

WINDOWS · DEADLINE GUIDE

13 October 2026: the Windows deadlines and what to do this week

Several Windows lifecycle dates land on the same Patch Tuesday, 13 October 2026. The big one for business is the end of Windows 10 Extended Security Updates (ESU) Year 1. Consumer ESU was extended to October 2027, but that's for personal devices only.

What ends on 13 October 2026

Windows 10 (business)	ESU Year 1 ends. Year 2 ends 12 Oct 2027, Year 3 ends 10 Oct 2028
Windows 11 24H2 Home and Pro	End of updates. Enterprise and Education 24H2 supported to 12 Oct 2027
Windows Server 2012 / 2012 R2	ESU Year 3 ends, the last ESU year
Windows 10 Enterprise LTSC 2016	End of support
Not ending	Consumer Windows 10 ESU, which runs to 12 Oct 2027 for personal devices

How ESU pricing works

Microsoft: "\$61 USD per device for Year One... The price doubles every consecutive year, for a maximum of three years." You can only buy Year 2 if you also bought Year 1. ESU is free for Windows 10 virtual machines in Windows 365, Azure Virtual Desktop and other listed Azure services.

Do this this week

1

Inventory what's left

Windows 10, Windows 11 24H2 Home/Pro, LTSC 2016 and Server 2012/R2 machines.

2

Buy ESU Year 2 through Volume Licensing

It's cumulative: Year 1 must be covered too.

3

Find the MAK

Needs the Product Key Reader or VL Administrator role.

WHERE M365 admin centre > Billing > Your Products > Volume licensing > Contracts > View contracts > License ID > More actions > View product keys

4

Check the prerequisites on each device

Windows 10 22H2, KB5066791 or later, then the ESU Licensing Preparation Package KB5072653.

5

Install and activate Year 2

From an elevated Command Prompt, then check for License Status: Licensed.

WHERE slmgr.vbs /ipk <ESU MAK> · slmgr.vbs /ato 1043add5-23b1-4afb-9a0f-64343c8f3f8d · slmgr.vbs /dlv

6

Move Windows 11 24H2 Home and Pro to 25H2

Microsoft's recommendation in MC1428757. For LTSC 2016, Microsoft points to Windows 11 Enterprise LTSC 2024.

Watch out for

- The consumer extension to October 2027 doesn't replace business ESU.
- Activation IDs are per ESU year. A Year 1 activation doesn't cover Year 2.
- Offline devices need phone activation (slmgr.vbs /dti and /atp) or VAMT proxy activation.
- ESU doesn't include technical support beyond activation, installation and ESU regressions.

Sources

1. ESU FAQ and dates table - learn.microsoft.com/en-us/lifecycle/faq/extended-security-updates
2. Enable Extended Security Updates - learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/whats-new/enable-extended-security-updates
3. MC1428757, Windows 11 24H2 and LTSC 2016 - mc.merill.net/message/MC1428757
4. Consumer ESU programme - www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/extended-security-updates

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