
Industry

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Microsoft Windows XP / Server 2003 - End of Extended Support

Ladies and gentlemen,

Microsoft announced the end of extended support for Windows XP (2014-04-08) / Server 2003 (2015-07-14) [1]. This means by that date Microsoft will stop distributing any updates for Windows XP. Even if the end of life for an operating system is a standard procedure, the end of support for Windows XP will be a challenge for our customers due to the broad installed base of Windows XP systems and the high number of our products based on Windows XP.

Without security updates further found vulnerabilities will not be fixed by Microsoft. That means that PC & Engineering stations in the production facilities of our customers are threatened by malware and vulnerabilities.

To enable our customers to migrate to Windows 7 / Server 2008 as smooth as possible, we are defining a couple of measures which will be published separately for the different AS product groups.

For your information:

- Windows XP for Embedded Systems is not affected by the announced end of support (support for Windows XP Embedded will last until 2016) [2].
- Mainly older Step7, WinCC & PCS 7 versions are affected by this end of support.

Security recommendations

If a customer's application continues to run on Windows XP, identification of additional protection mechanisms for a defense-in-depth [3] are necessary:

- application whitelisting software (positive lists of trustable software)
- virus scanner with exploit detection (code modifications)
- firewalls on multiple levels
- intrusion detection systems
- system hardening

For further support please contact our security support [3] experts at industrialsecurity.i@siemens.com

Within the next months, we will distribute recommendations & measures for AS product families. All relevant promoters will be informed about migration support.

With best regards,

Sanjay Palad

Country BU Lead - AS

References

- [1] <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/products/lifecycle>
- [2] <https://www.microsoft.com/windowseMBEDded/en-us/product-lifecycles.aspx>
- [3] www.siemens.com/industrialsecurity