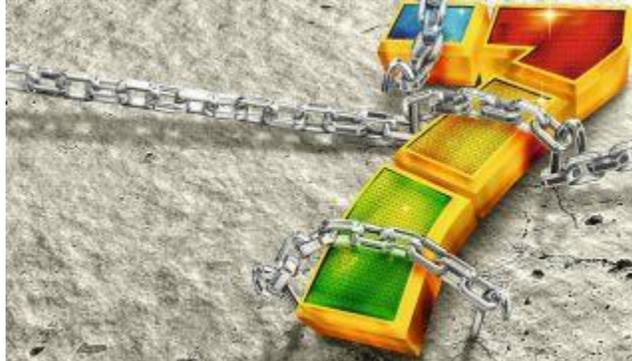


# Microsoft Windows 7 End of Life



## The end is near for Windows 7 – here's what you need to know

Microsoft has announced the date for Windows 7 End of Life: **January 14, 2020**. This means Microsoft will no longer update or support the operating system after that date.

The news that Windows 7 will soon no longer be supported by Microsoft means there are a lot of users out there who need to start thinking about finally moving on from the trusted operating system.

Microsoft actually ended mainstream support for Windows 7 on January 13, 2015, which meant new features stopped being added, and warranty claims were no longer valid.

## What happens next?

When Windows 7 reaches its End of Life phase on January 14, 2020, Microsoft will stop releasing updates and patches for the operating system. It's likely that it also won't offer help and support if you encounter any problems.

However, that doesn't mean Windows 7 will stop working on January 14, 2020 – you'll still be able to use Windows 7 for as long as you want. So the good news is that you're not going to wake up on January 15 to find your Windows 7 PC no longer boots up.

But just because you can continue to use Windows 7 in its End of Life status, it doesn't mean you should. The biggest issue with continuing to use Windows 7 is that it won't be patched for any new viruses or security problems once it enters End of Life, and this leaves you extremely vulnerable to any emerging threats. Not only that but software vendors are now discounting support for Windows 7.

So, while Windows 7 will continue to work after January 14 2020, you should start planning to upgrade to Windows 10, or an alternative operating system.

## **Upgrading to Windows 10**

Upgrading from Windows 7 to Windows 10 has a number of benefits. For a start, because both operating systems are made by Microsoft.

However, depending on how old your PC or laptop is will determine if it can be upgraded. You will need to have it checked by an IT Professional Service but the cost of the upgrade may end up being half the price of a new PC or laptop.

Buying a new machine is another option, and Windows 7's End of Life could be a good excuse to spoil yourself with a new and more powerful PC or Laptop, with Windows 10 installed. You can quite easily move your files and folders to your new machine using an external hard drive or USB Flash drive. If you do decide to purchase a new PC or Laptop there are plenty of Windows 10 systems available for around \$500.00.

If you need help in making a decision on what to buy, join us at the ASI Technology Assistance workshop on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

Our ASI Technology team look forward to seeing you there.

Happy and Safe Computing..