Kollective

WINDOWS 7 IS DEAD. WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Microsoft moves to extended support of Windows 7

After ten years of use, and six different editions, Windows 7 has proven to be one of Microsoft's most successful products. Nowhere was this more true than in the enterprise community, with the majority of businesses relying on Windows 7 as their go-to enterprise OS. Soon however, this faithful operating system will become a liability for businesses all around the globe. Microsoft officially ended support as of January 14, 2020 and now every remaining Windows 7 device is a potential target for hackers, ransomware and cyber attacks.

WHO'S STILL USING WINDOWS 7?

Kollective's research, which surveyed 100 US and UK IT professionals one month before Microsoft's deadline, found that over half of businesses (53%) are yet to complete their migration — despite multiple warnings from Microsoft. Perhaps even more concerning, nearly one in ten IT teams could not say for sure whether their businesses had machines still running the outdated OS.

For many businesses, this failure to migrate comes down to an inability to deliver updates quickly and at scale. In fact, 34% of large businesses struggle to distribute content, files and updates across their networks. For organizations with greater than 100,000 endpoints, this figure jumps to 45%.

With the death knell finally tolling for Windows 7, businesses around the world who have missed the deadline are left asking what happens now?

40%
of US businesses still have devices running Windows 7

66%
of UK businesses still have devices running Windows 7

8%
of businesses don't know if they still have devices running Windows 7

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

1. Remain on Windows 7

This is by far the worst option for businesses. By simply ignoring the problem, and staying on the outdated OS, enterprises open themselves up to a whole host of potential security threats. Following the death of Windows XP in 2014, businesses that failed to migrate were faced with a torrent of cyberattacks. This included the infamous WannaCry ransomware, which shut down some of the world's biggest brands. While staying on Windows 7 may seem like the path of least resistance, it will cause far more headaches for your business in the long run.

2. Pay Microsoft for extended support

For businesses that are nowhere near completing their migration, Microsoft is offering an extended support package — keeping Windows 7 alive until January 2023. These updates will come at a premium and will increase in price each year, leading to some hefty bills for businesses that fail to migrate. In fact, when Microsoft ended support for Windows XP, the cost of extended support for an organization with 10,000+ machines levelled out at just under $2,000,000 a year!

3. Finish your migration NOW!

The final, and best, option is to finish your migration ASAP. For many businesses this seems impossible, with outdated infrastructure and slow network speeds making it difficult to update every Windows 7 machine at scale. This doesn't need to be the case. Using a Software-Defined Enterprise Content Delivery Network (SD ECDN), your business could finalize its migration to Windows 7 in a matter of days — regardless of your network infrastructure.

SOLVE IT WITH SOFTWARE

Using a software-defined solution, businesses can exponentially decrease the bandwidth load on their networks, without replacing their current hardware infrastructure.

Kollective for ConfigMgr which leverages the powerful Kollective ECDN agent's intelligent mesh peering will evenly distribute bandwidth to ensure fast delivery of OS updates and vital security patches. The greater the number of peers across a complex distributed enterprise, the more efficient content delivery becomes — turning even legacy hardware, into intelligent edge devices.

With Kollective for ConfigMgr, your business can maximize the speed of software distribution, streamline Windows 10 migration and future proof against increasing updates. This can all be achieved without a costly overhaul to the organization's IT and network infrastructure. Migrate to Windows 10 in a matter of days with Kollective for ConfigMgr.