

Windows 10 support ends on October 14, 2025

When Microsoft ends support for Windows 10 on October 14, 2025, it means that your computer will no longer receive free security updates, non-security updates, or assisted support. Continuing to use an unsupported operating system increases your risk of viruses, malware, and other security vulnerabilities.

Here are the steps and options you can take to deal with Windows 10 when support ends:

1. Upgrade to Windows 11 (Recommended)

This is the most straightforward and recommended option by Microsoft.

- * **Check for Eligibility:** The first step is to see if your current PC meets the minimum system requirements for Windows 11. You can do this by going to Start > Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update. If your PC is eligible, you will likely see a notification to upgrade for free.

- * **Upgrade Process:** The upgrade is often a simple process through Windows Update. Microsoft also provides tools like Windows Backup to help you easily transfer your files, settings, and apps to your new operating system.

- * **New PC:** If your current PC is not compatible with Windows 11, you may need to purchase a new device that comes with Windows 11 pre-installed.

Advanced users can attempt to upgrade to Windows 11 on equipment that does not adhere to the Microsoft upgrade hardware specifications. See:

<https://www.makeuseof.com/easy-free-way-get-windows-11-on-old-computer/>

2. Pay for Extended Security Updates (ESU)

If you are not ready to upgrade to Windows 11, or your PC is not compatible, you can choose to pay for Extended Security Updates (ESU).

- * **Temporary Solution:** The ESU program provides security updates for up to three years after the end-of-support date. This is a temporary solution that gives you more time to plan your transition to a supported operating system.

- * **Cost:** The ESU program is not free, and the cost increases each year.

3. Consider an Alternative Operating System

You can choose to switch to a different operating system.

- * Linux: Many versions of Linux are free, secure, and can often run well on older hardware that may not be compatible with Windows 11. This option requires you to learn a new operating system, but it can be a good way to extend the life of your hardware.

- * ChromeOS Flex: This is a free operating system from Google that can be installed on older PCs and laptops, effectively turning them into a Chromebook.

4. Continue Using Windows 10 (High Risk)

You can continue to use Windows 10 after the end-of-support date, but this is not recommended due to the significant risks.

- * Security Vulnerabilities: Without security updates, your PC will become increasingly vulnerable to new viruses, malware, and other cyber threats as they emerge.

- * Application Support: Over time, third-party applications will also stop supporting Windows 10, which can lead to performance and reliability issues.

If you choose this option, it is crucial to take extra security precautions:

- * Use a strong, up-to-date antivirus and firewall.

- * Be very careful when Browse the internet and opening email attachments.

- * Regularly back up your important files.

This file, for the most part, was provided by Gemini.