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R.I.P. Windows XP



Following numerous extensions, Microsoft confirmed that Windows XP technical **support will end** in early 2014. When that happens, Microsoft will cease XP technical support, security updates and help. Even Microsoft admits it is time to move on. Microsoft's **Kristina Libby** said back in an October 2011 blog post, "While turning 10 is often lauded, in the tech industry it means you're falling behind. Ten years is a long time to have the same old technology."

What does this mean for your practice? Like **one in four** business and consumer users, it's time to migrate to a new operating system.

Why Should I Change?

You may think Microsoft's announcement is akin to Ford saying, "If you're still driving a 2002 or older-model car, we won't fix it if you have problems." But Microsoft may be doing you a favor. As XP approaches "end of life," you can expect new computer software and hardware will not be compatible with Windows XP. Without a move to new PCs and operating systems, XP will hinder your ability to get computer help or adopt new technologies that increase productivity and profits.

Also, continuing to use Windows XP is a security time bomb for your practice as Microsoft stops issuing fixes. According to a **report by the National Security Agency**, "Both Windows 7 and Vista provide substantial security enhancements over earlier Windows workstation operating systems such as XP."

Do I Need New Computers to Upgrade Windows?

Choosing a new operating system depends on the age of your computer hardware. Computers that originally shipped with Windows XP are now at least six years old. In technology years, these computers qualify for Social Security. If your PCs are still running XP, it's time for them to retire.

According to Microsoft, Windows 7 requires:

- 1 GHz or faster processor for 32-bit (x86) or 64-bit
- 1 GB RAM (32-bit) or 2 GB RAM (64-bit)
- 16 GB available hard disk space (32-bit) or 20 GB (64-bit)
- DirectX 9 graphics device with WDDM 1.0 or higher driver

If you're unsure what all of that means, talk to your Henry Schein DTS about a TechCentral computer assessment or call 877-483-0382 to request one. If your computers don't meet the minimum, you'll need to upgrade. If they meet the minimum, but just barely, you should consider upgrading to get the most from your new operating system.

What Operating System Should I Choose?

Choosing between Windows 7 and Windows 8 is a matter of your practice's needs and your decision to replace aging hardware. Dentrix G5 practice management software, as well as other software you rely on in your office, is fully supported on Windows 7. Some of the significant changes to Windows 8 are to support touchscreen technology. As Dell and HP now offer reasonably priced 23" HD All-in-One (AIO) touchscreen computers, it is easy to upgrade your operating system while giving your practice the advantage of the latest technology.

TechCentral experts can help evaluate your practice and recommend the right equipment to meet your needs. Contact Henry Schein TechCentral at 877-483-0382 for assistance in upgrading your practice's operating system and digital technology. Or **visit us on the web**.

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