

## **February 2020 – Technology Security Tip**

### Windows 7 End of Life: What Happens Next?

When Windows 7 reaches its End of Life phase on January 14, 2020, Microsoft will stop releasing updates and patches for the operating system. It is likely that it also won't offer help and support if you encounter any problems. However, that doesn't mean Windows 7 will stop working – you'll still be able to use Windows 7 for as long as you want.

But just because you can continue to use Windows 7 in its End of Life status, it doesn't mean that you should. The biggest issue with continuing to use Windows 7 is that it won't be patched for any new viruses or security problems, and this leaves you extremely vulnerable to any emerging threats. What's more, if a large number of people continue to use Windows 7 after the End of Life date, it could actually be a big incentive for malicious users to target viruses at Windows 7. You should consider planning to upgrade to Windows 10, or an alternative operating system, as soon as possible.

### **How to check which version of Windows you are running:**

1. Click the Start button.
2. Type "winver" in the search box and press Enter.
3. You should see the About Windows box with your Windows version information.

*Courtesy of [tehradar.com](http://tehradar.com) and [businessinsider.com](http://businessinsider.com).*