

# STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH "WINDOWS 7.." BEYOND MICROSOFT'S "END OF SUPPORT"

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presentation:

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"Meeting Notes"

# SUMMARY

Even though Microsoft stopped providing "operating system updates" on January 14, 2020, you can probably stretch the life of your old "Windows 7" machine by using free antivirus software and keeping your Internet connection disabled as much as possible OR you can still do a free upgrade to "Windows 10"!

# TOPICS

- Strategies For Dealing with the "End of Support" for "Windows 7"
- Is My Newly-Upgraded Copy of "Windows 10" Activated?
- Appendix 1: Recent History of "Windows.."

# STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH "END OF SUPPORT" FOR "WINDOWS 7"

# STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH THE "END OF SUPPORT" OF "WINDOWS 7"

- Microsoft's "Windows Update" support for "Windows 7" ended on January 14, 2020

# STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH THE "END OF SUPPORT" OF "WINDOWS 7" (continued)

- Strategy One:  
Keep "Windows 7" Running As Long As Possible
- Strategy Two:  
Install a Fresh Copy of "..Linux"
- Strategy Three:  
Not-free upgrade from "Windows 7.." to "Windows 8.1.." (Needs a not-free "Windows 8.1" 25-character activation key!!)

# STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH THE "END OF SUPPORT" OF "WINDOWS 7"

- Strategy Four:  
Free "Upgrade from "Windows 7" to "Windows 10"



# STRATEGY ONE: KEEP "WINDOWS 7" RUNNING AS LONG AS POSSIBLE

- Do not upgrade to "Windows 10" if you have important software that will not run in "Windows 10"
- Do not upgrade to "Windows 10" if your computer's hardware will not support "Windows 10" such as less than 4 Gigabytes of RAM or a CPU chip with less than 4 cores
- Use "Belarc Advisor" and/or key.vbs to grab the "Windows 7" activation key for future use

# STRATEGY ONE: KEEP "WINDOWS 7" RUNNING AS LONG AS POSSIBLE (continued)

- Use "Internet Explorer" to get other browsers installed:  
"Google Chrome" browser, newly-updated "Edge" browser, "Mozilla Firefox", "Opera" browser, etc.
- Use a free or not-free antivirus program that will continue getting app and virus definitions:  
The free "FortiClient" antivirus program does not nag you for upgrades, unlike "Avast", "AVG", etc.

# STRATEGY ONE: KEEP "WINDOWS 7" RUNNING AS LONG AS POSSIBLE (continued)

- Use your Internet connection sparingly: leaving it disconnected most of the time
- Temporarily re-connect your Internet connection and run "Windows Update" if you hear that Microsoft has issued an out-of-sequence emergency update for "Windows 7" (such as when they issued an emergency update for "Windows XP" in response to the "Wannacry" ransomware malware in May 2017)

# STRATEGY ONE: KEEP "WINDOWS 7" RUNNING AS LONG AS POSSIBLE (continued)

- Run "Error-checking" and "Defragmentation" regularly in order to minimize wear on the hard drive so that it will last longer

# STRATEGY TWO: INSTALL A FRESH COPY OF "..LINUX"

- <https://www.zdnet.com/article/why-and-how-to-replace-windows-7-with-linux-mint/>
- <https://www.howtogeek.com/509508/how-to-upgrade-from-windows-7-to-linux/>
- Learning curve issues
- Hardware driver issues

# STRATEGY TWO: INSTALL A FRESH COPY OF "..LINUX" (continued)

- Compatibility issues when sharing office document files with Windows.. users:  
"LibreOffice" and "OpenOffice" (which is default in "..Linux") does not edit .doc, .docx, .xls, .xlsx, .ppt, and .pptx efficiently so Linux users end up converting from default .odf formats before sending office suite documents to Microsoft Office.. users

## STRATEGY THREE: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 8.1"

- There is never a free upgrade from "Windows 7" to "Windows 8.1".
- When you start the upgrade or when you start a fresh install of "Windows 8.1", the "installation wizard" demands that you type in a legitimate 25-character activation before the installation process continues

# STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10"

- Please take Microsoft's misinformation at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-7-end-of-life-support-information> with a great deal of skepticism:



## Can I upgrade Windows 7 to Windows 10 for free?



There was a promotional free upgrade offer available when Windows 10 first released, but that offer expired July 29, 2016.

You can purchase and [download Windows 10](#) on your device today. Although, if your computer is more than three years old, it might be time to consider upgrading to a new device. We would love to help you [find a computer](#) that's faster, safer, and delivers the new features Windows 10 has to offer before your current PC slows you down.

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# STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10"

- Even though Microsoft and their "partners" would love to charge you for new activation keys of the various editions of "Windows 10", you can still upgrade from "Windows 7" and "Windows 8", and "Windows 8.1" for free!!!

# STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10"

- The truth of the situation is stated by a Microsoft employee at [https://old.reddit.com/r/sysadmin/comments/e35i4i/apparently\\_microsoft\\_is\\_still\\_allowing\\_free/f92802f/](https://old.reddit.com/r/sysadmin/comments/e35i4i/apparently_microsoft_is_still_allowing_free/f92802f/) :

# STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10"

<start of quote from Microsoft employee:>

Well, I guess the cat's out of the bag...

I work at Microsoft and have been since before the Windows 10 launch. That whole "free" upgrade for a year was fully marketing fluff. After the cut off happened, the direction given was that it requires a paid license **HOWEVER**, this was brought up by the brick and mortar stores that they were doing simple clock changes on

STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" customer devices during the upgrade challenge to get around it and then ultimately it was clear two years later that anything Windows 7 and up would go to 10 fully activated and still to this day.

WDG didn't care pretty much at all because Terry Meyerson at the time cared more about his upgrade stats than license revenue as Windows isn't Microsoft's cash cow anymore.

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10"

It's the same stance back in the day where Microsoft would allow Windows Updates on pirated copies of Windows 7 as the bigger picture was to thwart security threats based from those copies.

You still can do this no problem, however careful, do an upgrade keeping everything as if you choose to yeet everything and start fresh, you lose your free upgrade.

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10"

That old 7 license converts to a 10 digital license and from there you can clean install no problem. As for audits, this mainly is for volume licensing than anything. An SMB with 10-200 Windows 7 machines that were OEM licensed don't really matter. If you try this with 1,000 computers, iffy. At the end of the day, Microsoft had four years to close that loophole and never did so if worse came to worse,



STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM  
"WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10"  
you could technically go through legal  
avenues as the EULA for 10 literally doesn't  
have a clause for this at all. You can't shit on  
someone taking advantage of an activation  
workaround when you as the manufacturer  
never closed it.

<end of quote from Microsoft employee>

("WDG" = "Windows Devices Group" at  
Microsoft)

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

If you successfully upgrade from "Windows 7" to "Windows 10" or if you failed to upgrade from "Windows 7" to "Windows 10", you cannot revert back to your original copy of "Windows 7" so use "Acronis True Image" or "Macrium Reflect Free" to back up the hard drive where "Windows 7" resides so that you can then use the "Rescue Media" CD or DVD of the backup program to get back to the original copy of "Windows 7" if you need to do so

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- At the present time, you will need to use your "Windows 7" computer's 25-character "activation key" to activate "Windows 10" AFTER the upgrade process so you need to use key.vbs and/or "Belarc Advisor" to get this key prior to attempting the free upgrade

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- We recommend that you use the free "Belarc Advisor" or key.vbs to get your 25-character "activation key" now before the hard drive of your computer breaks. Otherwise, you will have to spend money to get a "Windows 10" activation key, if and when you decide to upgrade from "Windows 7" to "Windows 10"

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- Do not insert your original "Windows 7" 25-character activation key if you are asked for it during the upgrade from "Windows 7" to "Windows 10". Instead click on the "Skip" or "I do not have one" buttons.

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- You can use
  - a "Windows 7" key,
  - a "Windows 8" key,
  - a "Windows 8.1" key,
  - or
  - a "Windows 10" key  
(of the "correct" edition/level) to  
activate a newly-installed or newly-  
upgraded copy of "Windows 10".



## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- Never use a 25-character key to activate a new copy of "Windows 10" until you have had time to upgrade it and test it out:

An unactivated copy of "Windows 10" will run just fine forever with a few minor inconveniences that you can get around by searching in "Google".



## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- If "Windows 10" fails to activate, wait a few hours and try again. When Microsoft's activation servers are busy, it can take up to 24 hours before you can get an activation to succeed.

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- To make sure that the upgrade process deletes as little data files, old Microsoft apps, and non-Microsoft apps as possible, always attempt to do the initial upgrade from inside a running copy of "Windows 7".

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- If an upgrade attempt from inside "Windows 7" succeeds, the "Windows 10" "Media Creation Tool" will select the version of "Windows 10" that you deserve based on the version of "Windows 7" that you are upgrading from:

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM

"WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- If you are running "Windows 7 Ultimate 64-bit", after you upgrade to "Windows 10 Pro", your copy of "Windows 10 Pro" will be automatically be "Activated with a digital license".

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM

"WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- If you are running "Windows 7 Home Basic" or "Windows 7 Home Premium", use the Media Creation tool or .ISO or DVD or bootable USB flash drive to automatically upgrade to "Windows 10 Home". Then use the original "Windows 7.." activation key to activate "Windows 10 Home"

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- If you are running "Windows 7 Professional", use the Media Creation tool or .ISO or DVD to automatically upgrade to "Windows 10 Pro". Then use the original "Windows 7 Professional" activation key to activate "Windows 10 Pro".

# STEPS FOR PERFORMING A FREE UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" FROM INSIDE "WINDOWS 7"

- <https://www.pcworld.com/article/3513902/tip-you-can-still-upgrade-from-windows-7-to-windows-10-for-free.html>
- <https://www.howtogeek.com/266072/you-can-still-get-windows-10-for-free-with-a-windows-7-8-or-8.1-key/>

# STEPS FOR PERFORMING A FREE UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" FROM INSIDE "WINDOWS 7" (continued)

- <https://www.techworm.net/2017/01/can-still-upgrade-windows-10-free-simple-hack.html>
- <https://www.zdnet.com/article/heres-how-you-can-still-get-a-free-windows-10-upgrade/>



# STEPS FOR PERFORMING A FREE UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" BY BOOTING UP FROM A "WINDOWS 10" INSTALLATION MEDIA CD/DVD/USB FLASH DRIVE

- If you are unable to upgrade to "Windows 10" from inside "Windows 7", you will have to boot up with a "Windows 10" installation media CD or DVD or USB flash drive.  
The steps for doing so are as follows:

# STEPS FOR PERFORMING A FREE UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" BY BOOTING UP FROM A "WINDOWS 10" INSTALLATION MEDIA CD/DVD/USB FLASH DRIVE (continued)

- Make a copy of all of your data and photo files to an external hard drive or USB flash drive device
- From any computer, go to Microsoft's "Media Creation Tool" Web site
- Create an Windows 10 "Installation Media" CD or DVD or USB flash drive

# STEPS FOR PERFORMING A FREE UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" BY BOOTING UP FROM A "WINDOWS 10" INSTALLATION MEDIA CD/DVD/USB FLASH DRIVE (continued)

- Make your "Windows 7" computer boot up from this "Installation Media" device (UEFI/BIOS settings or special key sequence during boot-up, see computer manufacturer's or motherboard manufacturer's documentation)
- Start installing "Windows 10"

# STEPS FOR PERFORMING A FREE UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" BY BOOTING UP FROM A "WINDOWS 10" INSTALLATION MEDIA CD/DVD/USB FLASH DRIVE (continued)

- The installation process will ask you so select a version of "Windows 10":  
Select the version of "Windows 10" that corresponds to your existing version of "Windows 7":

# STEPS FOR PERFORMING A FREE UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" BY BOOTING UP FROM A "WINDOWS 10" INSTALLATION MEDIA CD/DVD/USB FLASH DRIVE (continued)

- If your current version of "Windows 7" is "Windows 7 Starter" or "Windows 7 Home Basic" or "Windows 7 Home Premium, select "Windows 10 Home"
- If your current version of "Windows 7" is "Windows 7 Professional", select "Windows 10 Pro"

# STEPS FOR PERFORMING A FREE UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" BY BOOTING UP FROM A "WINDOWS 10" INSTALLATION MEDIA CD/DVD/USB FLASH DRIVE (continued)

- If your current version of "Windows 7" is "Windows 7 Ultimate", select "Windows 10 Pro"
- If you select the wrong version of "Windows 10..", you will be unable to activate "Windows 10" after the installation process is finished

# STEPS FOR PERFORMING A FREE UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" BY BOOTING UP FROM A "WINDOWS 10" INSTALLATION MEDIA CD/DVD/USB FLASH DRIVE (continued)

- Select "Custom installation" when asked to choose between doing an "Upgrade installation and a "Custom installation"

# IS MY NEWLY-UPGRADED OR FRESHLY INSTALLED COPY OF "WINDOWS 10" ACTIVATED?

- Two ways to check the activation status of "Windows 10..":

Method 1:

Right-click on the Start button, Run, type in Control, Control Panel, System, etc.

Method 2:

Start Menu, Settings, Update & Security, Activation



From Edition

To Edition

Windows 7 Starter

Windows 7 Home Basic

Windows 7 Home  
Premium

Windows 7 Professional

Windows 7 Ultimate

Windows 10 Home

Windows 10 Pro

From Edition

To Edition

Windows Phone 8.1<sup>3</sup>

Windows 10 Mobile

Windows 8.1<sup>4</sup>

Windows 10 Home

Windows 8.1 Pro

Windows 10 Pro

Windows 8.1 Pro for  
Students

- Reference for the previous two illustrations:

[https://www.qvc.com/footers/el/FAQ\\_Windows10.html](https://www.qvc.com/footers/el/FAQ_Windows10.html)

## STRATEGY FOUR: UPGRADE FROM "WINDOWS 7" TO "WINDOWS 10" (continued)

- If you have been using the "Internet Explorer" browser in your "Windows 7" computer, use it to download and install other Web browsers:  
The January 22, 2020 upgrade to "Edge", the "Google Chrome" browser, the "FireFox" browser, the "Opera" browser, etc.
- Then quit using the old "Internet Explorer" browser to avoid problems

# APPENDIX 1: RECENT HISTORY OF "WINDOWS.."

2009-10-22: "General Availability" of "Windows 7"

2015-07-29: "General Availability" of Windows 10.  
Free upgrades for all legitimate copies of  
"Windows 7 & 8"

2016-07-29: "Official" end of free upgrade for  
"Windows 7" and "Windows 8". Continued free  
upgrade for users of assistive technologies in  
"Windows 7 & 8"

2017-12-31: "Official" end of free upgrade for  
users of assistive technologies

2019-01-14: "End of Extended Support" for  
"Windows 7"

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2019-01-14: "End of Extended Support" for  
"Windows 7"

# APPENDIX 1: RECENT HISTORY OF "WINDOWS.."

(continued)

- Prior to the red line, when you upgraded from "Windows 7" or "Windows 8" to "Windows 10", the newly-created copy of "Windows 10" was automatically activated with a digital license by Microsoft's activation servers
- Starting in January of 2018, you have to discover your "Windows 7" or "Windows 8" activation key prior to performing the upgrade. After the upgrade to "Windows 10", you have to use your "Windows 7" or "Windows 8" activation key to activate the newly-created copy of "Windows 10" after you perform the upgrade with the exception of "Windows 7 Ultimate".

# APPENDIX 1: RECENT HISTORY OF "WINDOWS.."

- <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/13853/windows-lifecycle-fact-sheet>