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Why Using an Old Operating System Is Dangerous

If you are still using Windows 10, it's time to take notice: Microsoft ended free security support on October 14, 2025. This means your computer is now significantly more vulnerable to cyber threats. Without regular security updates, new weaknesses in the system aren't fixed—creating 'open doors' for hackers.

Why It's Vulnerable

- No More Security Patches: Microsoft no longer provides free fixes for Windows 10. Newly discovered flaws remain unpatched.
- Increased Malware Risk: Hackers actively target these known vulnerabilities, making Windows 10 machines prime targets for ransomware and viruses.
- Growing Threat: Each month without updates makes your system less secure as more exploits become public.

Examples of Phishing Scams and Pop-Ups

- Fake Security Alerts: Your computer is infected! Click here to clean your system.' (Often includes urgent language and flashing warnings.)
- Email Scams: Subject: 'Microsoft Account Suspended – Verify Now' (Links lead to fake login pages to steal credentials.)
- Pop-Up Ads: Congratulations! You have won a prize. Click to claim.' (Clicking installs malware or redirects to malicious sites.)
- Fake Software Updates: 'Update your Windows now for free security protection.' (Microsoft never sends update prompts via random pop-ups.)

How to Stay Safe (If You Must Stay on Windows 10)

- Install a Strong Antivirus: Use a reputable third-party antivirus and keep it updated.
- Be Extremely Cautious: Avoid suspicious links, downloads, and email attachments.
- Watch This Video: Learn tips for continuing to use Windows 10 safely after support ends.

Best Solutions

- Upgrade to Windows 11: If your PC meets the requirements, upgrade for free.
- Buy a New PC: If your device is not eligible, consider purchasing a new computer with Windows 11 pre-installed.
- Enroll in ESU: For eligible Windows 10 PCs, pay for Microsoft's Extended Security Updates (ESU) program for continued protection.

What If My Computer Cannot Upgrade?

Doing nothing could leave you exposed to malware and other security breaches. One option is to sign up for Microsoft's one-year extended security update, which ensures protection until October 13, 2026. Cost: Free if you log into Windows 10 with a Microsoft account to sync settings. Otherwise, $30 plus tax or redeem 1,000 reward points. This gives you another year to plan for the end of support and make alternative arrangements.

Immediate Action Checklist

- Check Your Windows Version: Confirm if you are still on Windows 10.
- Update Antivirus Software: Install and update a reputable antivirus program.
- Enable Automatic Backups: Protect your files in case of ransomware attacks.
- Avoid Clicking Unknown Links: Be cautious with emails and pop-ups.
- Plan Your Upgrade: Decide whether to move to Windows 11, buy a new PC, or enroll in ESU.
- Sign Up for ESU (if needed): Log in with your Microsoft account or pay the fee to extend security updates.

References

Microsoft. (2025, October 14). Windows 10 end of support and Extended Security Updates (ESU). Retrieved from https://learn.microsoft.com/windows/whats-new/end-of-support