪ **A better user experience** with a fresh, modern interface with a visually appealing start menu, improved multitasking capabilities with Snap Layouts and Snap Groups, and enhanced touch, pen, and voice input features.

## For IT professionals:

-  ▪ **New tools like Windows Update** for Business and Microsoft Endpoint Manager simplify management. They make it easier to deploy, manage, and update devices across the organization.
-  ▪ **Better compatibility and app support.** Windows 11 supports traditional Win32 apps and newer Universal Windows Platform apps, which increases compatibility and enables your business to leverage a wider array of software tools and applications.
-  ▪ **Built-in virtualization capabilities** like Microsoft Hyper-V to create and manage virtual machines for testing, development, and running legacy applications.

Users and IT professionals can expect new features to be added as Windows 11 evolves. The modern tools already included in Windows 11 are built for how we work today, including hybrid work, which has become an important part of the landscape.

# Security

As businesses evolve, so do their adversaries' tactics, making it critical to keep tools and processes up to date and based on the needs of your particular organization. The way security policies are approached must change with a move toward a cloud-native configuration to move away from domain join and the technical debt of an on-premises infrastructure. Windows Local Administrator Password Solution (Windows LAPS) is one way to manage the local administrator password on devices requiring cloud technology.

Going above and beyond Windows 10, Windows 11 offers enhanced security benefits to protect users from ever more sophisticated hackers:

- **Hardware-based security.** You may need to replace some of your older PCs. Windows 11 requires hardware with Secure Boot and Trusted Platform Module 2.0 for secure booting.
- **The virtualization feature** isolates and creates a secure part of the memory from the operating system to help protect against attacks and malware.
- **A biometric authentication system** applies facial recognition, fingerprints, or PIN technology to eliminate passwords and increase security.
- **Built-in phishing protection** to prevent the stealing of personal information.

In addition, Windows 11 contains the Microsoft Pluton Security Processor integrated into the CPU to protect sensitive data. Smart App Control adds an extra layer of malware protection, and a memory integrity feature prevents malicious code from being inserted into high-security processes.

# Scalability

Scaling your business is impossible with out-of-date software. Windows 11 is designed to be more scalable than Windows 10 by providing a seamless experience across various devices, including desktops, laptops, tablets, and even hybrid or dual-screen devices.

With its focus on improving performance and efficiency, Windows 11 can handle demanding tasks, high-resolution displays, and resource-intensive applications. Scalability improvements, performance optimizations, and enhanced user interface all contribute to a refined and adaptable operating system that can grow with you, your users, and your devices.



# Planning and executing a smooth transition

Remember when you transitioned from Windows 7 to Windows 10? It took a lot of work. You had to migrate user data and ensure app compatibility because the platforms differed. There were also some security components that you had to change in the back end. I was very time-consuming and disruptive to the business and end users alike.

Times have changed.

Because Microsoft has a yearly release cycle for feature updates, they are much less intrusive, making the jump from Windows 10 to Windows 11 much faster. You can do it in place or remotely, and there are no issues with application compatibility—any app that works in Windows 10 should work in Windows 11. However, this should be verified within your organization.

- Group policies or Intune configurations? You can leave them in place, and they'll work better on Windows 11.
- For the most part, the back-end infrastructure is the same.
- Ensure your devices are managed by a modern management tool like Microsoft Configuration Manager.
- You can run reports—endpoint analytics—that will report your device readiness. Windows 11 has a more modern operating system that expects modern hardware. Devices must have UEFI firmware to get away from Legacy BIOS and a two-point TPM 2.0 chip for device security and encryption and for pairing with things like Windows.

You'll know which devices are ready and which ones are incompatible. The incompatible devices are likely five or six years old, so they are probably ready for replacement, and now is the time to do it. Microsoft is also making a big push to go from domain join to Cloud-native, where the devices are no longer joined to the Legacy domain and are managed by Cloud tools. The Windows 10 to Windows 11 transition is the perfect time to start making that break.



## Change management

No matter how smooth the transition to Windows 11 may be or how beneficial it is, it still represents a change. And change can be difficult for some. That's why creating a plan and communicating with users is so important. Let users know what to expect and where they can get support. What are the main differences they will see? The Start Menu will look different. Explorer now has tabs. Paint has a modern look and feel. Users will immediately notice these small changes. Make sure users feel included in the process.

Employees resistant to change would prefer to stick with the familiar, leading to a loss of productivity and a hit to morale. Windows 11 has new features and, as mentioned, a different user interface. Offer training and support so employees can use the system effectively and take advantage of its many features.

## How the change can affect your business

The change will affect Your entire business, creating additional concerns for management and IT staff. These include:

- **Compatibility:** Some hardware and legacy applications may not be compatible with Windows 11. This means updates or replacements, which can prove time-consuming and costly.
- **Migrating data:** It's essential to ensure that all data is secure and properly migrated to Windows 11. This is often a complex process that requires outside assistance.
- **Disruption and downtime:** The upgrade to Windows 11 can disrupt normal business operations and create downtime, so proper planning and scheduling are essential.
- **Security concerns:** Windows 11 offers enhanced security features, but the transition period can uncover vulnerabilities if not carefully managed. It is crucial to ensure that security protocols are followed and updated.

# How Core BTS Can Help Ease the Transition

Evolution is not an option – it's our ethos at Core BTS. Our approach is a unique blend of pragmatism and agility meticulously designed to confront and overcome challenges.

That includes EOL transitions, with a customized strategy built for your organization to ensure a smooth transition to Windows 11. We implement robust, up-to-the-minute security measures to protect your systems and data.

From [relocating bank data centers](#) to quashing cyber threats for a manufacturer to complete digital transformations, Core BTS makes any transition look simple. Just ask our satisfied clients.

EOL doesn't have to mean gnashing of teeth and pulling of hair. Just [reach out to Core BTS](#), where innovation lives in our DNA.



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