

Windows 10 End-of-Life: 5-Step Plan to a Seamless Windows 11 Migration

The Windows 11 logo, consisting of a dark blue circle with the number '11' in white, positioned above a stylized dark blue Windows logo (four panes) that is slightly tilted and positioned to the right of the circle.

11

October 14, 2025: Windows 10 EOL



35% of small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) are either unaware of the Windows 10 end-of-support deadline (October 14, 2025) or have no plans to upgrade.

As of April 2025, Windows 10 remains the dominant desktop operating system, holding 53% of the global market share, while Windows 11 accounts for 44%. This indicates that a substantial number of businesses have yet to upgrade to maintain operational continuity, performance and security.

Every business must begin preparing for a secure and compliant migration to Windows 11. Once support ends, Microsoft will no longer provide security updates or patches, making systems running Windows 10 increasingly vulnerable.

Key Risks

Security Exposure

Unsupported systems become prime targets for ransomware, malware, phishing and zero-day exploits.

Operational Continuity

Unsupported systems can cause security breaches, POS transaction failures or ERP/CRM breakdowns, impacting business performance.

Compliance Risk

Running outdated software can violate frameworks like PCI DSS, ISO 27001 and HIPAA, exposing you to audits, fines and reputational risk.

Insurance Implications

Many cyber insurance policies require current software patches. Running EOL systems may void claims or lead to higher premiums.

53% of Windows PC users are still on Windows 10 machines.

Your 5-Step Windows 11 Migration Plan



Assess Devices

Audit all Windows 10 endpoints using tools like Endpoint Manager. Flag legacy systems and prioritise critical devices.

Plan the Rollout

Group users by role or function. Launch a pilot, gather feedback and refine your deployment approach.

Support and Optimise

Provide user training. Monitor with Endpoint Analytics and stay current with patching via Windows Update for Business.



Check Compatibility

Confirm hardware meets Windows 11 specs (TPM 2.0, Secure Boot). Test core apps and verify vendor support.

Deploy Efficiently

Use Intune, Autopilot or ConfigMgr to automate rollout. Enforce Windows 11 security baselines from the start.

Look Out for Hardware Compatibility

Migrating to Windows 11 isn't just software, your hardware needs to be ready too:

- Older CPUs may not meet Windows 11 requirements
- Legacy BIOS must be replaced with UEFI + Secure Boot
- TPM 2.0 is mandatory for security compliance

Pro Tip

Start assessing your entire hardware estate now to identify compatibility gaps early and avoid unexpected upgrade delays or disruptions closer to the Windows 10 deadline.



Pre-Migration Checklist for Windows 11

A high-level checklist to confirm your environment is configured for Windows 11 before rollout begins.

- ✓ Ensure all endpoints meet CPU, TPM 2.0, RAM and UEFI requirements.
- ✓ Verify Windows 11 compatibility for every critical application.
- ✓ Confirm BIOS and firmware updates are available, tested and approved across your hardware fleet.
- ✓ Plan for or enable BitLocker, Windows Defender and Secure Boot baselines.
- ✓ Validate your network can handle remote provisioning and elevated update traffic.
- ✓ Identify unsupported systems and phase them out of any regulated environments.
- ✓ Put rollback procedures in place and establish user-support channels.
- ✓ Ensure you have MDM/Intune/Autopilot (or equivalent) configured to automate and scale your rollout.
- ✓ Conduct a pilot migration, gather feedback and refine your processes.
- ✓ Assign responsibility for ongoing performance monitoring, patch management and endpoint health.

87%

of devices are technically
"ready" for migration.

Source: [ControlUp](#)

Unified IT Solutions for Businesses

Barron McCann and Retail Assist offer a fully integrated service stack; hardware, software and continued managed support, to help you migrate to Windows 11 without any headaches.



Migration Services

- ✓ End-to-end Windows 11 deployment support, including planning, imaging and rollout coordination.
- ✓ Round-the-clock support services for monitoring, remote troubleshooting and issue resolution.
- ✓ Multi-site execution and project management to reduce pressure on internal teams.



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Migration Services

- ✓ Onsite device upgrades to replace incompatible or legacy hardware.
- ✓ Full endpoint lifecycle management, from configuration to secure device retirement.
- ✓ Hardware staging, imaging and provisioning to accelerate deployment timelines.

5-Step Plan to Windows 11 Migration



Book a free consultation with our technical team and get a tailored Windows 11 migration advice.

Schedule a call

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