



ROBERT BENTLEY  
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STATE OF ALABAMA  
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L. BRUNSON WHITE  
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

To: All Cabinet Members  
All Department Heads  
All Department IT Directors

From: L. Brunson White

Date: October 29, 2014

Re: Planning for End of Support for MS Windows Server 2003

As many of you are aware, every Windows product has a lifecycle. This lifecycle begins when a product is released and ends when it's no longer supported. End of Support (EOS) refers to the date when Microsoft no longer provides automatic fixes, updates, security patches, and online technical assistance. **Microsoft will end extended support of all Windows Server 2003 products on July 14, 2015.** This includes the following products:

- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Datacenter Edition (32-Bit x86)
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Datacenter Edition with Service Pack 2
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Datacenter x64 Edition
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Datacenter x64 Edition with Service Pack 2
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Enterprise Edition (32-Bit x86)
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Enterprise x64 Edition
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Standard Edition (32-bit x86)
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Standard x64 Edition

Without Microsoft support, you will no longer receive vital security updates that protect your systems from harmful viruses, spyware, and other malicious software. Servers that are operating on any of the aforementioned products will not be safe for accessing the state data network or the internet past the EOS date. **As such, please have your Windows Server 2003-based servers upgraded to either Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2012 (preferred), or discontinue its use by July 1, 2015.**

If you currently have any servers in your organization that are still running on Windows Server 2003, please send the following information to [mason.tanaka@governor.alabama.gov](mailto:mason.tanaka@governor.alabama.gov) no later than **November 30, 2014. Negative responses are required.**



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- Agency/Org Name
- Agency POC
- Number of Servers with Windows Server 2003
- Remediation Strategy (Your agency's plan to replace 2003 servers)
- Planned Remediation Date

It is essential that the State of Alabama maintain secure computing environments, and this starts with only running supported software and keeping those systems updated. If you need help in determining if an existing server has the capacity to be upgraded or if you need help performing an upgrade, the ISD Help Desk is available for assistance. The ISD Help Desk can be contacted by email at [help.desk@isd.alabama.gov](mailto:help.desk@isd.alabama.gov) or by phone at (334) 242-2222.

Once again, here are the important dates and deadlines:

- November 30, 2014 - Deadline for server information sent to OIT
- July 1, 2015 - Remediation deadline for all Windows Server 2003 servers
- July 14, 2015 - Windows Server 2003 End of Support

I appreciate everyone's immediate attention on this important matter. Please contact my office at (334) 242-7360 if you have any questions or need additional information regarding the subject of this memorandum. Should additional guidance and information become available, it will be posted on our website at: [www.oit.alabama.gov](http://www.oit.alabama.gov).

Sincerely,

L. Brunson White