Server 2008 R2 and Windows 7 End of Life is THIS YEAR

The scheduled date for End of Life for Windows 7 and Server 2008 R2 is January 14, 2020. This means if you are using either of these programs as your operating system, you have <u>less than a year</u> to upgrade or replace your computer(s).

What does End of Life mean? This means that Microsoft will no longer release any patches or security updates for the product. To make matters worse, hackers and malicious software designers know this as well (they follow the same security bulletins that the good guys do). This can be said in no uncertain terms. Using a computer past the operating system's End of Life is extremely risky.

There simply is no way to secure a computer in this condition short of not connecting it to the Internet in any way. Since criminals and scam artists have had years to plan, the chances of vulnerabilities turning into actual threats are certain, it is just a matter of time.

Anyone reading this knows that CCS Technologies is conservative and restrained. We rarely use language this bluntly. Antivirus, firewalls and other measures can be rendered basically useless. Think of having three deadbolts on your front door, but your back door has been left open for months.

If your current server is utilizing **Server 2008 or Server 2008 R2**, you need to start planning on replacing that server before the deadline. Replacing a server requires some planning and that is what we are here for. CCS Technologies can assist you in evaluating what you have and coming up with a plan to get you on a supported server with as little interruption as possible.

Windows 7 is still very widely used on desktops right now, but that is losing support as well. For those of you who didn't do the upgrade to Windows 10 when it was originally released, this year you will need to upgrade or replace those systems if you want to keep your risk on the internet as low as possible.

There is a chance that your Windows 7 system may be eligible for upgrade to Windows 10 without needing to purchase a license. CCS Technologies can help you determine that too!

If you have been thinking about replacing your Windows 7 computer because it is slow, this is the time to do that and to make sure the new system has Windows 10 on it.

There is one more product that is coming to End of Life this year. If you run a database product on your server, you may be using SQL Server 2008 R2 as the database management behind the scenes. Your software vendor may have already sent you a warning that this version of SQL Server will lose support on July 9, 2019.

And if this wasn't dire enough, as the operating system becomes out of date, other software will stop running on it as manufacturers choose to only release their product for supported systems. For example, running QuickBooks on an older system like Windows XP or Vista is pretty much impossible at this point. As time progresses, you may not be able to find a version of your program that runs on your older computer.

Of course, we will be going through our records and make sure that we reach out to all of our affected customers. If you are a ProVent customer, this becomes extremely easy to verify whether you have an affected system.

If you are not sure if you are using the products listed above, we can help you determine what operating system or database you are running. Just give us a call.

A year goes by fast! Many customers will be lining up to replace their affected workstations and servers. Don't wait until the end of the year to replace. Now is the time, especially if you have old equipment. If you have a busy period during the year, you may want us to analyze what you have and together we can come up with a timeline for replacement and migration of data.

Please call us to schedule. Project slots will be filling up fast by the end of the year and we want to make sure all of our customers have time to properly migrate!

"Relax...we're on IT"

Contact Information

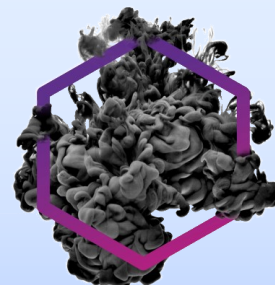|	
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