

What Operations And IT Executives Need To Know About Windows Sunset

The Microsoft® Windows® mobile operating systems that run on the vast majority of RF and voice devices in DCs are nearing their end of life. As a result, DCs are facing a hardware and software migration decision over the next few years.[1]



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Voice, RF and other devices running a legacy Windows OS are on extended support. They will not get security updates after their end of service date. Those devices cannot be upgraded to a next-generation OS.

Applications running on those devices will have to be rewritten to run on a new OS. Lucas Move – our mobile, voice-directed applications – can run on both Windows and Android so customers can migrate without a rewrite.

15 MILLION DEVICES ARE AFFECTED[2]

Operating System	End-of-Service Date	Sample Device
Windows Embedded CE 6.0	April 2018	Vocollect Talkman A500
Windows Embedded Handheld 6.5	January 2020	Honeywell CK70 Zebra Workabout Pro 4
Windows Embedded Compact 7	April 2021	Vocollect A700 Zebra MC9200 Honewell Thor CV31

This is a sample of devices affected by Windows Sunset and the end-of-service dates for the legacy OS.[3]

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO TO PREPARE?

1 Catalogue Your Devices

Understand which of your current mobile devices are affected by the Windows Sunset and when they will reach end of support.

2 Assess Your Applications

Contact your current mobile application providers (WMS, picking, voice, etc.) to learn whether your Windows applications can run on Android or other operating systems. And don't buy any new applications without asking what OS is supported.

3 Develop A Migration Plan

Create a migration strategy and work with your hardware and software providers to develop a timeline and budget for replacing affected devices and applications.

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

Android

Android is expected to overtake Windows as the leading platform for rugged mobile devices. The Android share of the rugged device market grew to 30% of shipments by the end of 2016, and 50 percent of Zebra rugged devices sold in Q1 2017 ran Android.[4]

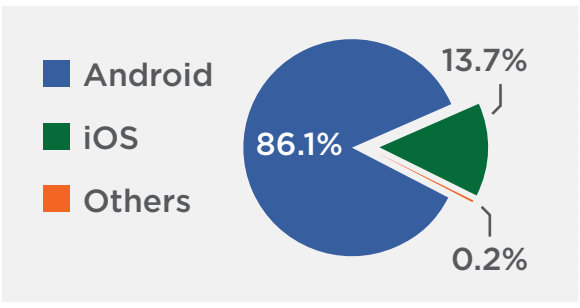
Windows 10

Windows 10 IoT Mobile Enterprise is the next generation Windows OS, but it is not backward compatible with legacy Windows OSes, and the current share of the mobile market is less than 1%.

iOS

iOS can only be used on devices manufactured by Apple, which has limited its adoption by providers of mobile industrial applications.

Android Dominates The Smartphone and Wearable Market



Android is the dominant OS for smartphones and it is becoming the de facto standard for many new wearable devices – including smart watches and glasses. This chart shows the worldwide OS market share in smartphone sales in Q1 2017.[5]

Notes

1. For a fuller description of the issues outlined here, see the Lucas White Paper, Windows Sunset: Implications for Distribution Centers.
2. VDC Research, 2016 Mobility Predictions.
3. Information about end of service dates is from https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/lifecycle/search. Information about operating systems running on devices is available at www.zebra.com and www.honeywellaidc.com.
4. VDC Research, 2017 Enterprise Mobility Predictions., and Zebra Technologies, Q1 2017 Investor Conference Call.
5. Gartner Says Worldwide Sales of Smartphones Grew 9 Percent In First Quarter of 2017, available at http://www.gartner.com/newsroom/id/3725117.