

WHITE PAPER · MODERNIZATION

Platform End of Support 2025 to 2031

A modernization planning guide: the Microsoft, SAP and open source deadlines that affect business systems, the options for each, and how to plan the work before the dates arrive.

September 2026

At a glance

Who this is for: CIOs, IT directors, application owners and finance leaders responsible for business systems, infrastructure and technology budgets.

Every business system runs on platforms with published end of support dates. After those dates, vendors stop shipping security fixes, integrations break as other systems move on, and auditors and customers start asking questions.

Between 2025 and 2031 a large share of the software that mid sized and enterprise organizations rely on reaches that point: Windows 10, Office 2016 and 2019, Exchange Server 2016 and 2019, SQL Server 2016, Windows Server 2016, .NET 8 and 9, SAP ECC and Microsoft Dynamics GP, alongside faster moving open source runtimes such as PHP and Node.js.

Extended support programs exist for some products, but they are a bridge, not a destination. Windows 10 commercial Extended Security Updates cost 61 US dollars per device in the first year and double each year after.

This guide consolidates the dates, sets out the six options for any system approaching end of support, and gives a planning method and checklist to turn a list of deadlines into a funded, sequenced modernization roadmap.

Key findings

The window is now

Nine major platform deadlines fall between October 2025 and January 2027 alone.

Extended support gets dearer

Windows 10 commercial ESU runs for up to three years, into October 2028, at 61, 122 and 244 US dollars per device.

ERP clocks are running

SAP ECC mainstream maintenance ends at the end of 2027 and Dynamics GP support ends on December 31, 2029.

Runtimes move fastest

.NET 8 and 9 end on November 10, 2026; Node.js and PHP versions retire every year.

Sequence beats speed

Dependencies between systems, not individual dates, should set the order of work.

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Why end of support is a business risk

End of support is easy to treat as an IT housekeeping task. It is a business risk for four reasons.

- Security: vulnerabilities found after the date stay open unless you pay for extended updates.
- Compatibility: new versions of browsers, operating systems, APIs and connected systems stop supporting old platforms, so integrations fail without warning.
- Compliance: frameworks and customer security questionnaires expect supported software, so unsupported systems create findings and slow sales.
- Skills and cost: fewer people maintain older platforms, and every year of delay makes the eventual move larger.

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The deadlines at a glance

Dates are as published by each vendor or project, reviewed in September 2026.

Date	Platform	What happens
October 14, 2025	Windows 10	End of support. Commercial Extended Security Updates available for up to three years.
October 14, 2025	Office 2016 and 2019, Exchange Server 2016 and 2019	End of support.
December 31, 2025	PHP 8.1	Security support ends.

Date	Platform	What happens
April 30, 2026	Node.js 20	Security support ends.
July 14, 2026	SQL Server 2016	Extended support ends. Extended Security Updates available.
October 13, 2026	Windows Server 2012 and 2012 R2	Extended Security Updates end.
November 10, 2026	.NET 8 and .NET 9	End of support. .NET 10 is supported through November 2028.
December 31, 2026	PHP 8.2	Security support ends.
January 12, 2027	Windows Server 2016	Extended support ends. Extended Security Updates available.
April 30, 2027	Node.js 22	Security support ends.
End of 2027	SAP ECC (SAP Business Suite 7)	Mainstream maintenance ends; extended maintenance available until the end of 2030.
October 2028	Windows 10 commercial ESU	Final year of Extended Security Updates ends.
December 31, 2029	Microsoft Dynamics GP	Product support and updates end; security patches continue until April 30, 2031.

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Extended support is a bridge, not a destination

Extended Security Updates buy time to finish a migration. They do not add features, fix compatibility problems or reduce technical debt, and their price is designed to rise.

Windows 10 commercial ESU	Price per device
Year 1 (to October 2026)	61 US dollars
Year 2 (to October 2027)	122 US dollars
Year 3 (to October 2028)	244 US dollars

Windows 10 virtual machines running in Windows 365, Azure Virtual Desktop and Azure services receive Extended Security Updates at no additional cost. SQL Server and Windows Server moved to Azure can also receive additional years of updates. Moving a workload can therefore change the economics of the bridge.

Six options for every system

Each system approaching end of support has the same six options. The right one depends on how much the system matters, how much it is changing and what it costs to keep.

Option	What it means	Best when
Retire	Switch the system off and archive its data.	Usage is low or another system already covers the need.
Retain with extended support	Pay for extended updates while a replacement is prepared.	A migration is planned and funded, and needs time.
Upgrade in place	Move to the supported version of the same product.	The system fits the business and the upgrade path is clean.
Replatform	Move to new infrastructure, often cloud, with limited code change.	Infrastructure is the problem, not the application.
Refactor or rebuild	Modernize the code and architecture, often in stages.	The application is differentiating but hard to change or scale.
Replace	Move to a packaged product or SaaS.	The process is standard and a product covers most of it.

A planning method that holds up

- 1 Inventory**
List every system, its platform versions, owner, users, integrations, data and support date. Include servers, databases, runtimes and desktop estates.
- 2 Assess**
Score each system on business criticality, risk, cost to keep and fit with future needs, then choose one of the six options.
- 3 Map dependencies**
Record which systems depend on which. A database upgrade may force application changes, and an ERP move reshapes every integration.
- 4 Sequence and fund**
Order the work by dependency and date, budget extended support only where it bridges a funded plan, and set decision points.
- 5 Migrate in stages**
Run old and new side by side while each capability moves, with data migrated and validated at every step.
- 6 Retire and record**
Decommission old systems promptly, archive data to policy, and update the inventory so the next cycle starts from facts.

Planning checklist

- ☐ We have a complete inventory of systems, platform versions and support dates.
- ☐ Every system has a named business and technical owner.
- ☐ Each system has a chosen option: retire, retain, upgrade, replatform, refactor or replace.
- ☐ Dependencies between systems are mapped.
- ☐ Extended support is budgeted only as a bridge to a funded plan.
- ☐ Security exposure of unsupported systems is assessed and mitigated.
- ☐ Data migration, validation and archiving are planned for each move.
- ☐ Integrations are listed and tested against the target versions.
- ☐ Users and training are planned for each change.
- ☐ The roadmap has dates, owners, budgets and decision points.
- ☐ Leadership has approved the sequence and the funding.
- ☐ The inventory is reviewed at least twice a year.

NEXT STEPS

How Inventh can help

Inventh is an AI and custom software development company. We design, build and run AI systems, custom applications and data platforms, with consulting to decide what is worth building first. The services most relevant to this paper:

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Application Development Consulting

Application reviews, build or buy analysis and architecture for the systems you rebuild or replace.

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