It's been a few months since I sent you my thoughts on the **Windows 10** upgrade Microsoft has been pushing, and they have been pushing much, much harder.

For those clients not on workstation monitoring, more than likely you have downloaded the Windows 10 scheduled update. So instead of simply giving you the option to install its latest operating system (or not), Microsoft now automatically schedules a date and time to update your PC to Windows 10. **So you may wake up one day and find your PC at Windows 10 if you do not take action to stop it**: manually click a link in the message, then choose to reschedule it or cancel it altogether. Or call me and I disable the alert from popping up.

If you are thinking of upgrading to Windows 10, here are my thoughts:

- If you are purchasing a new computer, get it with Windows 10 Pro.
- If you have a Windows 8 computer and want to upgrade, carefully review all of the programs you currently use for compatibility issues*. If there are no compatibility issues, it is ok to upgrade to Windows 10 Pro.
- If you have a Windows 7 PC which is:
  - less than 2 years old, carefully review all of the programs you currently use for compatibility issues*, and consider the upgrade.
  - over 2 years old, keep Widows 7 and get Windows 10 on your next PC purchase.

*A few known compatibility issues I've come across:
  - Act version 17 and older
  - Office 2013
  - Dental imaging programs
  - QuickBooks 2014 and older (QuickBooks 2015 will need to be upgraded to latest release, along with .NET framework to work with Windows 10)
  - Quicken 2015 and older (Quicken 2015 / 2014 may work with a fresh install)
  - Backup Chrome bookmarks as they may not come over automatically
  - Leave time to do this, may take as short as an hour, but could take 6 or more hours to complete.

If you are happy with Windows 7 and your computer and peripherals all work well together, you can keep using it. Microsoft will provide security patches for Windows 7 until January 14, 2020, and you may be ready for a new computer by then anyway. But if you are considering the free Windows 10 upgrade before the offer ends, make sure your PC is fully compatible with the new system, read up on the various Windows 10 online support forums around the web (to get an idea of technical issues you may encounter) and back up your Windows 7 system fully before installing the upgrade. Be aware that this is a major upgrade so once the process starts you cannot stop it in the middle or your current version of Windows will corrupt. However, if you do not like it after it is fully installed, you can roll back to your previous operating system for 30 days. The cost of Windows 10 is estimated to be $120.

If you're leaning toward upgrading, here is a link to Windows 10 system specifications: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-10-specifications .

Let me know if you have any specific issues/concerns, happy to talk with you about what makes sense for your business.

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