

Enterprise Color Management:

Security & Compatibility Guide for the Windows 10 End-of-Life Transition

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Executive Summary:

The October 2025 Deadline



Microsoft officially announced the End of Life (EOL) for Windows 10 on October 14, 2025. For enterprise environments, this represents more than a simple software update. It is a critical security inflection point. After this date:

- **No Security Patches:** Zero-day vulnerabilities will remain unpatched.
- **No Technical Support:** Microsoft will no longer provide incident support.
- **Compliance Failure:** Running unsupported OSs is a violation of most cybersecurity insurance policies and industry audits (ISO, SOC2).

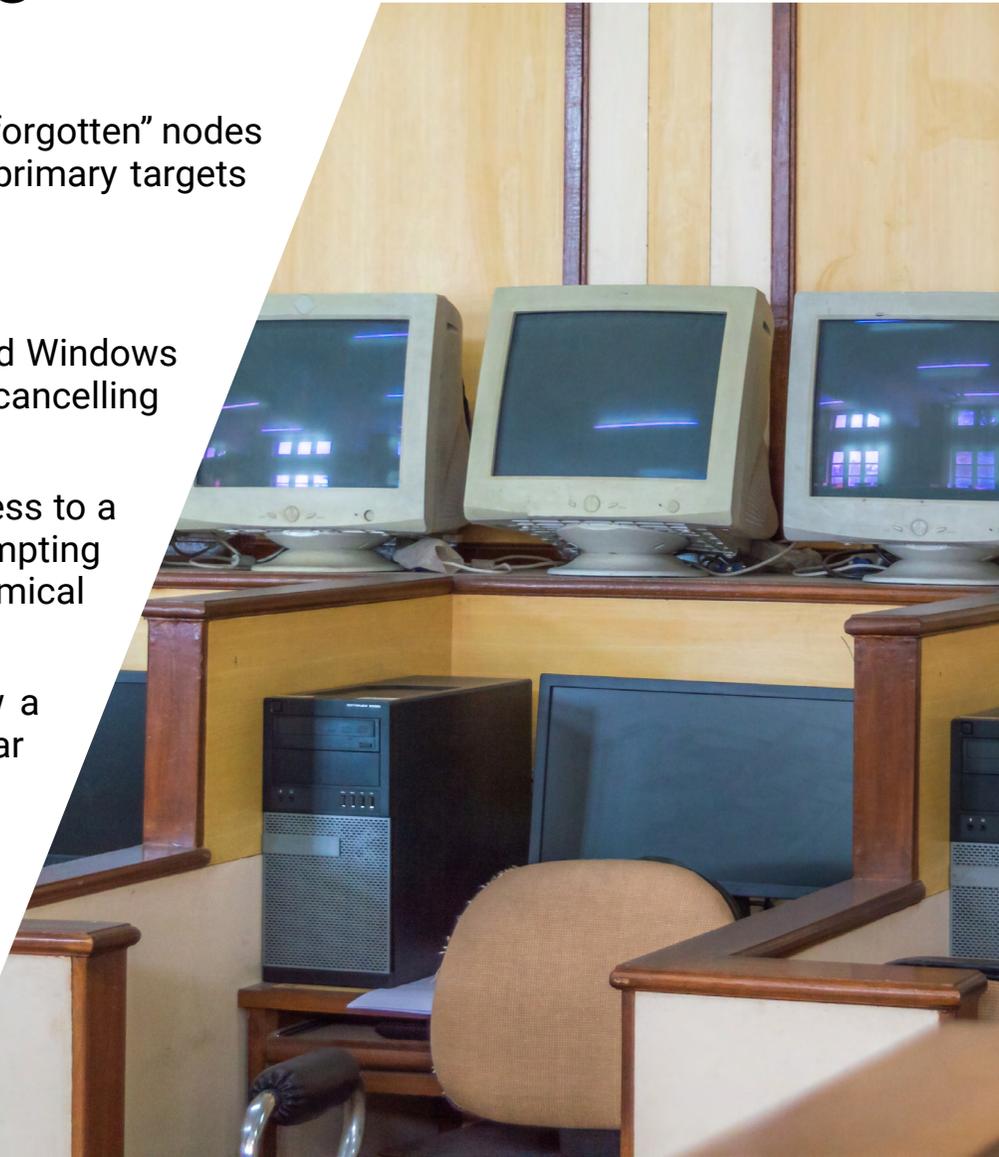
The Vulnerability of “Legacy” Industrial Systems

Historically, lab and production workstations are often the “forgotten” nodes in a corporate network. However, these systems are now primary targets for lateral movement in cyberattacks.

Real-World Consequences of Outdated Systems:

- **The WannaCry Ransomware (NHS):** Exploited unpatched Windows systems, costing the UK’s NHS over £92 million and cancelling 19,000+ appointments.
- **The Oldsmar Water Plant Incident:** Hackers gained access to a system running an unsupported version of Windows, attempting to poison a city’s water supply by manipulating chemical controls.
- **The 2024 Change Healthcare Breach:** Highlighted how a single legacy access point can lead to a multi-billion-dollar shutdown of services.

The Risk to Your Operation: A legacy PC running old Datacolor software connecting to an old Datacolor benchtop on Windows 10 isn’t just a “color tool”—it is an **unprotected gateway** into your entire corporate server architecture.



Beyond the OS: The Hardware & Software Gap

Upgrading to Windows 11 is not a 1:1 transition. It requires modern hardware specifications that legacy lab PCs typically lack:

- **TPM 2.0 (Trusted Platform Module):** A mandatory requirement for Windows 11 to ensure hardware-based encryption.
- **Secure Boot:** Required to prevent malware from hijacking the boot process.
- **Modern Processors:** Windows 11 requires specific 64-bit processors (typically 8th Gen Intel/AMD Ryzen 2000 or newer).

Datacolor Software Compatibility

To ensure stability on Windows 11 and modern server environments (Windows Server 2022), your color software should be updated to the following versions (or newer):

- **Datacolor Match Pigment:** Version 26.1
- **Datacolor Match Textile:** Version 26.1
- **Datacolor Tools:** Version 26.1
- **Datacolor Colibri:** Version 25.2



The Modernization Audit: A Checklist for IT

We recommend a three-step audit of your current color management footprint:

- 1. Workstation Inventory:** Identify all lab and production PCs currently running Windows 10 or older. Determine which lack TPM 2.0/Secure Boot capabilities.
- 2. Instrument Communication:** Verify if legacy instruments (some 10+ years old) can still be recognized by modern software running on modern operating systems.
- 3. Data Integrity Check:** Ensure your color databases (SQL/Sybase) are migrated to modern, encrypted environments before the Windows 10 “wipe and reload” process begins.



Why Datacolor Modernization?

Datacolor's latest high-end benchtops and software are engineered for the modern IT environment:

- **Encrypted Data Transfers:** Secure communication between instruments and databases.
- **IT-Friendly Licensing:** Simplified deployment and management across global networks.
- **Future-Proof Drivers:** Fully validated for Windows 11 and subsequent builds.
- **Subscription model:** So you always have access to the latest color technology.

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Ready to modernize your
color operations?

**Contact a Datacolor expert
to get started.**