# Switching to Windows 10

Do you currently have a computer at home that is running Windows 7?

Do you use that computer for email or surfing the web?

If you answered yes to both of these questions, you should read the following information

The cut-off date:

On January 14, 2020, Microsoft stopped providing security updates for the Windows 7 operating system.

Any computer running Windows 7 is now at risk of attacks from malicious software.

# Your options

* Disconnect your computer from the internet and just use it for activities that do not require an internet connection
* Upgrade your machine if it meets Windows 10 hardware requirements and the requirements for your assistive software
* Obtain a computer that has Windows 10 installed

If you choose to obtain a new computer, consider the following hardware specifications:

* 2 GHz processor
* I3 minimum (I5 or I7 recommended)
* A minimum of 4GB RAM (8GB recommended)
* 2.1Gb hard disk space
* Solid state drive recommended
* Video/Graphics card or integrated graphics with support for DirectX 10 or higher.

You should contact the manufacturer of any adaptive software you are using to ask if they have particular recommendations for a computer’s specifications that will work best with their products.

# Assistive Software Options

Built-in assistive software in the Windows 10 operating system

There are many built-in options for low vision computer users

* Windows magnifier
* Color filters
* Large mouse pointers

And for screen reader users:

* Narrator

The Microsoft Disability Answer Desk is available to help you get started with the built-in accessibility features in Windows 10.

Call them at: 1-800-936-5900

Or use this link:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility/disability-answer-desk>

There are also many Microsoft tutorials for accessibility features.

You can find them here:

<https://sway.office.com/ofnj0y3PT7dnqb0Z?ref=Link>

**Third-party Assistive Software**

Will my current assistive technology software run on Windows 10?

Depending on what version of your preferred AT software you have, it might. You should check with the manufacturer of your software to determine if you have a version that works on Windows 10.

The following assistive technology works on Windows 10:

* Jaws 2018 or later
* ZoomText 2018 or later
* Fusion 2018 or later
* NVDA 2018 or later

This is not an exhaustive list, but rather a list of the most popular software.

There is an easy way to keep current with ZoomText or Jaws. You can purchase a subscription for either program. ZoomText subscriptions cost $80 per year and Jaws subscriptions cost $90 a year based on 2020 pricing.

You can purchase either software subscription in blocks of 1, 3, or 5 years.

Follow this link for more information on purchasing a Jaws subscription:

<https://www.freedomscientific.com/products/software/jaws/>

Follow this link for more information on purchasing a ZoomText subscription:

<https://www.freedomscientific.com/products/software/zoomtext/>

Fusion is also now available as a yearly subscription at a cost of $160 per year.

Follow this link for more information on Fusion subscription:

<https://www.freedomscientific.com/products/software/fusion/>

Contact Vispero (Freedom Scientific) by telephone for more information on Jaws, ZoomText, or Fusion:

1 800 444-4443

Or visit their web site:

[www.freedomscientific.com](http://www.freedomscientific.com)

For technical support for any Vispero product, email:

[support@vispero.com](mailto:support@vispero.com)

NVDA is a free software package and can be downloaded from the NVDA web site:

[www.nvaccess.org](http://www.nvaccess.org)

For more information on NVDA, you can email:

[info@nvaccess.org](mailto:info@nvaccess.org)

or visit the NVDA help page at:

<https://www.nvaccess.org/get-help/>

# Other Helpful Information

Will Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE) still protect my Windows 7 machine if I choose to still use it?

No, MSE was discontinued on the same day as support for the Windows 7 operating system.

More information on the subject of Windows 7 discontinuation from Microsoft:

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/4057281/windows-7-support-will-end-on-january-14-2020>

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What version of Microsoft Office should I use?

You can use Office 2016 or 2019. The 2016 version is difficult to find but if you purchase an Office 365 subscription, you can download the 2016 version to your computer to use. You may encounter accessibility issues if you choose to use the online version of Office.

Which browser should I use for browsing the internet with Windows 10?

One of the following browsers is recommended:

* Mozilla Firefox
* Google Chrome

# What do I do with my old computer?

* Remove all files and personal information
* Be sure to delete your internet cache
* Empty the recycle bin
* Wipe the free space
* Uninstall all programs and remove the user keys and information
* Don’t throw your computer in a landfill.
* There are recycling programs that take old computers and dispose of them properly.

For more information on cleaning up and disposing of your old computer, check out the tips offered by the Federal Trade Commission at the following link:

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0010-disposing-old-computers>