



# Strategic migration to Windows 11

Improved security, performance, and management in enterprises

# Introduction

Enterprises must constantly face the challenge of adapting to maintain competitiveness and operational efficiency. Now, it's time for a big change for many organizations – they have to shift to Windows 11, as the 10th version is getting closer to its End Of Support. Windows 11 introduces significant security, performance, and user experience advancements that

are critical for modern business operations. This white paper examines the strategic considerations for migrating from Windows 10 to Windows 11, detailing the benefits, potential challenges, and best practices for a seamless transition using tools like Microsoft Intune and System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM).



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# The unavoidable end of Windows 10 support – why it's necessary to migrate now?

Windows 10 has been a reliable operating system for organizations and users for years. Now it's approaching its **End of Support (EOS) on October 14, 2025**. While this date may seem distant, transitioning to a new operating system is a complex process that requires careful planning and execution.

Once Windows 10 reaches EOS, it will no longer receive critical security updates, feature improvements, or technical support from Microsoft. The termination exposes devices to increased vulnerabilities from cyber threats due to outdated security protocols. Cybercriminals often target unsupported systems, knowing they lack the latest defenses against new attack vectors.

Moreover, essential management tools such as **Microsoft Endpoint Manager (Intune)** and **System**

**Center Configuration Manager (SCCM)** may not fully support managing outdated systems like Windows 10 once it is out of support. This situation could disrupt compliance, patching, and overall system control, leading to operational inefficiencies and increased risk. Organizations might face challenges in enforcing security policies, deploying software updates, and maintaining device compliance, which are crucial for maintaining a secure IT environment.

Therefore, organizations must begin planning migration strategies to experience a smooth transition and maintain a secure, efficient IT infrastructure. Early planning allows for thorough testing, training, and addressing any compatibility issues that may arise during the migration process.



## Improved security features for enterprise protection

Security is a vital concern for modern enterprises, and Windows 11 introduces advanced features designed to protect against sophisticated cyber threats. Key security enhancements include:

- **Trusted Platform Module (TPM) 2.0 requirement**
  - Windows 11 mandates using TPM 2.0, which provides hardware-based security functions that securely store cryptographic keys and deliver system integrity from the hardware level. This helps protect sensitive data and credentials and supports features like BitLocker drive encryption.
- **Secure boot** – the system uses only software trusted by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), preventing unauthorized firmware and malware from launching during startup. This feature protects against rootkits and bootkits that can compromise the system before the operating system loads.
- **Virtualization-Based Security (VBS) and Hypervisor-Protected Code Integrity (HVCI)** – VBS and HVCI create isolated, secure areas in the computer's memory. Think of them as digital vaults that protect critical parts of Windows from attacks, even if other areas are compromised. VBS enhances the security of credential management, while HVCI prevents unsigned or unverified code from executing in the kernel.
- **Windows Defender Application Control (WDAC)** – allows organizations to control which applications and drivers can run on their systems, reducing the risk of running malicious or unapproved software. WDAC policies help enforce application whitelisting, a critical defense against malware.
- **Enhanced phishing protection** – Windows 11 includes advanced phishing detection and protection mechanisms that work seamlessly with Microsoft Defender for Endpoint, providing real-time threat intelligence and automated responses

**These features collectively strengthen organizations' security posture, making Windows 11 a critical component in safeguarding data and maintaining compliance with industry regulations such as GDPR, HIPAA, and other data protection laws.**

## Performance improvements for enhanced productivity

Windows 11 is optimized to deliver improved performance, which can have a significant impact on business operations:

- **Memory and CPU resource management** – the operating system prioritizes applications running in the foreground, ensuring responsive multi-tasking and better performance under heavy workloads. This optimization leads to smoother operation, even when multiple applications run simultaneously.
- **DirectStorage API** – reduces application load times by allowing the GPU to load data directly from the SSD, bypassing the CPU. This is particularly beneficial for applications handling large data sets or graphics-intensive tasks, improving efficiency in sectors like design, engineering, and data analysis.
- **Extended battery life** – improved energy efficiency extends battery life for mobile devices, supporting productivity for professionals who are frequently on the move. Optimizations in power consumption help devices last longer between charges – which is essential for remote work scenarios.
- **Faster resume from sleep** – Windows 11 offers quicker resume times from sleep mode, allowing users to return to their work promptly without delays.

By adopting Windows 11, organizations can experience reduced downtime and increased productivity due to these performance optimizations. All these lead to better user satisfaction and efficiency in daily operations.

## User Experience focused on productivity

Windows 11 offers a redesigned user interface that brings usability and productivity to a new level:

- **Simplified Start menu and taskbar** – the Start menu is centered and streamlined, providing quicker access to applications and settings. This design reduces the time spent searching for tools and creates a more intuitive navigation experience.
- **Snap layouts and snap groups** – facilitate organized window arrangements, improving workflow efficiency by allowing users to multitask more effectively. Users can easily organize multiple open windows in various layouts, enhancing productivity.
- **Integration with Microsoft Teams** – built-in communication tools enable seamless collaboration across teams, supporting remote and hybrid work environments. Users can initiate chats and calls directly from the taskbar, streamlining communication.
- **Touch, pen, and voice input enhancements** – improved support for touch, pen, and voice inputs provides flexibility for users who switch between devices like tablets and laptops. This particularly benefits field workers and professionals who require versatile input methods.
- **Widgets and personalized feeds** – widgets provide quick access to customized content such as news, weather, and calendar events, helping users stay informed without disrupting their workflow.

The updated interface and features are designed to be both familiar and modern, reducing the learning curve for users transitioning from Windows 10 while enhancing overall productivity and user satisfaction.

## The cloud-first approach with Microsoft Intune

Migrating to Windows 11 presents an opportunity to adopt a fully cloud-based environment using Microsoft Intune:

- **Seamless integration** – Windows 11 is designed to work harmoniously with Intune. The devices can be managed centrally, whether on-site or remotely. This integration simplifies device enrollment, configuration, and policy enforcement.
- **Management and security** – centralized control over device management tasks, including software updates, security policies, and application deployment. Intune's cloud-based console provides real-time insights and control over all managed devices.
- **Scalability and flexibility** – supports diverse, distributed workforces by enabling easy provisioning and management of devices across different locations. Organizations can quickly scale up or down based on changing business needs.
- **Future-proofing IT infrastructure** – aligns with Microsoft's strategic direction towards cloud services, providing continuous access to updates and improvements. A cloud-first approach reduces reliance on traditional on-premises infrastructure, lowering maintenance costs and increasing agility.
- **Enhanced security posture** – Intune provides advanced security features such as conditional access, mobile application management, and integration with Azure Active Directory, boosting overall security.

By embracing a cloud-first strategy, organizations can fuel their scalability, flexibility, and security, positioning themselves for long-term success in the business environment. This approach also supports modern work scenarios, including remote and hybrid work models.

## Migration strategies using Microsoft Intune and SCCM

Transitioning to Windows 11 requires a strategic approach to minimize disruptions. Microsoft Intune and SCCM offer powerful solutions for managing this migration:

- **Centralized management** – IT administrators can plan, automate, and monitor the entire migration process from a single control point. This centralized approach provides consistency and compliance across the organization.
- **Automated deployment** – enables scheduling and executing upgrades across multiple devices without manual intervention. Automation reduces the time and effort required for large-scale migrations and minimizes the potential for human error.
- **Compliance enforcement** – guarantees that only devices meeting security and hardware requirements proceed with the upgrade, maintaining organizational policies and reducing potential risks. Devices that do not meet the criteria can be identified and remediated accordingly.
- **Real-time monitoring and rollback capabilities** – provide visibility into each device's migration status, allowing for prompt resolution of any issues. In the event of problems during or after the migration, IT teams can quickly roll back to the previous version, minimizing disruption.
- **User communication and self-service options** – allows for user involvement in scheduling upgrades at convenient times, reducing impact on productivity. Self-service portals enable users to initiate the upgrade process when they are ready.

With these tools, organizations can achieve a smooth and controlled migration to Windows 11.



## Maximizing benefits through application compatibility

Application compatibility is vital for a successful migration – because of:

- **Application readiness** – organizations should utilize tools like the Microsoft App Assure program to assess and remediate compatibility issues, ensuring that critical business applications function correctly on Windows 11. App Assure provides support for resolving app issues at no additional cost.
- **Automated application deployment** – Intune and SCCM can automate the reinstallation and configuration of applications post-migration, minimizing downtime and ensuring users have access to necessary software immediately. This automation streamlines the migration process.
- **Continuous monitoring and testing** – ongoing assessment of application performance and compatibility helps identify and resolve issues proactively. Regular testing guarantees that updates or changes do not adversely affect application functionality.
- **Engaging with software vendors** – collaborate with third-party software providers to verify compatibility and obtain necessary updates or patches. This collaboration helps prevent unexpected disruptions.

By proactively addressing application compatibility, organizations can minimize disruptions and maintain productivity during and after the migration. Making sure that essential business applications are ready for Windows 11 reduces the risk of operational setbacks.

## Conclusion

Migrating to Windows 11 is a strategic imperative for organizations looking to boost their security, increase performance, and modernize their IT infrastructure. The impending End of Support for Windows 10 necessitates proactive planning to avoid security vulnerabilities and compliance issues. By utilizing management tools like Microsoft Intune and SCCM and proactively addressing application compatibility, enterprises can achieve a seamless transition with minimal disruption.

Organizations must assess their current environments, identify potential challenges, and develop a migration roadmap. Assessment tools such as the Windows 11 Readiness Assessment Tool help evaluate hardware and software compatibility. Engaging stakeholders early and allocating sufficient resources are critical steps in planning.

Partnering with experienced providers—like Sii—is the way for organizations to capitalize on Windows 11's benefits and position themselves for future growth and innovation. With the right strategy and support, the transition to Windows 11 can be a catalyst for improving operational efficiency and maintaining a competitive edge in the market.

**With Sii's expertise and resources, organizations can mitigate risks, reduce downtime, and successfully migrate to Windows 11. The partnership approach ensures that your organization benefits fully from the advancements offered by Windows 11.**

# The strategic advantage of partnering with Sii

- ✓ **Expertise in Unified Endpoint Management (UEM)** – Sii's team of certified engineers, administrators, consultants, and architects brings extensive experience in managing complex migration projects across various industries and organizational sizes. Sii's expertise means that best practices are applied throughout the migration process.
- ✓ **Overarching services** – from solution assessment and architecture design to implementation and long-term maintenance, Sii provides end-to-end support. Sii assists with initial planning, hardware and software assessments, migration execution, and post-migration support.
- ✓ **Customized solutions** – Sii meets the specific needs of each organization, offering scalable support models and flexible services. Whether

you need assistance with specific aspects of the migration or full project management, Sii adapts to your requirements.

- ✓ **Support and training** – Sii provides 24/7 support, including automated monitoring and multi-level incident resolution, to maintain business continuity throughout and after migration. Additionally, Sii offers training to ensure your team is comfortable and proficient with the new platform, promoting user adoption.
- ✓ **Risk Mitigation and Compliance** – Sii's methodologies focus on minimizing risks associated with large-scale migrations. Sii delivers compliance with industry regulations and internal policies, safeguarding your organization's interests.



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