

# Windows XP has reached its end of life

## Your critical operations are at risk of costly downtime or outage

Microsoft ended support for Windows XP on April 8, 2014. Your site's operations may be at risk.



### Frequently asked questions

#### What happened to Windows XP?

April 8, 2014 was the end of the Windows® XP operating system lifecycle. This includes Virtual Windows XP Mode running on Windows 7. Microsoft “no longer provides automatic fixes, updates, or online technical assistance”, and as a Windows XP user, “you will no longer receive security updates that can help protect your PC from harmful viruses, spyware, and other malicious software.”<sup>1</sup>

Vulnerabilities in Windows XP will continue to be exploited and Microsoft will not be fixing them. These vulnerabilities may include critical flaws that could allow an attacker to cripple a computer.

#### What are the risks I should be concerned about now that Windows XP is unsupported?

The risks can't be overstated, and grow larger every day for systems running on Windows XP. Bill Lydon, editor of Automation.com, writes “the huge installed base of automation software running on Windows XP will be vulnerable to cyber-attacks with the end of Windows XP support.”<sup>2</sup>

#### Software risks:

- Disruption in the availability of a critical system (e.g. real time data server)
- Loss of mission critical data, or theft of protected intellectual capital
- Cyber attacks
- Infection from harmful viruses, malware, worms or spyware
- ABB will no longer be able to provide tested and validated security updates

#### Hardware risks:

- A failure of any computer running Windows XP (e.g., engineering workstation, connectivity server, real time data server, or batch server), may make it unable to be replaced
- Computer component manufacturers are no longer providing support for Windows XP or driver software compatible with Windows XP
- Major computer makers no longer offer Windows XP compatible computers

#### Notes

1. “Windows lifecycle fact sheet,” Microsoft, last modified October 2013, <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/products/lifecycle>.
2. Bill Lydon. “Windows XP Cyber Time Bomb set for April 8, 2014,” *Automation.com*, January 3, 2014. <http://www.automation.com/automation-news/article/windows-xp-cyber-time-bomb-set-for-april-8-2014>.
3. Dennis Batchelder, et al. *Microsoft Security Intelligence Report Volume 15*. Microsoft, June 2013.

#### Won't malware and security applications be enough to protect my system?

Not always. The age of Windows XP has given malware creators more time to find vulnerabilities to exploit. A Microsoft report indicates that Windows XP is more vulnerable to cyber threats than younger operating systems.<sup>3</sup>

Among operating systems, the lifecycle of Windows XP was one of the longest running, and multiple, newer versions have been released over the years. Microsoft stated, before support ended, “if your organization has not started the migration...you are late.”<sup>4</sup>

### Isn't it more economical to just keep Windows XP?

There are direct and indirect costs to maintain an unsupported operating system. Manufacturers stopped producing Windows XP computers long ago, so a replacement will be difficult to find and expensive, compared to a Windows 7 PC. Downgrading Windows 7 to Windows XP is possible, but requires valuable time, effort, knowledge, and ultimately, cost.

Support for Windows XP device drivers is melting away. Replacing these applications on a new PC may be impossible. In order to keep Windows XP, you may be forced to buy expensive third party security software.

### What options are available to eliminate the risks of system downtime?

Automation Sentinel is the most cost effective way to upgrade any ABB control system workstation currently running on Windows XP. This flexible program provides you access to newer versions of your workstation software that are compatible with the latest version of Windows. An Automation Sentinel subscription provides up to date software applications along with telephone and online support. You will also be eligible for additional offers and discounts on hardware platform upgrades.

#### ABB software affected:

System	Platform	Software	Upgrade to:	Easy, no cost upgrade with Automation Sentinel
System 800xA	System	System version 5.0 and earlier	5.1 or later	✓
Symphony / Harmony / INFI 90	HMI	Conductor NT	Symphony Plus or System 800xA with Harmony Connect	✓
		Process Portal B	Symphony Plus or System 800xA with Harmony Connect	✓
	Engineering workstation	Composer version 5.1 and earlier	Composer Version 6.x or latest	✓
	Communications interface	semAPI	Harmony OPC Server	✓
Advant MOD 300	HMI	Process Portal B	System 800xA with MOD Connect	✓
	Engineering Workstation	Advabuild for Windows 3.5 and earlier	Advabuild version 3.6 or later	✓
Symphony DCI	HMI	Conductor NT version 6.0 and earlier	System 800xA with DCI Connect version 5.1, feature pack 4	✓
	Engineering Workstation	Composer CTK version 6.0 and earlier	Composer CTK version 6.1	✓
Freelance		Freelance version 9.2 and earlier	9.2, service pack 1 or later	✓

### Once I have moved off Windows XP, what can I do to protect my system from cyber threats?

The following tools will empower you to oversee and shield your control system with a sustainable cyber security strategy.

- **Cyber Security Monitoring Service:** This tool reduces vulnerabilities and detects hidden weaknesses within your system's cyber security defenses. Its multi-layered monitoring exposes gaps, such as old versions of software or lack of anti-virus packages that could endanger employees, assets and uptime.
- **Cyber Security Patch Management Service:** Before installing Windows security updates and anti-virus definitions, you should verify they have been compatibility tested and validated for your ABB system. This service does that for you. Manually install the updates, or an ABB qualified Service Engineer will install, deploy and audit the system to ensure the patches were applied correctly, preserving your critical operations.

#### Notes

4. "Windows XP SP3 and Office 2003: Support Ends April 8, 2014." Microsoft, accessed February 10, 2014, <http://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/endsupport.aspx>.

**For a very limited time, ABB is offering a significant discount to assist in your upgrade to newer technology. See your ABB representative today, for details.**