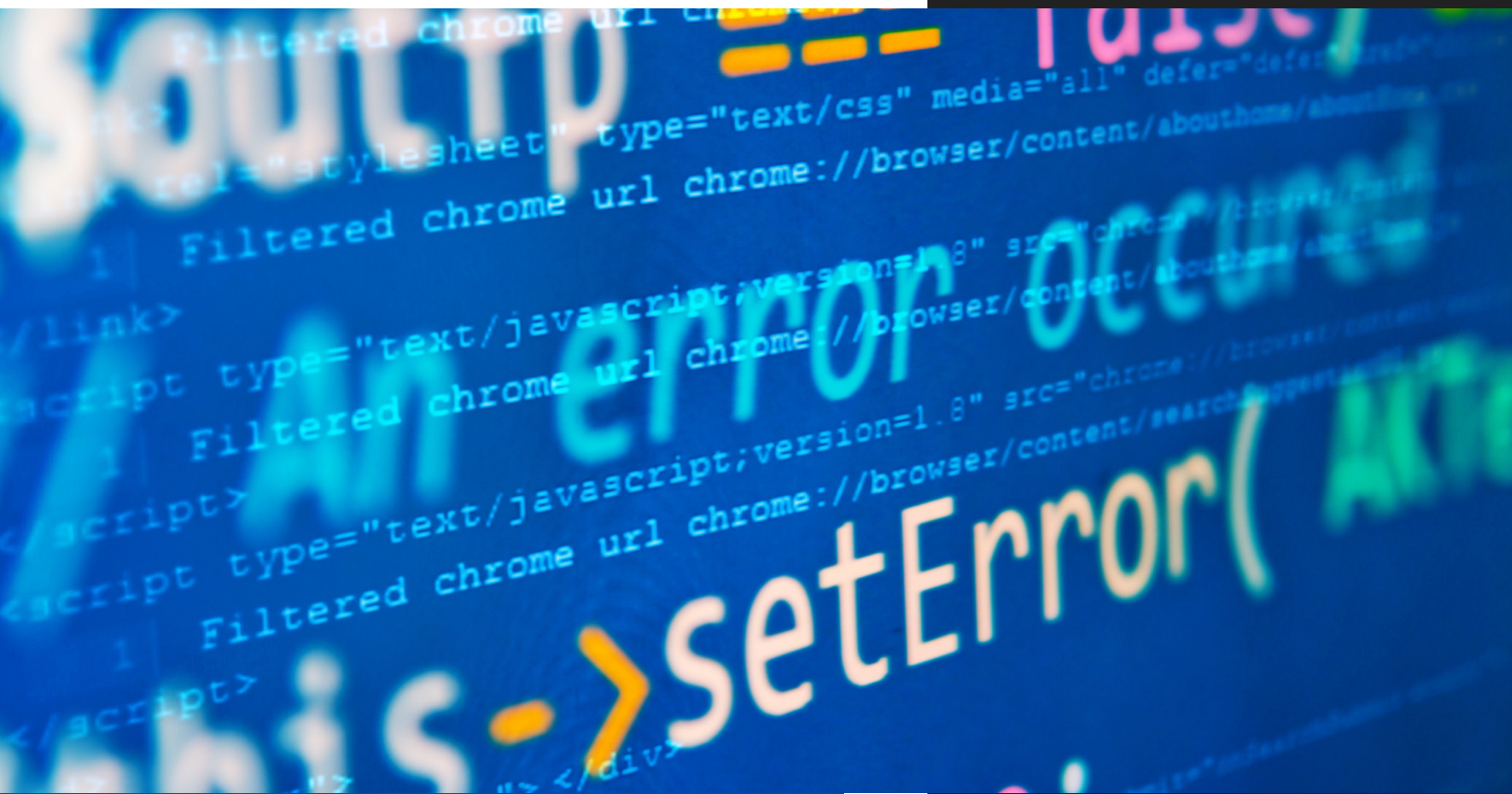![ERGOS]

# WHAT TO DO AFTER WINDOWS SERVER 2003 ENDS

Microsoft is officially ending support for Windows Server 2003 on July 14, 2015 and it is estimated to impact more than nine million people and businesses worldwide. According to Bit9, an endpoint security firm, there will still be roughly 2.7 million installs of Windows Server 2003 still deployed after July 14.

What that means, in simple speak, is there will be 2.7 million unprotected servers out there on July 15. Security crackers and hackers are drooling at the opportunity to get in and see what critical information and plans they can gain unauthorized access to.

For the millions of unprotected servers that will be out in the open on July 15, businesses can expect:

- Increased maintenance costs
- No updates to fix bugs, performance issues and security vulnerabilities
- Failure to meet industry wide compliance standards (HIPAA, PCI, SOX, Dodd-Frank and more
- Loss of business due to non-compliance and lack of securit
- Compatibility issues with current software and hardware vital to business operations

## Continuing to Operate on Windows Server 2003

If you're company insists on operating Windows Server 2003 as opposed to migrating over to a current server solution that offers support, risk management is an absolute must going forward.

With the large number of risks associated with operating a no longer supported Windows Server 2003, and the number will only grow as time goes on, it is important to identify which risks can be outright solved or mitigated.

// Security crackers and hackers are drooling at the opportunity to get in and see what critical information. //

For some risks the solution could be as simple as running firewall and intrusion-monitoring tools to address any possible security breaches. For other risks there may not be much you can do short of shutting the system down or quarantining an entire segment of data, as to prevent infection across the entire system.

It's up to you to determine just how high of a priority your list of identified risks are, and what you want to do about them.

The same goes for any and all applications currently being utilized by your business, as well as any applications you may want to use in the future. Compatibility issues will be a common occurrence for those who choose to continue on with Windows Server 2003.

## What About Migration?

Microsoft had been warning businesses about end of life, and support, for Windows Server 2003 since April 2013. The reasoning behind the early alert is because migrating away from the server platform can take anywhere from three to 18 months, depending on the size of migration and number of servers.

Of the companies surveyed by Spiceworks that either weren't fully migrated yet or don't plan to migrate, the biggest barrier to migration is the fact that there doesn't appear to be an immediate need for companies to do so. Of those that have begun the migration process already, 12 percent of them plan to be done within the next year but another 10 percent don't know when or if they will complete migration.

Migrating to a new server environment will be far from simple, as there are numerous steps involved before your business is even ready to do so, but the benefits could prove worth it.

// The biggest barrier to migration is the fact that there doesn't appear to be an immediate need for companies to do so. //

## The Key Steps in Migration Plans:

- Cataloguing applications in use
- Discovering which apps you are dependent upon and the impact on if you could not use them
- Involve the right people, gain input from those migration impacts
- Determine the scope of migration
- Back up all data and servers

## Microsoft Also Offers A Range Of Resources To Aid In Migration, Which Include:

- Microsoft Virtual Academy: a collection of self-study resources from Microsoft experts.
- Windows Server 2003 Roles Migration Process: a resource that allows you to turn your migration plan into a visual piece of art, such as a poster
- Windows Server 2003 Migration Planning Assistant: a website dedicated to helping you plan out your migration

Companies are not without options when facing the end of support for Windows Server 2003, but any decision about what to do going forward requires careful planning and setting realistic expectations about what can and cannot be accomplished at the end of the day.

Even though Microsoft offers resources to aid in migration that is still time and intensive company resources that you have to pour into it. If you would like assistance migrating from Windows Server 2003, contact ERGOS today.

// ...It's important to identify which risks can be outright solved or mitigated... //

Houston  |  Dallas  |  Austin  |  Dubai

Corporate Headquaters

6110 Clarkson Lane  |  Houston, Texas 77055  |
ERGOS.com

ERGOS