3 Big Reasons Why Your Business Should Upgrade from Windows 7 to Windows 10 Now

Windows 7 is on Borrowed Time

Here are 3 key reasons why making the transition to Windows 10 now is a well-played business decision.

Believe it or not, Windows 7 has remained the most popular operating system in the world for over 9 years. In it's prime years it reached an impressive peak of 55% market share and is still hanging on in the upper 40% range. The popularity of this OS is attributed to it's ease of use and varied features, speed, software compatibility and overall dependability. Windows 8 suffered a bumpy start and never ranked as high in popularity as it's predecessor.

Expiration Time line for Windows 7

True to form with all Operating Systems such as XP and Vista, Microsoft is phasing out the levels of service for Windows 7 with a final resting date of January 14, 2020. Since November 1, 2013, Microsoft began the end-of-life transition for the OS and it will remain in the "extended support" position until **Jan. 14, 2020**. The extended support phase will allow users to install security patches and have access to paid technical support, however both will end after that date. The following are 3 key reasons why businesses should transition to Windows 10 sooner rather than later:

#1 - Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is the most important reason for any company to transition to the updated Windows 10 OS before the Windows 7 end of service date. The most noteworthy, real-life example of the problems that arise when using an OS with insufficient security levels is the fallout of the ransomware cyberattack know as "WannaCry". The devastation of this virus was such that more than 200,000 computers were infected by the virus, costing billions of dollars in ransom money and countless hours of hindered business operations. Microsoft's unprecedented response of issuing an emergency security patch for these unsupported systems is proof of the damaging impact on businesses.

Reports suggest the global WannaCry cyberattack increased the Windows 10 adoption. The 2018 Duo Trusted Access Report stating:

"In 2017, after the worldwide WannaCry ransomware attack against unpatched Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 systems, businesses accelerated their adoption of Microsoft's latest operating system, Windows 10, in an effort to protect against future attacks. In the three months prior to the WannaCry outbreak, Windows 10 adoption remained steady at 17%. In the three months following the attack, adoption jumped to 29%, then dropped to 9% in subsequent months."

The report also noted, 3 years after introduction, Windows 10 now runs on nearly 50% of Microsoft business devices.

The robust security implementations of Windows 10,

like SmartScreen,Windows Defender and encryption are in place to guard against and respond to attacks. Kurt Baumgartner, Principal Security Researcher on the Global Research & Analysis Team for Kapersky lab, highlighted the impressive security features of Windows 10 in a blog post, stating:

"There is, however, a very long list of enhanced security features developed into this new codebase along with a massive amount of new attack surface introduced with this new platform."

These new features help detect viruses, phishing and malware, isolate infected machines and kill malicious processes before they are able to spread.

Reason #2 - Efficiency & Effectiveness

Windows 7 truly has proven itself reliable and versatile for an exceptional length of time, however it is inarguably past it's prime. The advanced age of this operating system will increasingly continue to impact the overall efficiency and effectiveness of business operations, especially as businesses modernize their IT infrastructures.

While advancements in hardware and software continue (replacements, updates or upgrades), implementing a more capable operating system, built to support these advancements, is a must. You wouldn't run a marathon in old, worn-out shoes and expect to perform at your best. The same applies in this case. With the increased complexity and power needed to run updated and new applications, those hanging on to Windows 7 will unnecessarily fall victim to vulnerabilities as well as compatibility and functionality issues.

Reason #3 - Smooth Transition

The future-focused Windows 10 OS is designed to be the standard platform for desktop PC's moving forward, and according to Microsoft, is (probably) the last windows operating system we will see. This point alone redirects the question"*Why* update to Windows 10 OS" to the more appropriate question "*When*?".

Smart business owners know that planning and implementing any transition yields a better outcome than worrying about last-minute issues. Every business brings it's unique challenges during any implementation process.

There are a number of considerations to weigh in planning a smooth transition process.

> Users need to make sure all Microsoft-available patches have been applied to machines before converting to the Windows 10 OS. Working with Omega Systems to perform test upgrades, ensures your implementation will run smoothly.
>
> Considering desktop hardware, during system upgrades, there is a possibility some hardware will need to be upgraded as well. In most cases, a machine that effectively ran Windows, 7 will most likely run Windows 10 with ease, however comparing the operating systems' minimum requirements to that of each end user device is key to providing a good experience.
>
> Perhaps the most imperative step involved in moving to Windows 10 is compiling an application inventory and then verifying that those applications will survive the upgrade process and be compatible with Windows 10. Although most applications seem to handle the upgrade with ease, there are exceptions which can hiccup the transition time line and smooth transition. For example, a desktop may run an antiquated anti virus application that is not compatible with Windows 10.

Taking the time to develop an implementation plan and working with Omega Systems' experienced engineers, will ensure that this transition goes as planned.

###

omegasystems
technology**managed**

Omega Systems' Corporate Offices & Data Center
1121 Snyder Road. West Lawn, PA 19609

Omega Systems' Greater Philadelphia Location
901 East 8th Avenue. Suite 103. King of Prussia, PA 19406