

6 Reasons To Stop Running Your Company's Windows XP

Heinan Landa, Contributing Writer
Apr 1, 2014, 1:56pm EDT



Image provided by Getty Images (Justin Sullivan)

Next week [Microsoft](#) will no longer support computers running Windows XP or Office 2003. There will be no new Security Updates, Non-Security Hotfixes, free or paid assisted-support options, or online technical content updates.

D-Day is quickly approaching. Here are six reasons to stop running Windows XP within your company:

1. Security

Unsupported and unpatched environments are vulnerable. Windows XP vulnerabilities are being uncovered and accumulated by hackers until April. After April 8, according to IT magazine *Computerworld*, hackers will sell them to criminals for a black market price between \$50,000 and \$150,000. Your data is valuable — and they will get at it very quickly if you are still running Windows XP after April 8.

Microsoft has announced that it will end all support for Windows XP on April 8, except for updates to Microsoft's anti-malware products running on XP, which will be available until July 2015. This extension should not dampen your urgency to get off the platform.

SEE ALSO: [Why you shouldn't commit to Windows 8](#)

2. Support

When Microsoft ends its support, so do most IT vendors. After all, how can we confidently support clients who are relying on systems that the manufacturer no longer supports? I think that at the least it is safe to say that if you choose to keep Windows XP, your technology service costs will skyrocket.

3. Cost

By upgrading or moving your systems into the cloud, you will save money. Your machines will be safer and more reliable, which will result in less IT support expenses.

4. Performance

With an upgrade, you will find that boot times and application launch times noticeably decrease, as does the time required to place systems into, and out of, hibernation mode. This means more efficiency for you and your workforce.

5. Compatibility

Upgraded operating systems give users the ability to run almost any software that is Windows-compatible. In fact, newer hardware device drivers will no longer be written for Windows XP.

SEE ALSO: [4 ways to increase your productivity \(really\)](#)

6. Productivity

New features allow you to search for keywords in documents, emails, attached storage devices, and even networked servers and some web pages. Users gain immediate access to specific data they need in that moment, saving precious time and increasing productivity.

By hanging on to Windows XP, you are playing Russian Roulette — and you are going to lose. So, the choice you must make is how to upgrade Windows XP, not whether to do it.

Will you upgrade your operating system by purchasing new workstations and a new operating system like Windows 7 or Windows 8 or will you move into a hosted desktop cloud model in which you rent a more current operating system for use on current workstations for a monthly per-user fee? Time is running out — you need to decide quickly.

As CEO of Optimal Networks, Heinan Landa has been providing managed IT services—including a premier corporate cloud solution and business-focused strategic IT consulting—to hundreds of clients since 1991. After earning his BS and MS from Johns Hopkins and an MBA from Wharton, Heinan crafted Optimal’s business plan with heavy emphasis on corporate culture. He and the self-professed “Optimalites” use their high spirit to fuel a commitment to unwavering client service and technology guidance.



Industries:

- [Technology](#)