Support for Windows XP and Office 2003 ended April 8, 2014

On April 8, 2014, after more than a decade, Microsoft ended support for Windows XP and Microsoft Office 2003. What does this mean? Windows XP users no longer receive new security updates, nonsecurity hotfixes, free or paid support options, or online technical content updates from Microsoft.

Windows XP was released in October 2001, and its development began in the late 1990s. Office 2003 has had a similar history. Most Microsoft software is supported for 10 years; retiring a product is a normal part of any product lifecycle. Windows XP and Office 2003, however, have been supported for more than a decade, or since "Baywatch" went off the air.

"It's been a great run for these popular products, but a decade later, times and technology have evolved," says Jay Paulus, director, Windows marketing, Microsoft. "Windows XP and Office 2003 weren't designed for the world we live in today.

What happens after April 8, 2014?

Computers currently running Windows XP and Office 2003 won't stop working on April 9, but over time security and performance will be affected. Many newer apps won't run on Windows XP. New hardware may not support Windows XP; and without critical security updates, PCs may become vulnerable to harmful viruses, spyware and other malicious software that can steal or damage personal information and business data. A modern OS and productivity suite is needed to be fully secure and mobile —In addition; driver support will be discontinued, meaning that new printers, scanners and other devices may not be compatible with PCs running Windows XP and Office 2003.

"After April 8, PCs running Windows XP and Office 2003 should not be considered protected, and it is important that customers move to a supported operating system and productivity suite. It's common for older operating systems to be more vulnerable to security risks. As Windows XP has watched a decade pass by, cybercriminals and the technology they use have grown more and more advanced. Windows XP is five times as susceptible* to viruses and attacks as [Windows 7 & 8.1](). Windows XP does not have the advanced technology needed to protect against these worsening threats and, after April 8, there will be no additional security updates to help keep users safe. Because of these security and performance risks, Microsoft recommends updating to a modern operating system