

DON'T PANIC. DO PLAN.

Windows Server 2019 - Extended Support ends 9 January 2029 (verify against Microsoft Lifecycle)

LIFECYCLE TIMELINE

2018	RELEASED	
2024	MAINSTREAM SUPPORT ENDED	
2026	YOU ARE HERE	Plan and discover now
2027	TARGET MIGRATION WINDOW	Aim to complete
2028	CONTINGENCY BUFFER	Not the start date
9 Jan	EXTENDED SUPPORT ENDS	Verify from Microsoft

THE IT CLUB SERVER LIFECYCLE FRAMEWORK - 7 QUESTIONS

1. IDENTIFY

What servers exist?

2. UNDERSTAND

What does each one do?

3. SUPPORT

When does vendor support end for the OS, applications and hardware?

4. DEPEND

What applications, users and systems rely on it?

5. DECIDE

Upgrade, migrate, replace, cloud or retire?

6. TEST

Can the new environment and recovery plan be proven?

7. RETIRE

Can the old infrastructure be safely removed?

Do not start with 'How do we upgrade this server?' Start with 'Why does this server still exist?'

SERVER 2016

ACT NOW

SERVER 2019

PLAN NOW

SERVER 2022

MONITOR

SERVER 2025

TARGET PLATFORM

WINDOWS SERVER 2019 - UPGRADE PLANNING CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to prepare a safe upgrade, migration or retirement

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INVENTORY

- ☐ All Server 2019 systems identified
- ☐ Physical and virtual distinguished
- ☐ Server roles documented
- ☐ Applications documented
- ☐ Dependencies documented

APPLICATION SUPPORT

- ☐ All vendors consulted
- ☐ Server 2025 support confirmed
- ☐ Server 2022 as fallback if needed
- ☐ SQL version reviewed
- ☐ Backup agents confirmed
- ☐ EDR confirmed
- ☐ Print software reviewed

TARGET PLATFORM

- ☐ In-place upgrade considered
- ☐ Migration / rebuild considered
- ☐ Cloud / SaaS considered
- ☐ Retirement considered
- ☐ Vendors confirmed for target OS
- ☐ Target platform selected

LIFECYCLE

- ☐ Microsoft support dates recorded
- ☐ Application support dates recorded
- ☐ SQL lifecycle checked separately
- ☐ Hardware warranty and age checked
- ☐ Server 2025 compatibility checked

BACKUP & RECOVERY

- ☐ Full backup completed
- ☐ System state backed up
- ☐ Application-aware backup confirmed
- ☐ Offsite / immutable copy confirmed
- ☐ Recovery credentials documented
- ☐ Restore tested
- ☐ Recovery procedure written

PROJECT

- ☐ Budget agreed
- ☐ Downtime windows agreed
- ☐ Test plan written
- ☐ Rollback plan written
- ☐ Target date set
- ☐ Owner identified

HARDWARE

- ☐ Purchase date confirmed
- ☐ Warranty status confirmed
- ☐ Firmware currency checked
- ☐ RAID / disk health reviewed
- ☐ SSD wear levels checked
- ☐ Memory event log reviewed
- ☐ Vendor support confirmed

SECURITY

- ☐ Current patches installed
- ☐ Endpoint protection in place
- ☐ External access reviewed
- ☐ Admin accounts reviewed
- ☐ Vulnerabilities reviewed
- ☐ SMBv1 disabled
- ☐ RDP NLA configured

RETIREMENT

- ☐ Data migrated and verified
- ☐ Services confirmed on new platform
- ☐ Backups retained appropriately
- ☐ Removed from AD and DNS
- ☐ Monitoring agents removed
- ☐ Licences reviewed
- ☐ Hardware disposed of securely

A migration planned for next year is not an excuse for an unpatched server today.