How to prepare for the end of Windows 10

PLEASE NOTE: This transcription was created using an AI transcription tool and may not be a 100% accurate representation of the recorded audio.

[00:00:09] **James Rowe:** Hello. What you are about here is the free version of a podcast where we tell you everything you need to know about Microsoft ending security support for Windows 10, which members can get access to the full podcast where we talk about some of our laptop reviews and reveal some of our best buys. You can listen to that.

[00:00:26] **James Rowe:** On our website at wich co uk slash member podcast or in our app, if you're not already a member, don't forget that podcast listeners like you can get 50% off the first year of a membership right now by going to witch co uk slash podcast offer, and both of those links are in the show notes. But in this free version, there's still plenty of advice from our tech experts.

[00:00:52] **James Rowe:** It's not long to go now until Microsoft. Sort of pulls the plug on Windows 10. This is everything that you need to know. Welcome to this podcast from which, hello, thanks for joining us today. I'm James Rowe, and this is really a part two of a podcast that we brought you back in April. So back then we told you about how Microsoft is end in security support for it's widely used.

[00:01:17] **James Rowe:** Windows 10 operating system. Now, that effectively means that if you continue to use it after October the 14th, you could be vulnerable to hackers. Now, we discussed loads about it earlier in the year, but to bring you up to speed, I've got witch tech editor Lisa Barber with me. Lisa, how are you?

[00:01:34] **Lisa Barber:** Hi, James.

[00:01:35] **Lisa Barber:** I'm well, thank you. How about yourself?

[00:01:36] **James Rowe:** All good. Thank you. Nice to have you back with us, and alongside Lisa, our resident laptops expert, Oliver Bilko. Oliver, how are you? I'm great. There's plenty to discuss on this one. Now I say, should say it's part two, isn't it? So we joined together here in the studio back in April to discuss what was gonna happen.

[00:01:54] **James Rowe:** Do you wanna bring us up to speed? Lisa, what's the big story about Windows 10? What's actually happening in about a week's time?

[00:02:00] **Lisa Barber:** Yeah, certainly. Well, official support for Windows 10 is. Ending on the 14th of October this year. That means after that date, Microsoft's no longer gonna offer fixes or security updates unless you take action.

[00:02:12] **Lisa Barber:** And that's the key thing in this, in that you can take action if you do nothing, you're gonna be vulnerable to hackers, um, after the October the 14th date. If you do nothing, windows 10 is still going to function, but you're not gonna get those key security updates. And I mean, I work really closely with our scams team, and one thing we know, if there's a big thing happening that affects lots of people, be it cyber crime in major shops, anything like that, then the hackers start getting involved.

[00:02:37] **Lisa Barber:** They are going to target people, they're gonna exploit weaknesses, and they're gonna wanna steal your data. So if you've got a Windows 10 pc, you've probably already seen notifications telling you about the end of support. You may not yet. We've been given, um, options to extend your license, which we're gonna talk about more in a minute, uh, because that's currently being rolled out across PC users.

[00:02:58] **Lisa Barber:** Um, for anyone who's eligible for Windows 11, you'd already have seen the option to upgrade for free. However, not all PCs if Windows 10 will have the specs to upgrade. If you've got a desktop, you might be thinking, oh, I could upgrade some of the components. There's one thing in that that's really hard to tweak, and it's a security feature called.

[00:03:16] **Lisa Barber:** TPM 2.0. It depends on the motherboard you've got. If you've got a PC and it's running Windows seven or 8.1, you're not gonna be able to upgrade that. It's just too old, basically.

[00:03:26] **James Rowe:** So why is it happening? Why are Microsoft getting rid of security sport for Windows 10?

[00:03:32] **Oliver Trebilcock:** Windows ten's now been around for around a decade.

[00:03:35] **Oliver Trebilcock:** So although it might seem newer than, than it actually is, it is actually a pretty old operating system now. It's getting a bit dated, especially in the security features. So, um, that's why Windows 11 has come along with upgraded security features to basically keep your data better secure for the future.

[00:03:52] **Oliver Trebilcock:** So that's the main idea. Why we've got a new operating system coming along

[00:03:55] **James Rowe:** and there's still a lot of people who use Windows 10. Surely there's a lot of people possibly listening to us right now who at home have got a Windows 10 device, right?

[00:04:04] **Lisa Barber:** Yeah. It's a, it's one of the most popular operating systems globally.

[00:04:09] **Lisa Barber:** I mean, there's, there's a reason for that as well is if, if your PC's working as you expect, I know this because we get emails from, um. Tech subscribers as well. They are not happy about this at all, and I completely understand. If your PC's working, why should you have to get a new one? I mean, there are alternatives you can do to actually buying a new pc.

[00:04:28] **Lisa Barber:** If yours isn't, um, if yours doesn't meet the spector Windows 11, but I completely understand that. People aren't happy about this, but as um Oliver said, security features have moved on. There are more hackers, there are more scams. Think back 10 years ago and now think about all the phishing attempts you get exposed to.

[00:04:44] **Lisa Barber:** Scams are out there, scammers are out there. So I kind of understand why this is happening

[00:04:49] **James Rowe:** and what happened since we last spoke. We. Did the first podcast, didn't we, back in April? Uh, there's been a few tweaks and changes to this process. What's, what's, what's new, Lisa?

[00:04:59] **Lisa Barber:** Right. The major thing is Microsoft is now offering a way to extend your Windows 10 license for a year for free.

[00:05:06] **Lisa Barber:** Previously when we talked about this, you'd have to pay to get that extension, but now they're offering it for free. It's not automatic though. So we were discussing earlier, you've gotta take action, you've got to take action to take advantage of this. Um, on your Windows 10 computers, windows update screen, that's in settings When you check for updates when your PC's been enrolled in the scheme.

[00:05:27] **Lisa Barber:** And again, going back to, they're gonna gradually roll this out across PC users. So this

[00:05:31] **James Rowe:** might not have happened to some people yet. It might

[00:05:33] **Lisa Barber:** not have happened yet. Don't worry. It will do. There are three ways in which you can get this extension. The first you back up your settings to OneDrive, which is Microsoft's Cloud Storage.

[00:05:43] **Lisa Barber:** It's only a tiny amount of your allowance. You get about five gig for free. It won't take up anything of that, so do not worry about that. The second one, which is really fiddly, is you can earn one if you've earned 1000. Microsoft reward points. You get enrolled in the one year extension. My favorite and the one that I'd recommend to my own friends and family is back up those settings for free.

[00:06:05] **Lisa Barber:** You're getting that one year license that gives you more time, that gives you time to kind of do your research about what you wanna upgrade to. It means Black Friday sales, January sales time. Now the final one is you could pay, it's about 25 pounds. I can't understand why you'd want to pay. I've been thinking about this, but again, the one that I'm recommending to people is back up those settings, save your money and buy yourself some time.

[00:06:28] **James Rowe:** So, and that would go for anybody, I guess. Is that just a, a very good blanket bit of advice to say? Get that extension, it gives you a little bit more leeway. It gives you a bit more time to think about what you really want to do long term.

[00:06:41] **Lisa Barber:** Yeah. Entirely so, but the key thing is take action and do it because you're buying yourself time and you're not exposing your data to hackers.

[00:06:49] **Lisa Barber:** Your PC won't be at risk if you take out the extension, but it's only for one year. So you've got until the 13th of October, 2026.

[00:06:56] **James Rowe:** Okay. That gives us a bit of a, a, a full hard deadline then, doesn't it? For about a year's time. Um. When we discussed it last time, obviously we were talked about how it would cost originally, and there is still that payment option if you would choose to, to do it, but why is it free now?

[00:07:12] **James Rowe:** Is is do we almost feel like this is a bit of a, an admission from Microsoft that they needed to do more to help more people? Do we think?

[00:07:20] **Oliver Trebilcock:** I, I think that's probably the case. We know that there are millions and millions of people on Windows 10 PCs that cannot be upgraded to Windows 11 and um, I think we've certainly seen statistics.

[00:07:31] **Oliver Trebilcock:** People are just not upgrading fast enough. So there's gonna be lots of PCs come November that are still running Windows 10 and haven't been upgraded. So I think this is Microsoft's ad admission that, um, they need to give more options and probably that a lot of people don't if they have to pay or just leave it and.

[00:07:50] **Oliver Trebilcock:** Put themselves at risk, they're just gonna leave it. So it's um, I think Microsoft wanting to keep people's systems a bit more secure.

[00:07:57] **James Rowe:** And aside from taking out that extension, are there any other options, Oliver, that people may want to consider?

[00:08:03] **Oliver Trebilcock:** Yeah, so if you've got an old PC and you, you are considering it and you don't want to pay for a new computer, which, uh, is totally understandable 'cause the new ones cost hundreds, hundreds of pounds.

[00:08:14] **Oliver Trebilcock:** Um, other options would include converting your windows. 10 PC to a different operating system. Um, the most popular one would be Linux. Um, and then, and if you've got an older laptop, you could also consider converting that to ChromeOS, which is a simpler, more online focused operating system that is.

[00:08:33] **Oliver Trebilcock:** Popular in some circles 'cause it's quite simple to use, uh, but doesn't offer the same level of features as, um, more complex operating systems. Um, and then another thing some people will consider is upgrading your, um, desktop PCs, um, components. But as we said, that's tricky with some of the security, um, requirements.

[00:08:51] **Oliver Trebilcock:** Windows 11 especially. Um, that's probably only if you're an enthusiast, uh, that you'd consider that. Um, so yeah, the, the main options, um, if, if you are, um. Yeah. Do you have a desktop? Would be either building your own new PC or getting a new computer,

[00:09:05] **James Rowe:** and in terms of changing the operating system to Linux or something like that, I know you're a tech expert, but for the, for the general public, how easy is that?

[00:09:15] **James Rowe:** Is it straightforward or.

[00:09:16] **Oliver Trebilcock:** It's relatively straightforward. There's online guidance on this sort of thing that you can just follow blindly and, and it will work. Um, but when you're working with your old computer, um, you should expect some challenges in some cases. So it, it very much depends and it depends on your specifications if your, um, computers or what you can get.

[00:09:35] **Oliver Trebilcock:** So, and there's different versions of Linux, of course, it's not. It's not just one operating system. You can, you can get different versions. So not quite as comp as simple as you might think, but um, yeah, you need to choose which one, like Ubuntu or Mint or whatever you're gonna go for. Um, and then, then you are all set and it's should be fairly similar to Windows when, when all is said and done.

[00:09:55] **Oliver Trebilcock:** But there is a transition to be made there.

[00:09:57] **Lisa Barber:** Subscribers of which tech magazine, we did have step-by-step guidance on how to convert your PC to Linux. And we're gonna have some advice online very shortly as well.

[00:10:06] **James Rowe:** And we will pop some links in the show notes that'll help, uh, you at home out with that kind of thing.

[00:10:12] **James Rowe:** Um, should we talk about buying a new device entirely? Just some general advice here. Uh, 'cause a little bit later on we'll be getting into. Some of our reviews and some of the laptops and whatnot that we recommend. But in terms of buying a new laptop, when do you think is, uh, you know, a, a good time? I'm thinking about the time of year we're at now, and we've got Black Friday and Christmas, and then I guess the new year sales coming up.

[00:10:39] **James Rowe:** When's a good time?

[00:10:40] **Oliver Trebilcock:** Yeah. So if first things first is to get your extension to Windows 10 all sorted. Um, by October. By October, and then after that, in theory, you've got a full year to get this done, but if you leave it, you're going to get, get close up to that deadline if you're not, not too careful about it.

[00:10:56] **Oliver Trebilcock:** So I think you should start thinking about this quite early and as we are moving into, um, the winter period, there are obviously gonna be great deals on laptops and, um, desktops in the runup. To, especially to Black Friday. So that would be a great time to be, to be thinking about this. Um, and we also have a laptops deals page that we can be regularly updating, um, all, all the way through the, uh, the winter period.

[00:11:20] **Oliver Trebilcock:** So that's a great place to look if you are looking for a new laptop.

[00:11:23] **Lisa Barber:** One thing I would say every year, black Friday, um, at which we have a big announcement that says the sales aren't as good as they seem. Um, but the ones that we are flagging on our laptop, still content, myself and Oliver, we both work on those.

[00:11:36] **Lisa Barber:** These are genuinely good deals on models that we recommend, so you can trust them. We, we work very hard on that, don't we, Oliver?

[00:11:43] **Oliver Trebilcock:** Yes, we do. We, we do, we, we, we go through everything with fine tooth comb. So,

[00:11:47] **James Rowe:** so if people were to head to that page again, we can pop that link in the show note. People will be able to look at the models on there and know, a, they're a good model, and B, they're a good price.

[00:11:57] **Oliver Trebilcock:** Yeah, we, we have a, a pricing engine that makes sure that, uh, the price there are, are, are showing you exactly what the average price is and, and how good a deal it is. So it's a great place to look and, and know you are definitely getting a good deal.

[00:12:10] **James Rowe:** Very good. Um, in terms of this process then that we go through, uh, for a lot of people who will end up buying a new device, I guess part of that process would be also getting rid of their current device.

[00:12:22] **James Rowe:** I'm almost at a point where I'm a bit concerned about how many old laptops and desktop computers are just gonna be thrown in the bin. Surely that's not the right process. Is there something a bit different that we should do?

[00:12:33] **Lisa Barber:** You are not the only person worried about this. Again, we've had lots of emails from tech subscribers and also which subscribers worried about that they're gonna end up in landfill.

[00:12:42] **Lisa Barber:** However, there are things that you can do to make sure you're disposing of it responsibly. First of all, if you're buying a new computer under the, was electrical and electronic equipment directive. The, the acronym is we

[00:12:54] **James Rowe:** a lot of ease on that. Yeah.

[00:12:55] **Lisa Barber:** Which is easier to say. If you are buying your new computer from a retailer, they're legally obliged to help you safely and responsible dispose of your old one.

[00:13:03] **Lisa Barber:** There are part exchange schemes as well from shops and um, online marketplaces. The curries trading scheme you trading in your old text to get. Money off your next buy, which, um, you can responsibly recycle the Recycle Your Electricals website. That's a really good place to start 'cause it'll tell you where you can donate locally.

[00:13:21] **Lisa Barber:** Um, another thing you could do is donate to a charity, the Restart Project website that lets you search for nearby charities, which is very handy. You could also offer it for free on local social media sites. I mean, you might not wanna switch over to Linux, but there may be someone out there who is willing to do it and for a free computer.

[00:13:39] **Lisa Barber:** But the main thing is you've gotta wipe your data. You don't wanna have sort of your old account sign-ins on there, your bank details, anything like that on there. We've got this information on our website, how to Factory Reset a Windows 10 PC and Tech members. You're gonna have this information in your October November issue.

[00:13:57] **Lisa Barber:** Tech magazine.

[00:13:58] **James Rowe:** How important is that? Do you wanna just really hammer this point home? Because I feel we're all conscious about our data nowadays, aren't we? About whose hand it's gonna end up in if you were to just donate it or recycle it wherever. Without wiping that data, goodness knows who's, whose hands it could end up in.

[00:14:17] **James Rowe:** It's a, that's a really big point that we should really try and reiterate here, isn't it?

[00:14:22] **Lisa Barber:** It's absolutely crucial to do that. I mean, if you think about your computer ending up in the wrong hands and someone's in able to get access to your bank, or they could get access to your social media accounts, they could fish your family, they could fish your friends, things like that.

[00:14:34] **Lisa Barber:** Even down to most people are good people, so even down to. Oh, do you want someone else to be able to see your photographs? Most people don't, and it's private, so definitely, definitely wipe that pc.

[00:14:45] **James Rowe:** Well, we're gonna keep this conversation going now for which members, if you'd like to hear that, just head to wich co uk slash member dash podcasts and click on the Windows ten one at the top of the page.

[00:14:57] **James Rowe:** Again, if you're not already a member, podcast listeners like you can get 50% off your first year's membership by heading to wich co uk slash podcast offer. That'll give you access to all of our member exclusive podcasts, as well as our product reviews and a whole load more benefits. Uh, you can find out more about that and plenty more advice in the show notes.

[00:15:17] **James Rowe:** But for now, Lisa, thanks very much. Thanks James and Oliver. Thank you. Thank you.

[00:15:31] **James Rowe:** Thanks for listening to this podcast from which the UK's consumer champion. You can find plenty more advice about what we discuss today in the show notes. There you'll also find a link to become a witch member for 50% off the usual price, an offer exclusively available to you, our podcast listeners joining, which will not only give you access to all of our product reviews, our app, one-to-one, personalized buying advice, and every issue of which magazine.

[00:15:55] **James Rowe:** The air, but you'll also be helping us to make life simpler, fairer, and safer for everyone. Don't forget to hit subscribe wherever you're listening. That way you'll be notified whenever we release a new episode of which Money, which Shorts or another podcast that we make for you. And if you wanna get in touch with us, then follow us on social media, where at which uk, or you can drop us an email to podcasts@witch.co uk.

[00:16:17] **James Rowe:** See you next time.