



The Windows 10 migration opens up DaaS possibilities

By Megan Williams



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The clock is ticking on your Windows 10 migration, but it may represent a rare opportunity for your IT environment. Windows 7 is scheduled for end of life in January 2020, so even large enterprises that have put off a **Windows 10 migration** need to seriously consider the impact such a large shift may have on their organizations.

This migration is likely different from what most IT staff and users are accustomed to navigating. It's complex and much more involved than the simple click-and-upgrade migrations of the past, requiring planning and tailored methodology for each organization's infrastructure. Between the overall disruption to organizational functions and a **typical migration length of 1.8 years**, the change costs and considerations should be thoughtfully—and strategically—planned for ahead of time.

The disruptive period of the migration should be taken advantage of and viewed as an opportunity to fully optimize both software and hardware with a solution like Device as a Service (DaaS). A DaaS vendor can team up with an organization to handle a variety of device management tasks, including procurement, deployment, services, and lifecycle management—all under a single contract with a fixed price per device.

With the ability to oversee how all devices on the network are operating from a high level—thanks to DaaS—a Win10 migration can become more synchronized and better controlled. Win10 also opens the door to manage from a fleet

perspective, even taking into account the refresh and lifecycle processes. IT staff will find this to be a prime opportunity to review aging devices and bring them up to a standard that's ready for long-term changes, such as upgrades, patches, and any other future needs.

Prepare for your upcoming Win10 migration

To take advantage of the opportunity around a Win10 migration, you should first understand how the new operating system ushers IT departments away from inefficient structures of the past and into a new era of the optimized IT ecosystem.

Win10 acts like SaaS **at the desktop level** for improvements and updates, while also integrating with other Microsoft solutions for mobile device management, security and licensing, as well as system management. That said, with such a large migration, IT departments face a few, key challenges to successfully undergirding the future of their operations:

- Assess the potential impact on security and system management strategies.
- Consider the implications of the transition on mobile devices.
- Once deployed, test Windows and web applications to ensure consistent performance in the new environment.

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HP specifically developed a more robust **assessment service**, compared to Microsoft's free assessment tool, that automates the collection of details of your current environment to validate your organization's readiness for the move. The findings can inform decisions around the best approach to organizational device strategy and complement an examination of how DaaS can fulfill the resulting needs.

Build a foundation for Win10 with DaaS

If Windows 10 opens the door to workplace transformation, DaaS—a transformational relationship with your service provider that frees organizations from commitment to fast-changing devices—is the foundation. Windows 10 can help save time, improve security, reduce costs (of third-party software licenses, specifically), and improve IT efficiency, and DaaS can take those benefits one level deeper. HP DaaS, in particular, will allow you to boost employee productivity and optimize the way your organization uses its resources and technology.

The Win10 migration begins with a discovery and assessment period, which builds on the understanding needed to implement a DaaS strategy. In both cases, users will experience disruption to their normal workflows. This will open up the opportunity to not only implement both a migration and upgrade to world-class devices, but also condense communication with less technical users—allowing IT liaisons and leadership to “bundle” the shift in both software and hardware.

The alternative—beginning a migration without paying proper attention to an existing hardware environment—can lead to expensive backtracking. Take, for example, the **challenges the Department of Defense (DoD)** faced in their most recent Win10 migration, as reported by *IT*

Pro Windows. According to Brig. Gen. Dennis Crall, the Marine Corps CIO,

“Our challenges are with hardware, and hardware that is older than a couple years is having more difficulty accepting Windows 10 than hardware that is new. And when you look at what ‘new’ means within DoD, we purchase yesterday's technology tomorrow. A lot of our brand-new systems are having difficulty with the upgrade as soon as they come out of the box, and we didn't anticipate that.”

Organizations that are aware they're running older hardware—or even suspect roadblocks of this type—stand to benefit from avoiding these migration challenges altogether by moving to a DaaS vendor relationship that gives them access to **flexible, predictable plans** and easy quote-building through simple, tailored solutions. This type of relationship is especially important for organizations that have a large number of PCs that are five to six years old. In this case, considering a scalable and predictable monthly fixed cost that allows organizations to stop paying for more than they use through the simplicity of a single contract and price per device can be extremely effective in meeting their changing workforce needs.

Every organization and IT department will face its own challenges around a **Windows 10 migration**, but a strategic approach that prioritizes clear communication with all stakeholders and proactive expectation management will keep timelines as short as possible and take advantage of every opportunity to address any inconveniences staff and users may face.

To learn more about the insights HP gained from an internal Windows 10 migration, access this **informative webinar** with Gwen Becknell, HP senior director of end-user experience services, and Ross Sorensen, HP worldwide Windows 10 lead.

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