

With Windows 10 reaching its end of life on October 14, 2025, now is the time to plan your IT upgrade. Use this survival guide to ensure a secure, compliant, and efficient transition to a modern IT environment.

STEP 1: ASSESS YOUR CURRENT IT ENVIRONMENT

- Conduct a full inventory of devices, software, and systems.
- Identify critical systems and high-priority devices for replacement.
- Evaluate risks associated with running unsupported systems, including cybersecurity vulnerabilities and compliance issues.

STEP 2: CHOOSE THE RIGHT OPERATING SYSTEM

- Select Windows Pro (not Windows Home) for advanced security & features:
 - BitLocker Encryption to secure sensitive data.
 - Group Policies for centralized management.
 - Integration with Entra ID (formerly Azure ID) for identity management.

STEP 3: PLAN REPLACEMENTS WITH LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT

- Create a phased replacement schedule: Replace 20–25% of devices yearly.
- Prioritize replacing devices with outdated hardware or critical vulnerabilities.
- Align replacement timelines with device lifespans (3–5 years).
- Budget for replacements over multiple years to avoid financial strain.

STEP 4: MODERNIZE YOUR IT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Migrate from Active Directory to Entra ID for scalability & enhanced security.
- Implement Microsoft Intune for zero-touch deployment and streamlined IT.
- Enable advanced security features like MFA and Conditional Access.

STEP 5: TRAIN AND PREPARE YOUR TEAM

- Educate employees about new systems and processes.
- Use a “train the trainer” approach to create internal experts.
- Develop a FAQ for common questions to ensure a smooth transition.

STEP 6: EXECUTE THE TRANSITION

- Follow your roadmap with clear timelines and milestones.
- Test new systems before full implementation to minimize disruptions.
- Work with a trusted IT partner to ensure a successful upgrade.