

2003 Products Lose Support

In April of 2013 many popular Microsoft applications and Operating systems (O/S) will lose support. The products will still work but be susceptible to attacks. Here's a partial list of the applications and Operating systems:

Windows XP
Windows 7 XP Mode
Small Business Server (SBS) 2003
Server 2003

Office 2003
Exchange 2003
SQL Server 2000/2005

If you are using any of the above in your home or office you should start thinking about replacements. Currently malicious attackers find ways into these products every day and Microsoft sends out updates to fix them. Once support goes away these systems will be wide open to attacks.

Windows XP

The best upgrade for Windows XP is Windows 7. While Windows 8 is newer it is really not that popular as a desktop O/S. The upgrade path is relatively painless with [Windows Easy Transfer](#). Basically all your data is backed up to an external or USB drive and restored within Windows 7. The tool is built into Windows 7. You will still need to install your applications.



Office 2003



Office 2003 there are a number of options for upgrading Office 2003.

Office 365 is an easy upgrade for Home users. You get 5 licenses for you home PCs, laptops, and tablets. That costs you \$100/year and you get access to all the Office products and extra space on Microsoft's SkyDrive. If you prefer, you can still buy Office but that can be

expensive if you want all the features.

Small Business Server

Small Business Server 2003 is built on several products which have their own end of life. Small Business Server itself is no longer offered so you need to upgrade to a standard version of Windows Server. The current upgrade is Windows Server 2012. to use 2 virtual servers if you forgo using That lets you separate applications like domain controller.



This O/S allows you the physical server. Quickbooks from the