

Five Reasons to Upgrade Your PC Hardware Now

With the January 14, 2020, deadline looming for Microsoft to retire Windows 7, now is the time to upgrade to Windows 10. And if you're already upgrading your software, it makes sense to upgrade your PC hardware at the same time.

Updating technology is a fact of life in today's business world. And even though the process of updating can cause some disruption, the payoff is faster processes, new functionality and improved ease of use. One way to minimize disruption and make the most of your investment during this major OS upgrade cycle is to simultaneously update your hardware. Here are a few points to consider as the deadline approaches.

Security Through Support

Security is top of mind throughout the financial services industry, and protecting member data means protecting the PCs that access that data. Once the Windows 7 deadline passes in January, technical assistance and software updates from Microsoft that help protect your PC will no longer be available. Without the regular security patches for your hardware, your credit union – and your members' data – could be vulnerable to viruses and security breaches.

Increased Performance

By upgrading your hardware, you're likely to experience a noticeable boost in performance. PCs today are up to 53 percent faster than those from only five years ago, according to an April 2019 article in pcmag.com, "Powerful 9th Generation Intel Core CPUs Are Coming to Laptops." The faster processors load more quickly, allowing you to complete simple tasks at a faster rate.

In fact, the August 2017 laptopmag.com article, "Intel 8th Gen Core CPUs: What You Need to Know," reports a 40 percent performance increase from Intel's 7th generation chip, released mid-2016, compared to Intel's 8th generation chip, released in late 2017. Today's PCs pack more processing punch than ones from just a couple of years ago.

Expired Warranties and Accounting Benefits

Unless you've opted for an extended warranty, coverage for your workstation or laptop could be as short as one or two years. If your hardware's warranty period has expired or is nearing expiration, consider purchasing replacements. Also, depending on how your credit union depreciates hardware, opting to replace your hardware versus upgrading current machines could have beneficial accounting effects.

For example, if you depreciate hardware over five years or more and your PCs are in the final two years of depreciation, then your computers are at least three years old and are more likely to have issues with the Windows upgrade. If you choose to purchase new PCs now, you can save the downtime and money spent on Windows upgrade issues while starting over with a larger depreciation on the new equipment.

Add Capabilities to Keep Up With Member Demands

Today's tech-savvy consumer expects the latest features and capabilities from everyone they do business with, not the least of which is their financial institution. Providing the most up-to-date functionality requires the most up-to-date devices. For example, the number of financial institutions planning to equip their staff with tablets shot up from 25 percent in 2017 to 51 percent in 2018, according a January 2019 report by The Financial Brand, "Top Branch Trends for Banks and Credit Unions In 2019."

Adding "smart" features such as touch screen-capable monitors, laptops and tablets – which are supported by Windows 10 – can boost sales, increase branch effectiveness and improve the member experience, according to a July 2018 report by McKinsey & Company, "A Bank Branch for the Digital Age."

Save Time and Money by Bundling

Since you're likely already budgeting to upgrade to Windows 10, you can benefit from cost savings by bundling it with a hardware purchase. An additional benefit with a bundle is that the hardware has been tested for compatibility with Windows 10. In general, bundles are designed to:

- Save you time by removing the need to search for the appropriate, compatible hardware for your environment
- Save you money by leveraging bulk buying power from top brands
- Easy for you by putting everything in one package, especially if you work with your core provider to ensure the hardware is compatible and recommended for your core

The demand for new hardware will only increase as the Windows 7 retirement deadline approaches. The longer you wait, the more chances you have of not getting your equipment in time and putting your data

at risk. By upgrading now, you can avoid issues related to the obsolescence of Windows 7 and get a head start on realizing the performance benefits of up-to-date hardware.

About the Authors

Andy Bahmueller is an advisory business architect in Credit Union Solutions at Fiserv.

He joined the company in 1993 and has over 26 years of experience in the financial services industry, serving in roles relating to client conversions, professional services, client support and product development. His areas of expertise include system and process integration, data analysis, and product implementation. He engages with various functional areas within Fiserv to explore how new and current technologies can benefit credit unions.

Pete Day is the director of business operations for Open Solutions at Fiserv.

He leads the team that manages Hardware AdvantageSM and SentrySM IT Lifecycle Management from Fiserv. Since joining Fiserv in 1995, his focus has been on hardware, technical installation and technical support. His team supports both bank and credit union clients, helping them keep their technology needs current and up-to-date with the demands of Fiserv applications.

Connect With Us

For more information about how Fiserv can help with your hardware upgrade, call 800-872-7882, email getsolutions@fiserv.com or visit fiserv.com.

Fiserv is driving innovation in Payments, Processing Services, Risk & Compliance, Customer & Channel Management and Insights & Optimising. Our solutions help clients deliver financial services at the speed of life to enhance the way people live and work today. Visit fiserv.com to learn more.



Fiserv, Inc.
255 Fiserv Drive
Brookfield, WI 53045
800-872-7882
262-879-5322
getsolutions@fiserv.com
www.fiserv.com

© 2019 Fiserv, Inc. or its affiliates. All rights reserved. Fiserv is a registered trademark of Fiserv, Inc. Other products referenced in this material may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies.

446144 08/19