



STATE OF ALABAMA
Secretary of Information Technology

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ROBERT BENTLEY
Governor

L. BRUNSON WHITE
Secretary Information Technology

Memo to: All Cabinet Members
All State department Heads

From: L. Brunson White 

Date: July 11, 2013

Re: Planning for End of Life (EOL) for Microsoft Windows XP

As many of you are aware, Microsoft will stop support of its desktop operating system, Windows XP in early 2014. This will include discontinuing support of the product for security updates, meaning that a desktop with a Windows XP operating system would not be safe for accessing the state data network or the internet. As such, please plan and budget to have your Windows-based desktop, laptop, and tablet operating systems upgraded to a supported product by 12/31/2013.

The State of Alabama has a large number of systems that are running on the aforementioned operating system and many of these computers may not meet the minimum requirements for a supported operating system and will have to be upgraded or replaced. You also may want to consider, depending on your particular circumstances, upgrading the Office Productivity Suite at the same time. While the current operating system licensed by Microsoft is Windows 8, you can purchase a Windows 8 license and revise it downward to Windows 7 if a particular desktop will not support Windows 8.

It is essential that the State of Alabama have secure computing environments and this starts with only running supported operating systems and keeping those systems updated. I appreciate everyone's attention to this important matter and please let me know if you have questions or need any additional information.