From EOS to AI: How SMBs Can Plan Their Windows 10 Transition and Boost Productivity with AI

Technology isn't just a support function—it's the backbone of modern productivity and competitiveness. With Windows 10 reaching its end-of-service (EOS) on October 14, 2025, and a growing wave of new applications and AI-driven features transforming how we work, now is the time to upgrade. Making the transition not only strengthens security but also unlocks the enhanced performance and efficiency of AI-enabled PCs, ensuring your business stays ahead.

What This Article Covers:

- Costs and Risks of Remaining on Windows 10 after October 14, 2025
- Benefits of Windows 11 Pro and AI-Enabled PCs
- Understanding AI PC Capabilities
- Steps for Transitioning to Windows 11 Pro and AI PCs

The Hidden Costs and Risks of Sticking with Windows 10 and Old Hardware

Delaying an upgrade past October 14, 2025, can expose businesses to increasing security threats and operational inefficiencies. As technology evolves, so do the risks of running outdated systems.

> "As security threats evolve and adapt,
> so must our operating systems and hardware."
>
> - Yusuf Mehdi Executive Vice President, Microsoft

1. Security Vulnerabilities

Once Windows 10 reaches EOS on October 14, 2025, Microsoft will no longer provide essential security updates. Without these patches, businesses become more susceptible to cyberattacks, including ransomware and data breaches, which can result in financial losses and reputational damage.

While Extended Security Updates (ESUs) will be available for purchase at $61 per PC for the first year, this is only a temporary solution—not a long-term strategy.

2. Rising Maintenance Costs:

As software ages, it becomes more expensive to maintain. Outdated systems require more frequent IT interventions, which translates to higher operational costs and downtime. As businesses rely more on technology for daily operations, the cost of keeping legacy systems running can far exceed that of investing in modern, supported software.

3. Compatibility and Performance Issues:
Many current Windows 10 setups may soon encounter compatibility and performance challenges as business applications increasingly optimize for Windows 11 Pro. This isn't just a hardware issue—older systems are likely to struggle with running the latest, resource-intensive applications efficiently, which can lead to unexpected downtime, slower workflows, and reduced productivity. Upgrading proactively ensures that your critical business applications perform optimally, keeping your operations smooth and your organization competitive in an evolving digital landscape.

4. Non-Compliance Risks:
For businesses in regulated industries, failing to upgrade can lead to non-compliance with industry standards and data protection regulations. As security vulnerabilities increase, so do the chances of legal and regulatory repercussions—a risk no business can afford.

Benefits of Windows 11 Pro and AI-Enabled PCs

1. Next-Level Security Built for Modern Threats:
Windows 11 Pro leverages a **Zero-Trust Security** model, ensuring every access request is verified and data is continuously encrypted. Features such as hardware-based isolation and encryption help safeguard businesses from emerging threats.

When choosing new devices, look for added security features such as **Lenovo's ThinkShield and Intel vPro**, which provide advanced encryption at the chip level, securing data both locally and in the cloud.

2. Optimized Performance for Business Applications
Upgrading to Windows 11 means more than just a new user interface. Newer systems are designed to support the latest business applications with improved speed and efficiency. According to IDC, many legacy devices, while technically upgradeable, may struggle to run resource-intensive applications that are critical for productivity. By transitioning to Windows 11 on modern hardware, you ensure:

- Faster boot and load times
- Smoother multitasking and collaboration
- Reliable performance for video conferencing and cloud-based tools

3. Harnessing the Power of AI:
Option 2: AI is revolutionizing business operations. According to the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, 67% of small-business owners say AI allows employees to focus on high-value tasks.
AI-enabled PCs enhance productivity by:

- Streamlining repetitive processes
- Enabling real-time analytics
- Improving voice recognition and workflow automations

Understanding AI PC Capabilities

A chip's ability to run AI is measured with a unit called "TOPS," short for trillions of operations per second. While it's not an exact measurement, it's useful to determine a piece of hardware's capability to run AI.

Lenovo's AI-Powered PCs come equipped with neural processing units (NPUs) designed to run AI functions locally, delivering rapid responses for tasks such as voice recognition, real-time noise suppression, and advanced search capabilities.

AI-powered PCs use Neural Processing Units (NPUs) to enhance performance. NPUs are optimized for AI workloads, making them more efficient than traditional CPUs and GPUs.

Hardware-Enabled AI PCs (<40 TOPS NPUs)	**Next-Generation AI PCs** (>40 TOPS NPUs)
Ideal for: AI-powered features such as real-time noise suppression and voice recognition.	**Ideal for:** High-performance AI workloads, including advanced content creation and automation.
Performance: Supports basic AI-enhanced applications.	**Performance:** Enables more complex AI-driven tasks with sustained processing power.
Key Features: Voice command improvements, automatic background blur, and enhanced search.	**Key Features:** Copilot+ PC capabilities, including Click to Do, Recall, Generative Fill & Erase in Paint, and Live Captions.

By investing in **next-generation AI PCs**, businesses can future-proof their operations while leveraging AI-driven productivity enhancements.

Practical Steps for a Smooth Transition

Upgrading to Windows 11 Pro and integrating AI-enabled PCs doesn't have to be overwhelming. A strategic, phased approach ensures a seamless transition.

1. Evaluate Your Current Fleet

- **Conduct a comprehensive audit** using tools to assess which Windows 10 devices are currently in use and determine their eligibility for an upgrade based on both technical requirements and performance criteria. Microsoft's requirements for Windows 11
- **Identify legacy systems** that were built before the shift to mobile and collaborative work environments.

2. Develop a Phased Upgrade Strategy

- **Prioritize departments** that rely most heavily on technology, such as those involved in customer service, sales, and remote work.
- **Test upgrades** with a small group before deploying company-wide.
- **Plan for Device Refreshes** to include a mix of AI-enabled PCs based on business needs.

3. Engage with Trusted Providers

- **Collaborate with ISVs** to understand how AI capabilities integrate with existing applications.
- **Consult with a trusted Lenovo Partner** to tailor a hardware refresh that aligns with your long-term IT strategy.

4. Invest in Employee Training and Cybersecurity

- Provide **training programs** to help teams maximize new features.
- Strengthen **cybersecurity protocols** to take full advantage of Windows 11 Pro's security enhancements.

5. Monitor, Optimize, and Future-Proof

- **Gather user feedback** post-upgrade to optimize system performance.
- Stay informed on **emerging AI features** to maintain a competitive edge.

Future-Proof Your Business

Upgrading to **Windows 11 Pro and AI-powered PCs** isn't just about keeping up—it's about staying ahead. Modern devices deliver:

- **Improved energy efficiency**
- **Reduced downtime**
- **Lower IT support costs**

By making the switch today, businesses can strengthen security, enhance productivity, and embrace the future of AI-powered work.

Take the next step:

Upgrade to Lenovo AI-Powered PCs with Windows 11 Pro today.

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we solve IT

Contact your Connection Account Team for more information.

Business Solutions	Enterprise Solutions	Public Sector Solutions
1.800.800.0014	1.800.369.1047	1.800.800.0019

www.connection.com/Lenovo

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