



**BEAT THE DEADLINE:**  
MIGRATING TO WINDOWS  
10 WITHOUT LOSING  
PRODUCTIVITY

Migrating your enterprise to Windows 10 is all but inevitable. According to Gartner, 85% of large companies will run Windows 10 Enterprise by 2023, a significant increase from the fewer than 70% that had already made the transition in 2016.<sup>1</sup>

Organizations that have not already started planning for this transition, however, now face a new challenge: moving to Windows 10 entirely before the newly announced deadline from Microsoft, or pay the cost.

With Microsoft sunsetting Windows 7 on January 14, 2020, organizations scramble to ready their roadmaps to Windows 10, and many are realizing the pitfalls of making an ill-prepared transition.



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<sup>1</sup>Kleynhans, S., & Silver, M. (October 17, 2018). Microsoft Extends Support Policy, Improves Tools and Reinforces the Need for Windows Enterprise. Gartner.

HORROR STORIES  
OF USERS FACING  
DOWNTIME AND OTHER  
ISSUES FOR HOURS  
(AND EVEN DAYS)  
ARE SURFACING AS  
COMPANIES SCRAMBLE  
TO BEAT THE DEADLINE.

## THE COST OF MAKING THE WRONG MIGRATION CHOICES

The level of complexity to achieve a successful migration varies greatly from organization to organization, group to group within a given organization, and user by user. As such, organizations face the risk of having operations and users' productivity heavily impacted during the migration initiative.

An ill-prepared Windows 10 migration costs organizations more than the initial project investment. Companies that neglect to take the time to migrate correctly and overlook the importance of end user training pay the cost of lost productivity.

With each device upgrade taking at least an hour, neglecting to schedule around your end users can result in unplanned or unnecessary downtime. When each minute your team isn't working toward your business goals is costing you money, ensuring your team can remain productive is essential to a successful migration.

**To plan your move to Windows 10, you will be faced with difficult questions that must be answered for effective planning, which will include the following:**

- How many devices are you upgrading?
- Are the target devices also globally dispersed?
- Are your applications compatible?
- Are there legacy applications that will need additional time?
- Do you have images of each device?
- How concerned are you with transferring assets like user profiles, configurations, folders, and bookmarks?
- Have you verified that all data specific to any given user is backed up to the network, a cloud service, and/or external device?
- If you are moving users to a new device, what is the process for wiping the current device and disposing of it within regulatory requirements?

**Organizations that move forward without a plan face an uphill battle in acclimating to the new Windows 10 environment.**

## PREPARING FOR A SUCCESSFUL WINDOWS 10 MIGRATION

### DON'T FORGET YOUR END USERS

When planning your Windows 10 migration, it's important to factor in end user training and dedicate time to ensure a smooth user experience during the migration.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR END USERS

Companies that habitually backup end user data do so because they have learned that moving things around without notice can cause major issues; for companies that fail to do so, they find end user support of the migration initiative is easily lost.

While Microsoft and other providers have published numerous tutorials to facilitate adoption of Windows 10, these tools are often much more involved than the quick how-to rundowns to which your end users are accustomed.

Additionally, without proper planning, user information at the desktop level is at risk of deletion or loss. When companies put the onus on their end users to pick up the slack during the migration and leave them to conquer the steep learning curve on their own, the productivity loss can be significant.

To ensure support and ease the pains of change for your end users, your migration team should create a mirror of your end users' current desktops in Windows 10. When your employees' bookmarks and desktop shortcuts remain exactly where they left them, users often find picking up after the migration easier and more intuitive.

### MAKE SURE YOU KNOW YOUR HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

For the most part, the hardware requirements for Windows 10 have not differed much from those laid out in 2009 for Windows 7. As technology use evolves, however, end users have changed how they use their desktops significantly in that time, and they often put more demand on their systems than was standard a decade ago. As such, you might need to adjust your configurations from past migration initiatives to incorporate those specification changes.

Some organizations are taking advantage of the migration period to upgrade to newer devices that are better equipped to handle the workload your business goals and tools demand. As such, enterprises find that they have a need for a migration partner that can both handle the technology transition and [source any necessary new hardware](#).

When you start your migration prepared with your unique technology specifications, you can easily avoid additional hiccups that could arise later down the line.

### ENSURE YOU HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE

With shrinking IT teams, finding the bandwidth for a large migration on top of the necessary day-to-day and mission-critical operations can be difficult. Organizations faced with this problem often turn to a partner to manage the project from beginning to end. Finding the right partner for this initiative, however, is no easy task.

Companies that operate globally often find themselves with too many vendors to juggle to make sure all their offices make the migration at the same time. To avoid this pitfall, your organization will need to find a single global vendor that can provide the expert resources you need on the timeline that you set.

## MOVING TO WINDOWS 10 ISN'T A QUESTION ANYMORE



The benefits of Windows 10 are obvious. This is inarguably the most secure version of Windows that Microsoft has produced yet, with the additional security of BitLocker built in and the enablement of both hardware and software-level encryption. This enables you to secure your mobile devices; in the event a company-owned device is stolen, thieves will be unable to access any data on the device.



Windows 10 is the most optimized version of Windows currently in existence. End users can do more with less hardware, enabling your employees to do more with their devices than ever before.



This operating system utilizes Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) to help your device boot faster.

## FINDING THE PARTNER TO MANAGE YOUR MIGRATION

The CentricsIT team of top technology engineers have developed a Center of Excellence operational offering that leverages several of our core capabilities for a complete asset solution. Our asset lifecycle services, combined with our expertise and use of best-in-class tools, delivers a unified, organized result to our clients anywhere in the world with minimal impact to productivity.

CentricsIT is the only solution provider equipped to provide the level of advanced service delivery and project management expertise your organization needs on a global scale. We are a world leader in end-to-end asset deployment and IT lifecycle management.

We work closely with your team to understand your unique challenges and specific needs, walking through a comprehensive methodology that enables us to uncover additional opportunities to maximize infrastructure value and overall efficiency. With such an intense focus on individual client needs, it's common for our clients to think of CentricsIT as an extension of their own teams.

Whether you need a team to help you migrate existing devices from Windows 7 to Windows 10, or to deploy new devices with Windows 10 installed and preserve the existing user environment from Windows 7, CentricsIT is here with the industry knowledge to get the project done in the timeline you need.

### **DON'T WASTE MONEY; MIGRATE THE RIGHT WAY**

With tens of thousands of migrations completed, and multiple simultaneous migrations underway across the globe, CentricsIT is ready to start your migration plan.

[Contact us today.](#)