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### Windows 7 Ending, Office 2019 Launching



The end is approaching for Windows 7. The end of 'Mainstream Support' was back in January 2015, and that applied to bug fixes and product updates not related to security issues. 'Extended Support' is basically security fixes, and will end in January 2020. Too far off? Maybe not. Complicated? Possibly--there are far too many dates to remember below, so I have updated the End of Support calendar at PC410.com, here:

<https://www.pc410.com/calendar>

Microsoft Office 2019 is available now, and it doesn't run on anything but Windows 10. Not Windows 7 or 8.1. (And all surviving Windows 8 machines are eligible for a free upgrade to 8.1; Windows 8.0 has been out of extended support since January 2016.)

Office 365, basically the monthly Office subscription for business or the yearly home subscription, will be supported for Windows 7 until early January 2020. But mixed offices with Windows 7 and 10 that use Office 365 will be running mixed versions of Office from now through 2019. That's usually not a problem, except for offices that use a lot of the advanced features in Office documents (merges, macros, forms, web linking).

Back to Windows 7: Once that date of January 2020 is reached, some antivirus software programs will stop supporting it within a year, and others will end up to three years later; that's not an immediate problem. However, vertical products will mostly end support much sooner. Verticals are those industry-specific programs from small companies that run your operations for just you and offices like yours. Check with them for their 'end of life date' for Windows 7. That's unless HIPAA or FINRA medical or finance regulations apply to your office; if so, you should expect a hard and immediate cutoff of support and compliance at the end of 2019 for Windows 7.

Not a big deal for most of you? 'Compliance' includes PCI Compliance, also known as 'Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard', so I also expect that Windows 7 will no longer be allowed for credit card terminal software, and possibly check scan and deposit software.

Bottom line: Windows 7 for home use can go past January 2020 if the computers running are in good shape and running a still-updated antivirus. (More on that late in 2019 . . .) Business machines, probably not. We're talking about computers built from 2010 to 2015, and not updated to Windows 10 when there was a free option. It's time to budget those replacements.

## Windows 10, Version 1809: Don't Install it Yet

The latest semi-annual feature update for Windows 10 began distribution recently, as version 1809 (for the year and month), but now Microsoft has *paused the rollout*, due to *isolated reports of users missing some files after updating*. The actual reports are of missing profiles, which are entire login accounts and their document, picture, and music files. At this point, that update should not install on its own until a revised version is available. If you installed it already manually, leave it alone. If you downloaded it but did not install it yet, don't install it; wait for the updated version. The actual deletions are reported as a very low percentage of users, but waiting for the fixed version is the appropriate choice.

Windows 10 has a built-in option to automatically delay all updates, so it is possible to tell it to wait, for example, 15 days on semi-annual feature updates or 7 days on monthly quality updates, in order to give other users the chance to be unpaid testers, er, I mean in order to give Microsoft a chance to 'recognize isolated issues and make adjustments.' (Call if you need help with that setting.)

Once 1809 ships, there is a long list of new features, but the most popular one will likely be the new clipboard, using the Windows key in combination with V, as *paste from a list of the most recent items copied to the clipboard*. Third-party clipboard extenders have been doing this for over twenty years, but now Windows 10 will have it built-in.

## Cost Implications of a Trade War



The new import tariffs on Chinese electronics are going to result in higher prices on computers. It's 10% for the rest of this year, and then 25%, on nearly all components of computers. A few components are not exclusively from China, specifically hard drives (Thailand and Malaysia) and processors, which are assembled in multiple countries. The price increases will be smaller than that 25% rate; tariffs apply to the price paid by the importer, not the retail customer, so an 8 to 12% increase at the retail level is probably a fair approximation for next year.

The logic of taxing component parts is poor; products assembled in the USA will cost more. There are some exemptions carved out, mostly for Apple. More here:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/09/18/apples-tim-cook-says-its-not-really-great-to-tariff-apple-products.html>

All of these trade war issues continue to be a moving target. I expect that long-term, we'll start to see electronic manufacturing and assembly move out of China to multiple countries with lower wages; that's already happened with clothing manufacturing. Recent Chinese investments in Africa hint at Chinese-owned, African-run manufacturing, but that will take years to build up; we'll likely see increases in South Korean and Vietnamese technology imports far sooner than that.

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