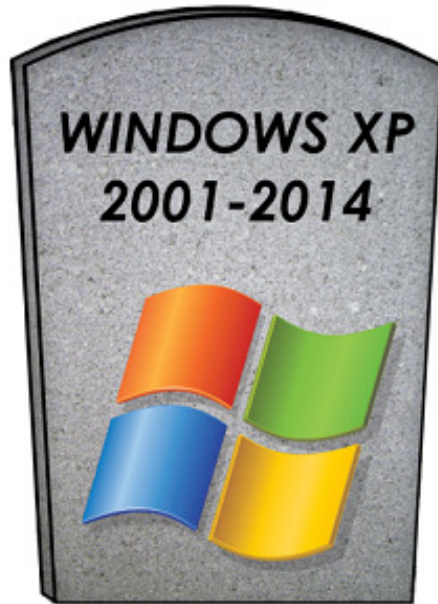# DEMISE  OF  WINDOWS XP



It is already well-known that after April 8$^{th}$ of this year Microsoft will finally move on and in a sense, abandon support of its immensely popular XP operating system which has been around for about 12 years – in today's technology it has certainly overstayed its welcome.  "End of support" means Microsoft will no longer provide automatic fixes, updates, or online technical assistance.  Without Microsoft's support, you will no longer receive security updates that can help protect your PC from harmful viruses, spyware, and other malicious software that can steal your personal information. This means that worldwide hackers and hijackers have their sights set on the millions of users still using the system either for personal or business purposes. But what does this **REALLY** mean to the end-user?

It means that in spite of your anti-virus or internet security systems the XP platform will be left wide open for all kinds of hijackers and system attackers, leaving your PC and its contents vulnerable whenever you are online.  This is especially dangerous for (small) and medium-sized business owners whose businesses are run on this platform and have personal data…large companies have already prepared for this cutoff well in advance.   As an average consumer then what are your alternatives?  We can suggest a couple of things:

1.  Keep the old XP and use it as a word processor or storage device **ONLY** – that means **never** go on the internet with it.  So, for example, use it to write your memoirs, store documents, or work with your old software programs.  Of course you would then have to transfer your work onto a USB stick or external hard drive to use on another device that is internet-capable.

2. Destroy your hard drive and donate the PC or laptop to a charity that will send it overseas for under-developed countries to use as teaching devices.
3. Keep your PC but upgrade it to either Windows 7 or 8 operating systems.  Most older devices have the capability to upgrade nicely so you can keep your old friend and give it a new life for another 5 years or so.
4. Destroy your hard drive and buy a new PC or laptop.  Just make sure that your new PC or laptop are set up properly for you and if you have older software programs that these will work on the new system.

And just as an FYI, Microsoft's Vista operating system will be the next one to bite the dust in the near future.  We shouldn't be surprised with these events…everything has its life cycle regardless of brand or product, and in the technological field changes happen at lightning speed.  As users we need to get used to going with the flow and try to stay ahead of the game just a bit…it's a matter of security.

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HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!

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