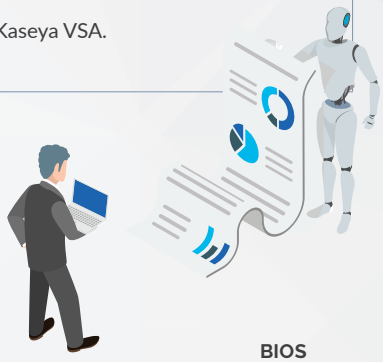
WINDOWS END OF LIFE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Kaseya

After January 14, 2020, Microsoft will no longer provide free security updates or support for Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008/R2 operating systems (OSes). This means there will be no new patches available and no more technical support from Microsoft's support center. If you continue using Windows 7 or Windows Server 2008/R2 after the End of Life (EOL) date, your systems will be at risk due to potential new vulnerabilities and cyber-attacks unless you plan on paying for Windows Extended Security Updates (ESU). With ESU support fees starting at $25 per device and doubling each year after 2020, running these EOL Windows OSes in your environment will quickly become very expensive.

To avoid paying these high support costs and to ensure a successful migration, companies should begin planning for the inevitable upgrade to Windows 10 and supported versions of Windows Server (2012, 2016, 2019). Here is a checklist to help you cover all of your bases.

✔	ACTION	GUIDELINE
	Take an inventory of all your systems to see which ones are running Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008/2008 R2.	Your endpoint management tools should already be collecting the data on a regular basis. Having accurate IT asset information is a critical part of your IT management processes.
	Run an assessment of your Windows 7 systems to see whether they meet the hardware requirements for Windows 10.	Your endpoint management tools should also be collecting this hardware asset data as part of the standard inventory process. Here is a sample report from Kaseya VSA.



SAMPLE HARDWARE INVENTORY REPORT

COMPUTER NAME	CPU	PROCESSOR FAMILY	CPU COUNT	CPU SPEED	OPERATING SYSTEM	SYSTEM PURCHASE DATE	DISK SIZE	RAM	BIOS RELEASE DATE
ARUBA	Intel(R) Core(TM) i7 -3770 CPU @ 3.40GHz, Model 58 Stepping 9	Intel(r) Core (tm) i7 processor	8	3401	Windows 7	12:00:00 AM 08/02/2013	256 GB	24530	12:00:00 AM 06/11/2013
Ashleys-MacBook-Pro.local	Intel Core i7	Intel Core i7	4	2600	Mac OS X			16384	
BELIZE	AMD FX (tm)-8320 Eight-Core Processor, Model 2 Stepping 0	AMD Athlon Family	8	3516	Windows 2012			11750	12:00:00 AM 11/25/2014
Bermuda	Intel(R) Core(TM) i7 -3770 CPU @ 3.40GHz, Model 58 Stepping 9	Intel(r) Core (tm) i7 processor	8	3401	Windows 7	12:00:00 AM 08/28/2012	128 GB	24516	12:00:00 AM 07/19/2012

WINDOWS 10 REQUIREMENTS:

Processor: 1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster compatible processor or System on a Chip(SoC)

RAM: 1 gigabyte (GB) for 32-bit or 2 GB for 64-bit

Hard drive size: 32GB or larger

Graphics card: Compatible with DirectX 9 or later with WDDM 1.0 driver

Display: 800x600

✔	ACTION	GUIDELINE
	Consider whether you should buy or lease new hardware or keep the hardware and migrate to a new/supported version of the OS.	If your hardware is less than three years old, you can migrate to a new/supported version of the OS. If older than three years, you should acquire new hardware. The typical hardware refresh cycle is three-five years. It is common to buy end-user workstations (desktops and laptops) and lease servers, but your company's needs may be different.
	Check for software compatibility issues for running applications on Windows 10.	Windows Analytics Upgrade Readiness collects data about the software and hardware drivers installed on your machines. It highlights any known issues with Windows 10 compatibility to help you plan your migration. Also, check legacy web-based applications and determine whether you need to configure your systems to run Internet Explorer 11 to maintain compatibility.
	Determine if there are certain Windows 7 or Windows Server 2008/R2 machines that you absolutely must keep after the EOL date. This could occur if you have a legacy application that won't run on the newer OS.	Consider the costs associated with the Microsoft Windows Extended Security Updates (ESU) program. Consider the Windows Virtual Desktop on Azure service. This allows you to run Windows 7 virtual desktops and includes three years of ESU for free. Windows Server 2008/R2 workloads can be moved to Azure virtual machines and you'll get three years of ESU for free.
	Create a phased migration plan to move your Windows 7 systems to Windows 10.	Depending on the number of endpoints in your IT environment, you don't want to migrate them all at once. Start with a small group of devices and validate the process before rolling it out to whole environment.
	Consider Windows 7 and Windows 10 architecture and SKUs.	Microsoft recommends an in-place upgrade for Windows 7 to Windows 10, when possible. This approach automatically saves and restores user and application data. If you have systems with Windows 7 32-bit installed, you can do an in-place upgrade only to Windows 10 32-bit, not 64-bit. The Windows 10 64-bit architecture is preferable because it offers better security and access to more RAM.

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✔	ACTION	GUIDELINE
	Look at your licensing options for Windows 10 and Windows Server.	• Windows 10 Pro upgrade license — This license is recommended for customers who want to upgrade Windows 7 Pro machines to Windows 10 Pro. • Windows 10 Enterprise E3 device or user-based license • Windows 10 Enterprise E5 device or user-based license • Microsoft 365 bundle — This includes a license to Windows 10 Enterprise or Business, Office 365 and Enterprise mobility plus security. • Server licensing options — which server OS version (2012, 2016, 2019) is right for you?
	Understand Windows as a Service.	"Windows as a Service" is the moniker given to Microsoft's new way of delivering Windows 10 updates. You get feature releases twice a year and monthly patches. Windows 10 feature releases are aligned with Office 365 updates. The monthly patch releases are cumulative. "Servicing channels" are used to determine how frequently your devices are updated. • The Semi-Annual Channel (SAC) provides new functionality with twice-per-year feature update releases, as described above. • The Long Term Servicing Channel (LTSC) is used for specialized devices that will receive new feature releases every two to three years.
	Implement an endpoint management solution to track and manage your entire IT environment going forward.	Consider Kaseya VSA, the leading endpoint management and network monitoring solution for midsize businesses. It is also the leading RMM solution for Managed Service Providers (MSPs). Keep all of your systems up-to-date with automated software deployment and security patch management. Automate IT processes to drive efficiency and get more done with less effort.

Avoid delay. Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008/R2 EOL is rapidly approaching. Be prepared by following the above guidelines and plan your migration to best meet your company's requirements.

Request a Demo or Start a Free 14-Day Trial Today!

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