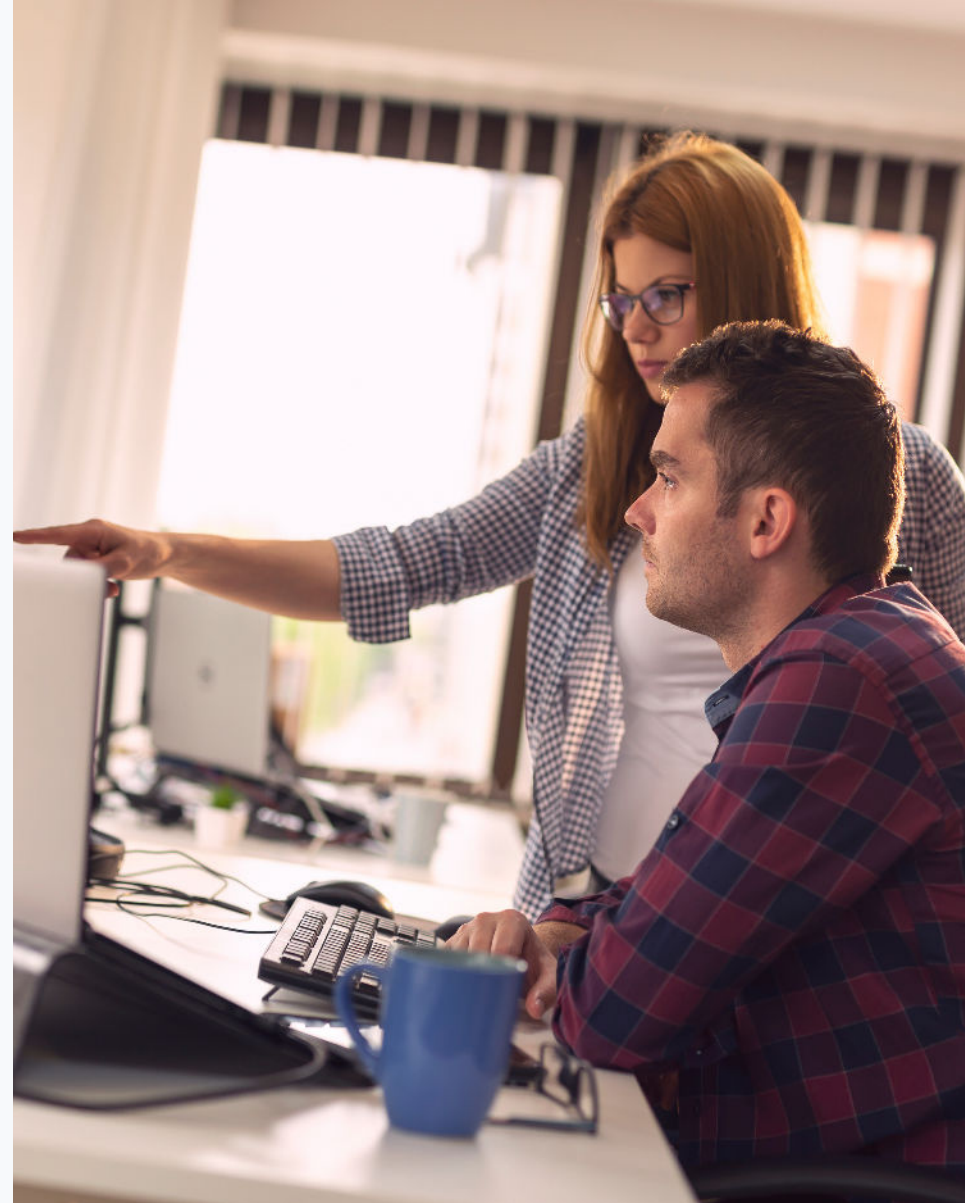2025

The True Cost of Windows 10 End of Life: What Businesses Need to Know

Guide

Windows 11

stratodesk

Introduction

In October 2025, Microsoft will officially end support for Windows 10, leaving millions of businesses with critical decisions to make regarding their operating system strategy. With Microsoft's newly announced subscription-based extended security updates, organizations must weigh their options carefully to ensure they maintain security, compliance, and operational efficiency without unnecessary costs.

This guide explores the financial and security implications of Windows 10's end of life (EOL), the available migration paths, and how organizations can adopt a cost-effective, sustainable solution through Stratodesk NoTouch OS.

Windows 10 has been a staple of enterprise computing since its launch in 2015. However, as with all software, support eventually comes to an end. After October 14, 2025, Windows 10 devices will no longer receive security updates, leaving organizations vulnerable to cyber threats and compliance risks.

Key facts:

- Microsoft will offer Extended Security Updates (ESU) for Windows 10 at an increasing cost.
- The ESU subscription starts at $61 per device in Year 1 and doubles annually, reaching $244 per device by Year 3.
- If organizations delay enrolling in the ESU program, they will need to pay for missed years retroactively.
- Most Windows 10 devices do not meet Windows 11's stringent hardware requirements, necessitating expensive hardware upgrades.

Understanding the Windows End of Life

What Are Your Options?

Businesses facing the Windows 10 EOL must consider their next steps carefully.

Here are the five primary options:

1. **Remain on Windows 10 Without Updates** – A risky move that leaves devices vulnerable to cyberattacks.

2. **Upgrade to Windows 11** – Requires hardware that meets Microsoft's specifications, which may mean purchasing new devices.

3. **Purchase Windows 10 Extended Security Updates (ESU)** – A costly, temporary fix that does not future-proof the organization.

4. **Use Windows 10 ESU for Free with O365** – Only applicable if organizations have specific Office 365 subscriptions.

5. **Migrate to Windows in the Cloud with Stratodesk NoTouch OS** – A cost-effective, secure, and sustainable alternative.

Why a Cloud-Based OS is the Smartest Choice

Rather than investing in new hardware or expensive subscriptions, organizations can extend the lifespan of their existing devices by transitioning to a cloud-based OS. Stratodesk NoTouch OS offers an innovative solution that allows businesses to modernize their desktop environments without the cost of purchasing new machines.

Benefits of Stratodesk NoTouch OS:

- **Hardware Agnostic** – Works on any x86 device, including older PCs, laptops, and thin clients.

- **Enhanced Security** – A read-only OS that prevents malware and cyberattacks.

- **Cost Savings** – Eliminates the need for Windows 11 hardware upgrades and costly ESU subscriptions.

- **Seamless Cloud Integration** – Enables access to Windows 11 via Azure Virtual Desktop, Windows 365 Cloud PC, Citrix, Omnissa Horizon, and AWS.

- **Centralized Management** – Simplifies IT administration with NoTouch Center, a powerful endpoint management platform.

How to Seamlessly Transition to NoTouch OS

Migrating to NoTouch OS is a straightforward process that minimizes disruption and maximizes IT efficiency.

Here's how your organization can make the switch:

1. **Assess Your Current Infrastructure** – Identify the devices in use and determine their compatibility with NoTouch OS.

2. **Deploy NoTouch OS** – Install the lightweight operating system on your existing hardware.

3. **Integrate with Cloud Desktops** – Connect to Windows 11 via Windows 365, Azure Virtual Desktop, or other DaaS platforms.

4. **Manage Endpoints Efficiently** – Use NoTouch Center for centralized deployment, security updates, and policy enforcement.

5. **Optimize and Scale** – Ensure long-term success with continuous monitoring and optimization.

Future-Proof Your IT Strategy

The end of Windows 10 support marks a critical turning point for organizations. While Microsoft's ESU program provides a temporary solution, it comes with escalating costs and does not address the need for long-term sustainability. Stratodesk NoTouch OS offers a smarter, more cost-effective alternative, enabling organizations to transition to Windows 11 securely and efficiently—without the burden of expensive hardware upgrades or ongoing subscription fees.

By adopting a cloud-first strategy with NoTouch OS, businesses can extend the life of their existing devices, reduce IT complexity, and maintain security compliance well beyond the Windows 10 EOL.

Ready to take control of your organization's IT future?
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Contact us today to learn how NoTouch OS can help you transition to a secure, cloud-based Windows 11 experience without unnecessary costs.

www.stratodesk.com

Conclusion