

MS-ISAC CYBER ALERT
TLP: WHITE

TO: All MS-ISAC Members and Intel Partners

DATE: March 25, 2019

SUBJECT: Upcoming Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 & 2008 R2 End of Life January 14, 2020

Microsoft Windows 7 and Microsoft Server 2008 and 2008 R2 will reach End of Life on January 14th 2020 requiring those currently utilizing the operating system to begin the preparatory procurement, testing and implementation process. Once these products reach the end of service stage, customers will no longer receive security updates, technical support or bug fixes. Cyber threat actors are likely to exploit unpatched and vulnerable servers, hindering an organization's operational capacity.

These Microsoft products are widely used and are often used together. The process of upgrading to Windows 10, Azure, or Microsoft Windows Server 2016 on an enterprise scale takes a long time, particularly if migration is necessary for both end points and servers. It should be noted that some devices with embedded operating systems may not be capable of receiving upgrades, requiring different procedures or the purchase of new devices. The MS-ISAC strongly recommends your organization initiate a plan to migrate to a supported version immediately as cyber threat actors are virtually certain to target these systems running these products once they reach End of Life on January 14th 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The MS-ISAC strongly recommends your organization initiate a plan to migrate to a supported version immediately.
- Upgrade Microsoft Windows 7 to Microsoft Windows 10 after completing appropriate testing
 - For information on migrating to a current Microsoft Windows version please visit [Microsoft](#).
- Upgrade Microsoft Server 2008 or 2008 R2 to Azure or to Microsoft Windows Server 2016.
 - For information on migrating to a current version please visit [Microsoft](#)
- For Windows embedded devices. The following devices cannot be upgraded directly to Windows 10. They must be wiped and then reloaded with Windows 10 Enterprise.
 - Windows Embedded 8.1 Industry Enterprise
 - Windows Embedded 8.1 Industry Pro
 - Windows Embedded 8 Industry Enterprise
 - Windows Embedded 8 Industry Pro
 - Windows Embedded POSReady 7
 - Windows Embedded 8 Standard
 - Windows Embedded Standard 7
 - Windows Embedded Standard 7 Service Pack 1
 - Windows XP Embedded

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