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Windows 10 End-of-Support Upgrade

Stay secure and future-ready! This guide helps SMBs upgrade from Windows 10 before its End-of-Support, covering risks, benefits, and a smooth transition to a supported operating system



Introduction

As Microsoft phases out support for Windows 10, Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) must plan for a seamless upgrade to avoid security vulnerabilities and maintain operational efficiency.

This guide aims to assist SMBs in navigating the upgrade process smoothly and cost-effectively.

Understanding Windows 10 End-of-Support (EOS)

Windows 10 End-of-Support (EOS) means Microsoft will cease to provide security updates, patches, and technical support. This exposes systems to vulnerabilities and compliance issues.

- **EOS Date:** 14 October 2025
- **Impact on SMBs:** Increased security risks, software incompatibilities, and compliance challenges.



Risks of Continuing on Windows 10 Post-EOS

Remaining on an unsupported operating system exposes businesses to:

- **Security vulnerabilities:** No patches for new threats.
- **Compliance issues:** Potential violations of data protection regulations.
- **Software incompatibility:** Windows 10 may not support new applications.
- **Increased IT costs:** More resources needed to manage outdated systems.

Benefits of Upgrading to a Supported Operating System

Upgrading ensures:

- **Enhanced security:** Regular updates and patches.
- **Improved performance:** Optimised for modern hardware.
- **Access to new features:** Productivity-boosting tools and applications.
- **Regulatory compliance:** Adherence to data protection laws.

Planning Your Upgrade

Effective planning is crucial for a smooth transition:

- **Assess current infrastructure:** Inventory hardware and software.
- **Set a budget:** Account for licensing, hardware upgrades, and IT services.
- **Develop a timeline:** Establish milestones and deadlines.
- **Communicate with stakeholders:** Inform employees and IT staff.

Step-by-Step Upgrade Process

1. Backup critical data
2. Verify hardware compatibility (See on page 6)
3. Obtain necessary licenses
4. Perform a pilot upgrade
5. Roll out upgrades in phases
6. Test systems post-upgrade
7. Address issues promptly

Post-Upgrade Best Practices

- **Implement security measures:** Endpoint protection, and regular updates.
- **Regularly back up data:** Protect against data loss.
- **Monitor system performance:** Identify and resolve issues quickly.
- **Review and update IT policies:** Reflect new operating system requirements.

Training and Support for Employees

- **Provide training sessions:** Familiarise staff with the new operating system.
- **Create user guides:** Easy-to-follow manuals and FAQs.
- **Establish support channels:** IT helpdesk and online resources.



Hardware Considerations for Windows 11

It is not always necessary to purchase a new device to upgrade to Windows 11. Many existing Windows 10 PCs are eligible for a free upgrade, provided they meet Microsoft's minimum hardware requirements.

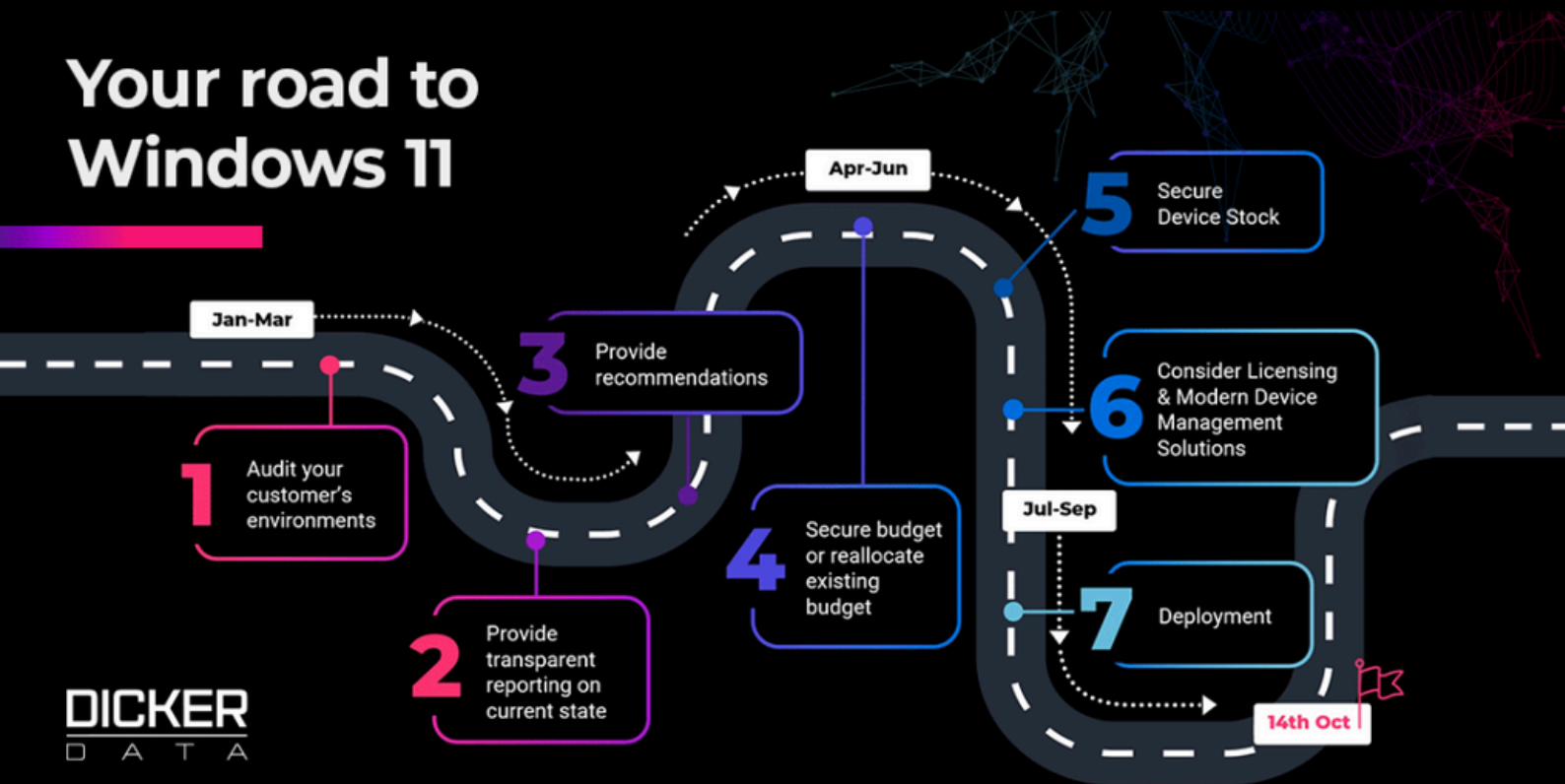
Key Points to Consider:

- **Upgrading Existing Devices:** PCs that meet the required specifications and are running a supported version of Windows 10 can upgrade to Windows 11 through Windows Update.
- **Minimum Hardware Requirements:** Windows 11 requires a compatible 64-bit processor, TPM 2.0, 4GB of RAM, 64GB of storage, UEFI firmware with Secure Boot capability, and a DirectX 12 compatible graphics card.
- **New Devices:** Most new computers available today come pre-installed with Windows 11, offering the latest features and performance enhancements.
- **Older Hardware Considerations:** Devices that do not meet the minimum requirements should not be upgraded. In these cases, investing in new hardware may provide better long-term value and support.
- **Free Upgrade:** Eligible Windows 10 devices can upgrade to Windows 11 at no additional cost.
- **OEM vs Retail Licensing:** Devices with an OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) licence (typically pre-installed by the manufacturer) may require a new retail licence if major hardware changes, such as motherboard replacements, are undertaken.
- **Microsoft's Recommendation:** Microsoft advises businesses to consider moving to a new PC if their existing hardware is incompatible, as older systems may not deliver the optimal performance and security that Windows 11 offers.



Your Path to Success

Your road to Windows 11



The journey to Windows 11 is more than just an upgrade - it's an opportunity to strengthen your business for the future. By following a clear roadmap - from auditing your environment to final deployment - you can ensure a seamless transition that enhances security, productivity, and user experience.

Whether you're just starting your upgrade journey or need expert help along the way, CRCYBER is ready to support you every step of the road.

Secure your future today. Let's move forward, together.

Conclusion

Upgrading from Windows 10 is essential for maintaining security, compliance, and productivity. With proper planning and execution, SMBs can achieve a smooth transition and position themselves for future success.

If you need expert guidance and hands-on support throughout your upgrade journey, CRCYBER is here to help. Our team specialises in seamless migrations, tailored security strategies, and ongoing IT support to ensure your business stays protected and efficient.

This eBook was proudly developed in partnership with Dicker Data, CRCYBER's trusted distribution partner, to provide SMBs with the essential knowledge to navigate their upgrade journey.

Contact CRCYBER today to future-proof your business and simplify your Windows 11 upgrade!



CRCYBER

At CRCYBER we specialise in enhancing cybersecurity maturity through Tier 1 managed services with a strong security focus. Our expertise includes professional IT infrastructure services and seamless hardware procurement solutions.

***“GOOD PEOPLE,
GOOD SERVICE,
GOOD OUTCOMES.”***

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