

Astons Online guidance

Termination of Windows 7 support



Introduction

1. Microsoft will cease support for Windows 7 on January 14 2020.
2. This paper explains what this means, provides an overview of options for home computer users and recommends some sensible steps to take.

What this means

3. Without support, Windows 7 workstations will not receive any security updates after January 14 2020. Microsoft stopped issuing software updates for Windows 7 some months ago.
4. Windows 7 workstations will therefore become increasingly vulnerable to malicious software from the Internet. Further, it is possible that cyber criminals might specifically target Windows 7 workstations after this date.
5. Windows 7 workstations will degrade their performance slowly and steadily over time as their software applications become inefficient and ineffective when newer versions are launched. For example, Windows 7 workstations might become unable to process documents received from newer versions of Microsoft Office.
6. **Computer Which?** Summary guidance is:
“You’ll [computer users] be OK for a while, so long as you have up-to-date antivirus software. But we wouldn’t recommend using Windows 7 beyond a few months after the deadline if you do connect it to the internet as you’ll be vulnerable to security problems and hacking. However, if you don’t ever connect it to the internet, you can carry on using it for longer...”
7. All that said, Windows 7 workstations will **not** cease functioning on January 15 2020.

Next steps

8. Astons Online strongly recommends that Windows 7 computer users do the following before 14 January 2020:
 - a. Make sure Windows 7 has been fully updated;
 - b. Back-up your documents; this means copying them all onto a separate workstation, hard disk or plug-in USB stick;
 - c. Create a system repair disc or recovery drive on a CD-ROM or USB stick;
 - d. Copy your contacts’ information, email addresses in particular, onto a separate workstation, hard disk or plug-in USB stick;
 - e. Copy your favourites (sometimes called bookmarks) onto a separate workstation, hard disk or plug-in USB stick; these are Internet web page addresses stored on your Internet Explorer browser;

- f. Copy your valuable screenshots onto a separate workstation, hard disk or plug-in USB stick;
- g. Copy other valuable material from your Windows 7 workstation onto a separate workstation, hard disk or plug-in USB stick.

Note: If unsure about how to do any of the above, ask Google "How to ... ?" or contact Astons Online (theastonsonline@gmail.com & 07780958240)

Upgrade to Windows 10

9. Astons Online strongly recommends Windows 7 computer users upgrade to Windows 10 well before 14 January as do **Computer Which?** and numerous other digital specialists.
10. Windows 7 computer users need first to discover whether their current computer has the technical capacity to upgrade to the more demanding Windows 10. Go to Start Menu (Windows icon bottom left on screen or key on keyboard); to Control Panel; to System and Security; to System to see screen shown in figure 1 below.
11. Your computer must have the following specifications for Windows 10:
 - Processor: 1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster processor or System on a Chip (SoC).
 - RAM: 1 gigabyte (GB) for 32-bit operating system (OS) or 2 GB for 64-bit OS.
 - Hard disk space: 16 GB for 32-bit OS or 20 GB for 64-bit OS.
 - Graphics card: DirectX 9 or later with WDDM 1.0 driver.
 - Display: 800 x 600 screen resolution
12. If your workstation has these specifications; you can buy a Windows 10 package from numerous providers, including Amazon, for approximately £120.
13. However, you may be able to upgrade from Windows 7 to Windows 10 free of charge if you have a valid Windows 7 licence. You can find out by going, as in paragraph 14 above, to Start Menu; to Control Panel; to System and Security; to System. If you have a valid licence, you will see the licence number at the bottom of the screen in Figure 1 below:

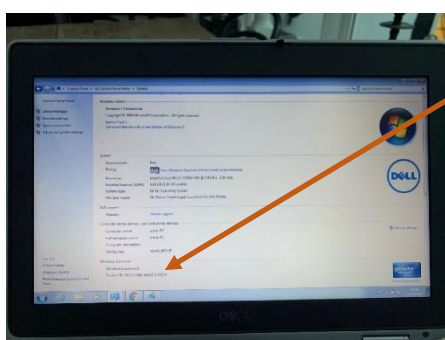


Figure 1

Licence number



Click here

Figure 2

14. Next step is to go to www.microsoft.com/en-gb/software-download/windows10 to download the upgrade, see figure 2. Then follow on-screen instructions. The upgrade may take a couple of hours or so, involve automatic and user-controlled re-starts. Users must be in touch with and aware of the process throughout so they can act when the upgrade requires.

Astons Online has successfully upgraded two old second hand Windows 7 laptops to Windows 10 using this free of charge procedure.

Further information: www.astonsonline.uk email theastonsonline@gmail.com phone 07780958249