

Life after XP ?



As from 8th April 2014, support and security updates for Windows XP are no longer available.

So ?

Your computer will continue to work after 8 April, 2014, but it won't be protected from viruses and malware.

What will be the risk ?

Probably very little.

Have you had problems in the past ?

Were the “security updates” effective ?

Solution #1





- Do I really need to 'upgrade' ?
- What if I just stay with what I have now ?
- What advantages will I gain if I 'upgrade' ?
- What Operating System should I choose ?
- What problems will I face if I 'upgrade' ?
- How much will it cost ?

How long is a piece of string ?

I will now attempt to address these items from the view point of one who has just been through it. It may not be your solution, but hearing of the problems I faced, may be helpful to others considering the implications of 'non supported XP' and considering a change.

Do I really need to 'upgrade' ?

- No .. If you are to willing to accept the risk of possible viruses and malware.
If you are careful about what you access and still use your existing virus checking program you most likely will be alright but naturally there is no guarantees, if there were in fact any before hand. Total and regular system backup may well be your best your insurance.
- No .. If you are not prepared to spend the money to upgrade some of your existing programs that are known not to work in native Win 7 (64) or higher.
The question then arises 'what will run and what will not' ? The answer is often most difficult to find. Beware of cad software and the like. (e.g. Protel)
- No .. If you believe you have so many programs that you will need to transfer, that the job of finding the program keys etc. will be just too onerous.

Believe me, I considered this at the beginning, then during the process, and now I still wonder if it was worth while as much still remains on the 'old XP machine' !

What advantages will I gain if I 'upgrade' ?

- A 'supported' Operating System with endless updates !
- A faster computer that will run 64 bit programs.
- The ability to run the latest software.

BUT INCUR

- A diminished Bank account.
- More grey hair or total loss of hair.



What Operating System should I chose if I was to upgrade?

- My first preference was to go for with Windows 8.1, the latest, but from my associates 'in the know' they all advised me strongly against it, for reasons too long to list here.
- *Their advice, and it was unanimous, was to stick with Windows 7 (64) and wait for the 'soon to be released' Windows 9 (or some other consumer attractive title) in April 2014. Well that has arrived !!*
It is rumored to return to a XP similar IDE style that most of the World still prefers ?

The problem is that there is now no backwards compatibility from XP onwards as there was in the past.

It was previously a simple process to insert the new operating System disk and upgrade to the new Operating System.

Now .. You have to start with a blank canvas !

Lets now consider an upgrade wish list.

CPU ? INTEL CORE Processor I7 Socket 1155

From \$310 (3.4MHz)

Mother Board ASUS or Gigabyte

From \$150

Memory .. DDR3 up to 32 GB

From \$360

Hardware .. Tower

From \$150

SSD Samsung 840 Pro 530GB

From \$580

Operating System

From \$125

Is it still worth it doing it this way? for \$1675

If I chose to upgrade to the latest mother boards
what major problems will I face?

- Both ASUS and GIGABYTE motherboards won't run XP as there are no drivers for XP!
- If you require a parallel port for a printer you will need to acquire an additional plug in board and it may even be cheaper to replace your printer !
- You will need a significant amount of *down load* to update the Operating System for all your programs. This may well blow your monthly allowance.

What Next ?

Buy a new tower .. Swapping motherboards as a plug and play on your old box is just not on !!

Create a clone of your XP Hard Disk.

Place the clone in the new tower as a 2nd HD to make it easy to copy programs across.

Load the new Operating System and be prepared for heaps of 'upgrades' .. I had over 180 over a week with a January 2014 disk !

Start transferring your most used programs.

Beware !

Freebee programs for Driver updates, registry cleaners and the like. They are never free and often take you to sites that down load additional programs. They can first appear to be *genuine Microsoft* programs when they are purely commercial rip offs.

Programs that are not sold but are 'licensed for 12 months' (another rip off trend)

It is most beneficial to have a genuine uninstaller program that completely removes all traces of an unwanted program from your system.. RevoUninstaller is one that truly does the job.

The alternative to re-installing all your programs directly into a new Operating System is to copy all your programs to the new OS in virtual memory.

There are several programs that do this.

- VMware Player (free .. 'Industry Standard')

http://my.vmware.com/web/vmware/free#desktop_end_user_computing/vmware_player/6_0

- Zinstall (costly ~\$150) works fine but beware of their 'help tickets' for which they charge.

http://my.vmware.com/web/vmware/free#desktop_end_user_computing/vmware_player/6_0

Beware Acronis .. It will not work as claimed if run on Win 7 or higher

Although it is possible to copy programs into virtual memory running Windows 7 (64) and above, not all programs will work in this environment.

- You will not know this until you come to run them, and
- Many will run slower than on your old XP machine.

CONCLUSION ?

- You really don't need to upgrade if you are happy with your existing system.
- It is not a simple task and is fraught with frustration, and cost. It will not be easy and will take considerable time to get back to where you were.
- Some programs simply will not run on later Operating Systems and the cost to upgrade them can be prohibitively expensive.

Recommendations

- Consider purchasing either the bits for a completely new desk top or even a new laptop. Either would be similar in cost and you will end up with two machines!
- **'Nibble away' at transferring your old software to your new machine at your own leisure. Many you will come to realize you don't use any more and you will not need to transfer them.**
- Do nothing until circumstances force you to make the change! Everything will continue to run fine. You wont need 'XP updates'.
- It may well be that, by simply replacing your existing Hard Disk in your XP machine with a Solid State equivalent , you will realize a speed increase comparable with what you would achieve if the program is run on a new 'high speed' CPU and 64 bit Operating System.



ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE ?