



Whitepaper: Navigating the Windows 10 to Windows 11 Journey

Strategic Insights and Best Practices from
Samana Group

Executive Summary

As the Windows 10 end-of-support (EOS) deadline looms on October 14, 2025, businesses face a critical imperative to migrate to Windows 11 to ensure security, compliance, and operational efficiency.

This transition is not merely a technical upgrade but a strategic opportunity to enhance cybersecurity, streamline operations, and leverage AI-driven capabilities like Microsoft Copilot. However, the migration process presents challenges, including hardware compatibility, application readiness, and user adoption.

With over 20 years of expertise in virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI), end-user computing (EUC), application lifecycle management, patch management, and platform migrations, Samana Group is uniquely positioned to guide organizations through this complex transition. This whitepaper outlines key considerations, best practices, and limitations, emphasizing how our tailored consulting and managed services ensure a seamless and future-ready migration.

Introduction

The impending Windows 10 EOS marks a pivotal moment for enterprises worldwide. With an estimated 67% of devices still running Windows 10 as of early 2025, the urgency to migrate to Windows 11 is palpable. Beyond maintaining compliance, Windows 11 offers advanced security features (e.g., TPM 2.0, Secure Boot), enhanced user experiences, and integration with Microsoft 365 for hybrid work environments. Recent developments, such as Microsoft's Extended Security Updates (ESU) program for Windows 10, provide a temporary reprieve for organizations unable to migrate by the deadline, but costs—starting at \$61 per device for the first year—make this a stopgap, not a long-term solution.

The market backdrop underscores the strategic importance of this migration. Cybersecurity threats are escalating, with 2024 seeing a surge in sophisticated attacks targeting outdated systems. Windows 11's zero-trust architecture and AI-driven tools like Copilot position it as a future-proof platform for businesses aiming to stay competitive. However, challenges such as stringent hardware requirements and legacy application compatibility have left many organizations wary, recalling the complexities of past migrations like Windows 7 to Windows 10.

For over two decades, Samana Group has empowered businesses to navigate complex IT transformations, from VDI deployments to cloud migrations. Our expertise in application lifecycle management, patch management, and end-to-end consulting ensures that your Windows 11 migration aligns with your business goals, minimizes disruptions, and maximizes ROI.

We are honored to be able to share this whitepaper, providing actionable insights to guide your migration strategy and highlights how partnering with a skilled provider like Samana Group can help streamline the process.

Top Considerations

Hardware Compatibility: Windows 11's stringent requirements, including TPM 2.0, Secure Boot, and modern processors, mean many existing devices may not be eligible for an upgrade. A thorough hardware assessment is critical to identify which devices can be upgraded and which require replacement.

Application Compatibility: Legacy or custom-built applications may not function seamlessly on Windows 11. Comprehensive testing and remediation—potentially involving updates, containerization, or virtualization—are essential to avoid workflow disruptions.

User Training and Adoption: Windows 11 introduces a refreshed interface and new features like Snap Layouts and Virtual Desktops. Without proper training, employees may face a steep learning curve, impacting productivity.

Deployment Strategy: Choosing between in-place upgrades and clean installs depends on your IT environment. In-place upgrades preserve settings but risk compatibility issues, while clean installs ensure a fresh start but require more effort.

Security and Compliance: Post-EOS, Windows 10 devices will no longer receive security patches, increasing vulnerability to cyberattacks. Windows 11's advanced security features are critical for meeting compliance requirements in industries like healthcare and finance.

Timeline and Budget: With supply chain constraints and potential cost increases for hardware and ESU subscriptions, early planning is essential to avoid last-minute expenses and delays.

Best Practices

Conduct a Comprehensive Assessment: Use tools like Microsoft's PC Health Check or Samana Group's proprietary Windows 11 Readiness Audit to evaluate hardware, software, and infrastructure compatibility. This ensures a clear roadmap for upgrades or replacements.

Implement a Phased Rollout: Start with a pilot group of low-risk or tech-savvy users to identify and resolve issues before scaling company-wide. This minimizes disruptions and builds confidence in the migration process.

Leverage Modern Management Tools: Transition to cloud-based management solutions like Microsoft Intune or Windows Autopilot to streamline deployment, updates, and security policies across Windows 10 and 11 devices.

Prioritize User Training: Develop concise training sessions, reference guides, and FAQs to help employees adapt to Windows 11's interface and features. Engage Samana Group to create tailored training strategies that reduce helpdesk strain.

Test Applications Rigorously: Build a compatibility matrix and test critical applications in a controlled environment. For incompatible apps, consider virtualization or containerization, leveraging Samana Group's VDI expertise to deliver seamless access.

Integrate with VDI and Cloud Solutions: For organizations with ineligible hardware, transitioning to VDI or Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS) can extend device lifecycles while ensuring Windows 11 compliance. Our 20+ years of VDI experience make Samana Group the ideal partner for these solutions.

Plan for Post-Migration Support: Establish a robust support framework to address user issues post-migration. Samana Group's application lifecycle and patch management services ensure ongoing optimization and security.

Limitations

Hardware Constraints: Devices lacking TPM 2.0 or modern processors cannot be upgraded, necessitating costly replacements or temporary ESU enrollment.

Application Challenges: Legacy applications may require significant updates or replacement, potentially delaying migration timelines.

Resource Intensity: Large-scale migrations demand substantial time, budget, and expertise, particularly for organizations with diverse IT environments. Without automation or expert support, manual processes can lead to errors and inefficiencies.

User Resistance: Changes to the Windows 11 interface may cause initial resistance, requiring robust change management to ensure adoption.

Supply Chain Risks: Delays in hardware procurement due to global supply chain issues could hinder timely migrations, emphasizing the need for early planning.



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Conclusion & Next Steps

The Windows 10 to Windows 11 migration is a strategic necessity driven by the October 2025 EOS deadline, offering businesses an opportunity to enhance security, productivity, and innovation.

However, the complexity of hardware upgrades, application compatibility, and user adoption demands meticulous planning and execution.

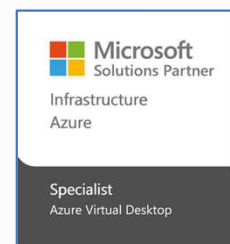
Next Steps:

- **Schedule a Consultation:** Contact [Samana Group](#) to conduct a Windows 11 Readiness Assessment and develop a customized migration roadmap.
- **Run a Pilot Program:** Leverage our expertise to deploy a pilot group, testing hardware, applications, and user readiness.
- **Explore VDI Solutions:** For ineligible devices, consider our VDI and cloud migration services to future-proof your IT environment.
- **Invest in Training:** Partner with us to create user training programs that drive adoption and minimize disruptions.

About Samana Group

[Samana Group](#), with over 20 years of expertise in VDI, EUC, application lifecycle management, patch management, and platform migrations, is your trusted partner to navigate this transition.

Our strategic partnerships, tailored assessments, proven methodologies, and comprehensive support services ensure a seamless migration that aligns with your business objectives.





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