



ANDERS TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

PREPARING FOR MICROSOFT END OF LIFE

Microsoft is in the process of retiring several commonly used products through their end of life (EOL) initiative, including Windows 7, Office 2010 and certain versions of Windows Servers and SQL Server. Using these products after they reach EOL could cause security risks for businesses. To best prepare your company for this mass extinction of support, it is important to educate yourself about what EOL entails and then develop a plan to protect your business.

WHAT IS END OF LIFE?

When a Microsoft product reaches the point in its lifecycle where it is no longer covered by Mainstream or Extended Support, then it is at EOL. After its EOL date, the product will no longer receive security patches, bug fixes or technical support. This will leave the product, and consequently your IT environment, vulnerable to new cyberthreats and technical issues. Lack of patching may also lead to compliance issues. It's important to have a plan of action if you currently run on Windows 7 or 2008 versions of Windows Server.

DEVELOP AN EOL PLAN OF ACTION

Step One: Perform an audit of Microsoft products

Review your Microsoft products and take note of those that are reaching EOL. Below is a full list of EOL products and services for 2019 and 2020.

Microsoft Products & Services

- Microsoft SQL Server 2008 – July 9, 2019
- Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 – July 9, 2019
- Exchange Server 2010 – January 14, 2020
- Office 2010 desktop – October 13, 2020
- SharePoint Server 2010 – October 13, 2020
- Project Server 2010 – October 13, 2020

Operating Systems (OS)

- Windows 7 – January 14, 2020
- Windows Server 2008 – January 14, 2020
- Windows Server 2008 R2 – January 14, 2020

Step Two: Review your options & determine your plan

For each of the Microsoft products nearing EOL, there are options that will allow you to continue to secure your IT environment. Each option should be reviewed to develop the best plan for your environment. In general, your options are as follows:

1. Upgrade to a Microsoft product with current support, which may involve purchasing new devices and licenses
2. Migrate products to cloud services
3. Implement a hybrid solution that utilizes both upgraded on premise devices and cloud services

MICROSOFT 365

You have many different options for moving to Windows 10 and utilizing Azure and Office 365. Since Office 2010 is going End of Life the same time as Windows 7, it may be beneficial to transition straight to the Microsoft 365 license. This license includes everything you need to protect your business while working and collaborating more efficiently with access to all of the Office 365 product lines. The Microsoft 365 license includes five fully installable versions for your PCs or laptops, Enterprise Mobility Suites, Advanced Threat Protection with an email spam filter, as well as Autopilot to manage all of your Windows 10 desktops and applications in one location. The Anders Technology Services Team can help look into options to decide the best plan for your business.

If you are unsure of how to begin your EOL Plan of Action, Anders Technology Group is here to help. As Microsoft Partners, we can review your IT environment and assist you with developing a plan that utilizes the most secure and cost-efficient option for your company.

Partnering with experienced technology advisors to make informed business decisions is important. The health of your organization depends on it. We understand the technology industry and offer valuable insights on a wide range of issues that impact the growth and visibility of your organization.

To learn more about our services or arrange a meeting with our team, please contact:

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