

# Windows XP End of Life

What it means for OSISOFT  
and the PI System



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GOLD CERTIFIED  
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# Windows XP

## Support Ends April 8th, 2014

### Executive Summary:

In 2002 Microsoft introduced its Support Lifecycle policy based on customer feedback to have more transparency and predictability of support for Microsoft products. As per this policy, Microsoft Business and Developer products, including Windows and Office products, receive a minimum of 10 years of support (5 years Mainstream Support and 5 years Extended Support), at the supported service pack level.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, Windows XP will go out of support on April 8, 2014. If your organization has not started the migration to a modern OS, you are late. Based on historical customer deployment data, the average enterprise deployment can take 18 to 32 months from business case through full deployment. To ensure you remain on supported versions of Windows, you should begin your planning and application testing immediately to ensure you deploy before end of support.<sup>1</sup>

### What does Windows XP end of support mean to customers?

After April 8, 2014, Microsoft will no longer release new security updates, non-security hotfixes, free or paid assisted support options or online technical content updates. Unsupported and unpatched environments are vulnerable to security risks. This may result in an officially recognized control failure by an internal or external audit body, leading to suspension of certifications, and/or public notification of the organization's inability to maintain its systems and customer information.<sup>1</sup>

### Risks of not Migrating:

- As security patches cease to be issued, Windows XP will become a soft target for exploitation
- Potential threat of attackers who have held back code to exploit un-published vulnerabilities once End of Life support occurs
- Windows XP still has both known and unknown vulnerabilities
- Maintaining up-to-date anti-virus programs will not remove the risks of remaining on XP
- Windows XP systems will experience a higher incident rate and time to repair

<sup>1</sup>Online. 2 Jan. 2014. Microsoft Windows Support Site; <<http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/enterprise/endofsupport.aspx>>

## What does these mean for PI System Customers using Windows XP?

Most PI software will no longer be designed to be compatible with Windows XP. OSIsoft will make best efforts to support existing versions of our software running on it. However, our ability to do so may be limited by Microsoft's support of the platform. In addition, new versions of our software with added features, better security, improved reliability, and enhanced resiliency may not be backward compatible with the Windows XP operating system.

### OSIsoft's Commitment to quality:

OSIsoft has a commitment to writing quality software that is reliable and resilient. To succeed we must incorporate the latest architectural tools that newer operating systems provide.

We at OSIsoft do not want to hamper our ability to deliver to you the most reliable and resilient software possible by limiting our ability to replace older technologies with more reliable and secure ones. As a result, we will no longer release software that has been designed or tested for backward compatibility with Windows XP.

### Recommendations:

OSIsoft encourages PI customers to adopt an update practice that matches their business opportunities and operational mission importance. We encourage all customers to move forward with newer OS versions as soon as possible. Benefits are numerous and represent major shifts including more scalable configuration management, improved analytics, improved integration with other business systems and higher mission assurance resulting from OSIsoft's commitment to the Microsoft Security Development Lifecycle process. (see The Security Development Lifecycle by Michael Howard and Steve Lipner).

### Conclusion:

Significant security risks exist for companies that choose to stay on Windows XP. While we understand that many of your system components are in security zones where it is difficult for an external hacker to obtain access, it is no less important that you use the latest operating systems if for no other reason than they have newer, more reliable technologies in their basic architecture. We encourage all customers to move forward with newer OS versions as soon as possible.

Using server operating system technologies? According to Microsoft you are not off the hook. Extended support for Windows 2003 ends July 14, 2015 only a year later than XP. So start preparing your migration strategy now for Windows 2003 Server.



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