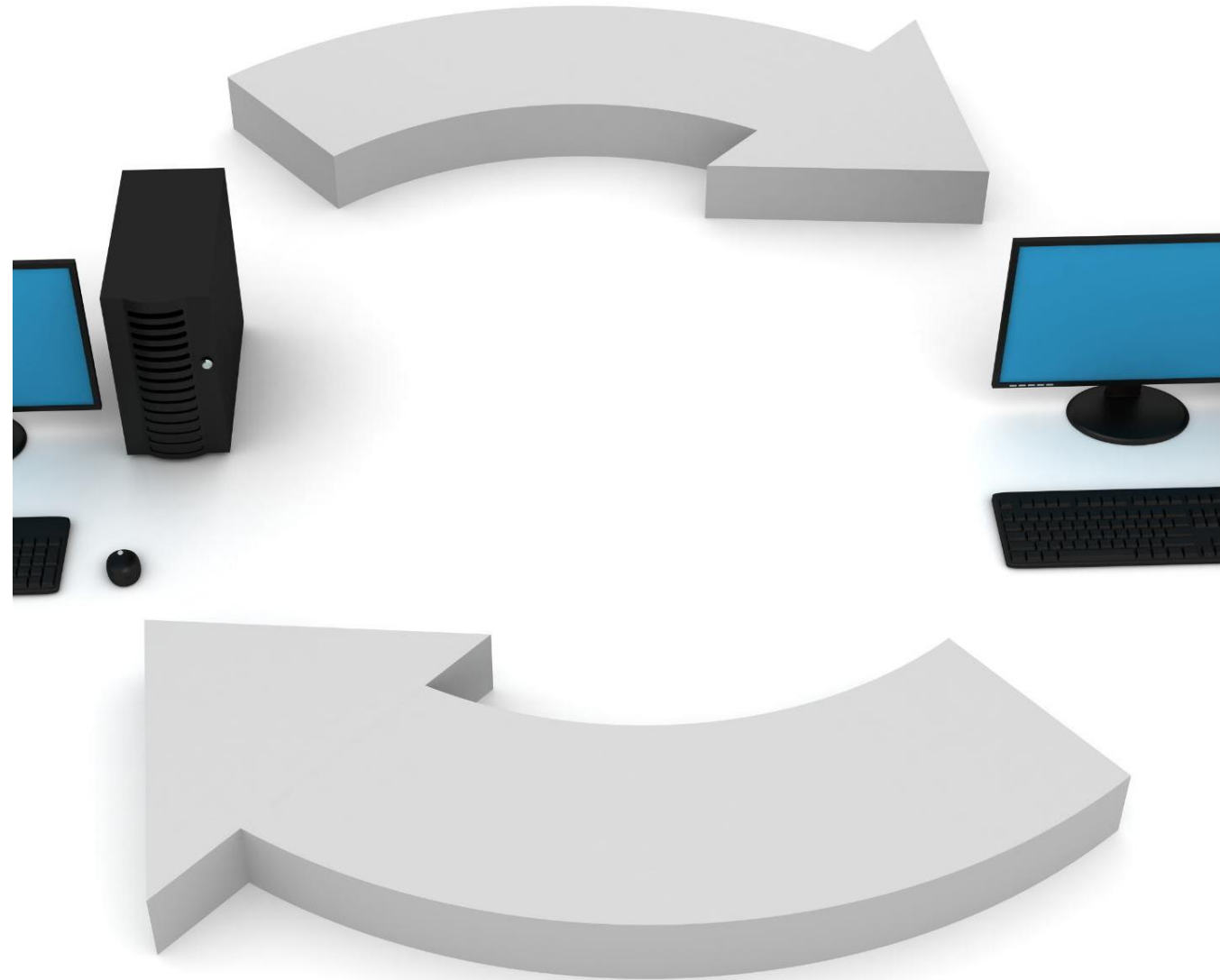


Navigating Windows 10 End of Life: Options and the Extended Security Update Program



Discussion Overview

- Understanding Windows 10 End of Life
- Upgrade and Migration Pathways
- Alternative Operating Systems
- The Extended Security Update (ESU) Program Explained



Understanding Windows 10 End of Life

Official End of Support Date and Implications

End of Support Date

Microsoft has officially set a final end of support date for Windows 10, marking the cutoff for official updates is October 14, 2025.

Security Update Cessation

After support ends, security updates and patches will no longer be provided, increasing system risk.

Potential Vulnerabilities

Systems not updated or upgraded post end of support may become vulnerable to cyber threats and attacks.





What if I don't do anything?

Security Vulnerabilities

Windows 10 OS will no longer receive security updates, increasing vulnerability to cyber attacks and data breaches.

Windows Defender continue will be updated!

Microsoft will provide security intelligence updates for Windows Defender Antivirus on Windows 10 through at least October 2028.

Software Incompatibility

Unsupported OS versions often face compatibility problems with new software, limiting productivity and functionality.

Upgrade and Migration Pathways



Transitioning to Windows 11: System Requirements and Process

Hardware Specifications

Windows 11 requires specific hardware components including processor, RAM, and storage for compatibility.

Upgrade Process

The upgrade involves checking compatibility, backing up data, and following guided installation steps.



Alternative Operating Systems: Linux and Others

Challenges with Alternatives

Alternative OS options may involve compatibility issues and require specialized knowledge for maintenance and support.

Benefits of Linux

Linux provides flexibility, security, and open-source advantages for organizations seeking customizable operating systems. Most distros are **FREE!**

Other Alternatives

Apple iOS

ChromeOS

ChromeOS Flex – also Free



Linux Operating Systems

While some sources suggest there are over 600 actively maintained distributions, others indicate the number is closer to 1,000.

Popular distros - Zorin and Mint



3rd party Option : Opatch (Zero Patch)

- With October 2025, Opatch will "[security-adopt](#)" Windows 10 v22H2, and **provide critical security patches for it for at least 5 more years** - even longer if there's demand on the market.
- With Opatch, you will be receiving security "micropatches" for critical, likely-to-be-exploited vulnerabilities that get discovered after October 14, 2025. These patches will be really small, typically just a couple of CPU instructions (hence the name), and will get applied to running processes in memory without modifying a single byte of original Microsoft's binary files.



Opatch (Zero Patch)

www.Opatch.com

- **Home Users and Small Businesses**
- Home users and small businesses who want to keep using Windows 10 but don't need enterprise features like central management, patching policies and users with different roles, should do the following:
- Read our [Help Center articles](#) to familiarize yourself with Opatch.
- Create a [free Opatch account](#).
- Install [Opatch Agent](#) on your computer(s).
- [Purchase licenses](#). 0-day Free, Pro 24.95 EUR (\$28.92 US)
- In October 2025, apply the last Windows Updates.
- Let Opatch take over Windows 10 patching.

The Extended Security Update (ESU) Program Explained

Eligibility, Pricing, and Enrollment Process

Eligibility Criteria

Identify which organizations qualify for ESU to ensure appropriate security coverage continuation.

Pricing Overview

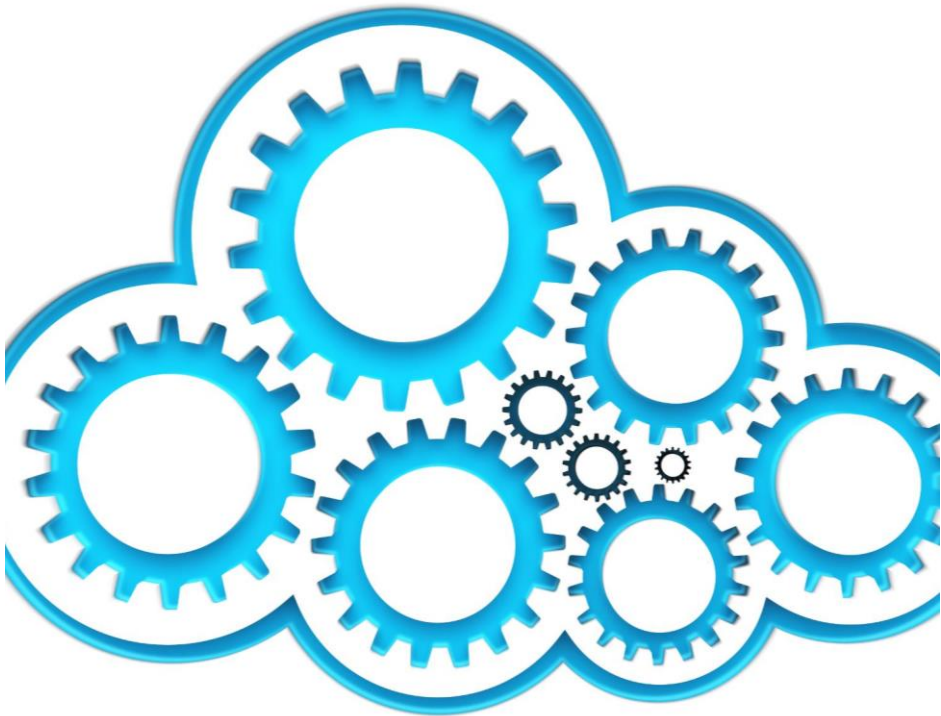
Understand the costs associated with ESU to make informed budgeting decisions.

Enrollment Steps

Learn the step-by-step process for enrolling in ESU efficiently and correctly.



Windows 10 Consumer Extended Security Updates (ESU) program



- The Extended Security Updates (ESU) program for Windows 10 provides customers with a more secure option to continue using their Windows 10 PCs without updating to Windows 11, mitigating the risk of malware and cybersecurity attacks. ESU program enrollment provides access to critical and important security updates as defined by the [Microsoft Security Response Center \(MSRC\)](#) for devices running Windows 10, version 22H2. ESU enrollment does not provide other types of fixes, feature improvements, or product enhancements. It also does not come with technical support.
- The last day of support for Windows 10 is October 14, 2025. If you need more time to move to Windows 11, we recommend you enroll your Windows 10 device in ESU. You can enroll in ESU any time until the program ends on **October 13, 2026**.

Windows 10 Consumer Extended Security Updates (ESU) program

- Prerequisites
- To enroll in the consumer ESU program, make sure your device meets the following requirements:
- Devices need to be running Windows 10, version 22H2 Home, Professional, Pro Education, or Workstation edition
- Devices need to have the [latest update installed](#)
- The Microsoft account used to sign in to the device must be an [administrator account](#)
 - The ESU license is tied to your Microsoft account, so you may be prompted to sign in if you typically sign into Windows with a local account
 - The Microsoft Account can't be a [child account](#)

Windows 10 Consumer Extended Security Updates (ESU) program

Consumer ESU program cost

- You can enroll in ESU by one of the following three ways:
- At no additional cost if you are syncing your [PC Settings](#)
- Redeem 1,000 [Microsoft Rewards points](#)
- One-time purchase of \$30 USD or local currency equivalent plus applicable tax

All enrollment options provide extended security updates through October 13, 2026. You will need to sign into your Microsoft account in order to enroll in ESU. You'll be given these options to choose from when you [enroll in the ESU program](#). You can use your existing ESU license on up to 10 devices.

Windows 10 Consumer Extended Security Updates (ESU) program

- Enroll in ESU
- ESU is rolling out to all Windows 10 devices that are running Windows 10, version 22H2 starting with Windows Insiders.
- To enroll your device in ESU:
- Go to **Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update**. If your device meets the [prerequisites](#), you'll see a link to enroll in ESU.
- Once you select **Enroll now** you'll start the ESU enrollment. If you are signed into Windows with a local account, you will be prompted to sign into your Microsoft account. If you are already backing up your PC Settings, you will see a prompt to enroll your device.
- If you aren't backing up your Windows settings, you can choose if you want to begin backing up your settings, redeem Rewards, or make a one-time purchase to enroll in ESU.
 - You can use your existing ESU license on up to 10 devices once you enroll in ESU. Just go to **Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update** and select **Enroll now**.

Windows 10 Consumer Extended Security Updates (ESU) program

Enroll in Extended Security Updates

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Choose how you want to enroll

It's great that you are opting into Extended Security Updates. This is just one step on your way to Windows 11. Enroll in the Windows 10 Extended Security Updates by selecting any one of the easy options shown below:



Extended Security Updates
Valid until October 2026

☒

Back up your PC Settings
Save your settings, apps, and credentials so you can move to your new Windows 11 PC

No extra cost

☐

Redeem Microsoft Rewards points
You have 12,846 points

1,000 points

☐

One time purchase

\$30.00 plus applicable taxes

Go back

Next

Windows 10 Consumer Extended Security Updates (ESU) program

- How can I tell if my device is enrolled in ESU?
- You can check your enrollment status anytime by navigating to **Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update**





Implementing the Best Solution

Conclusion

Understanding Timelines

October 14, 2025

Evaluating Upgrade Options

Assess various upgrade and migration paths

Considering Extended Security Updates

Explore ESU options to maintain system security after Windows 10 support ends.