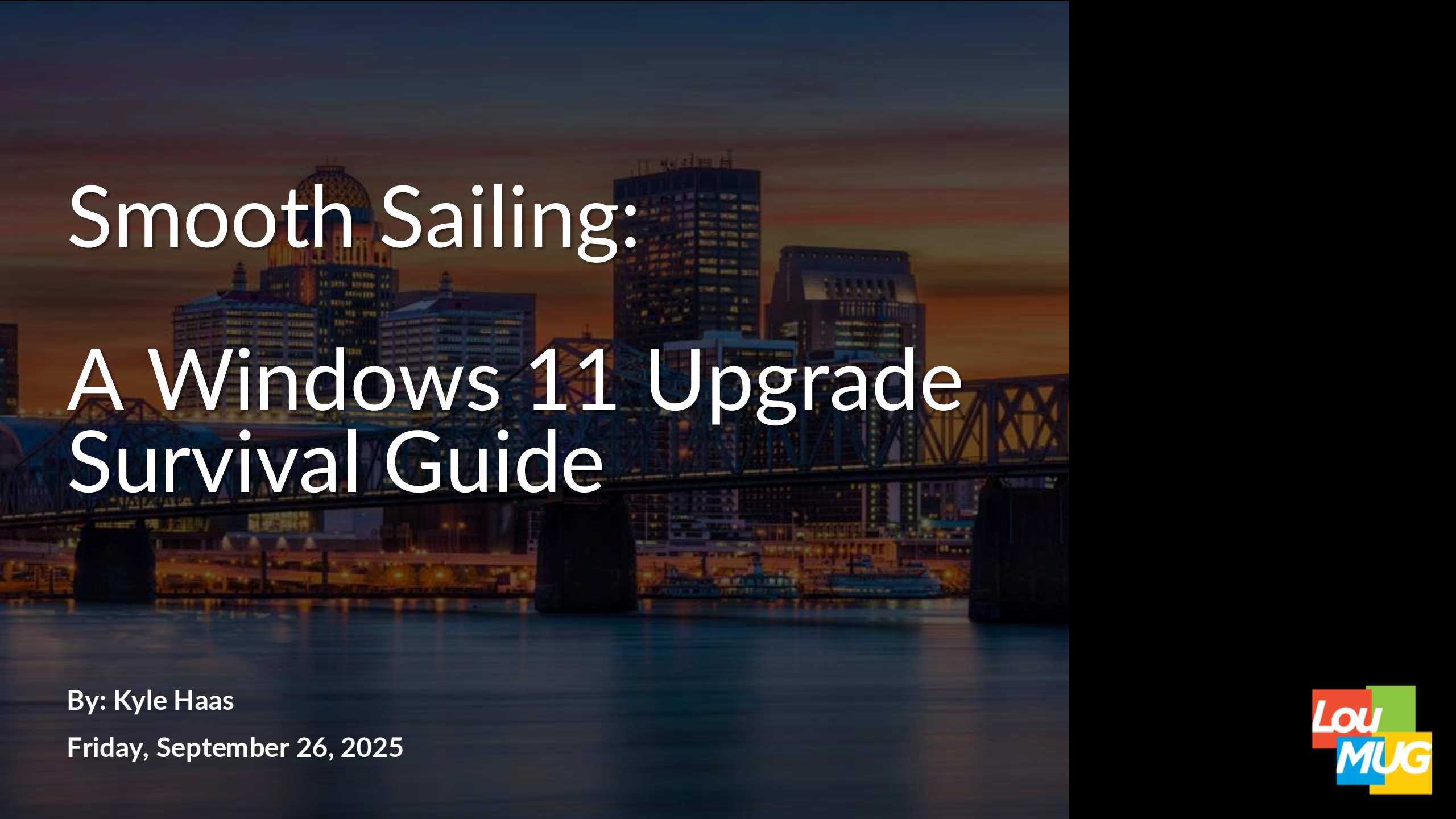




Smooth Sailing: A Windows 11 Upgrade Survival Guide

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Windows 10 End of Life: October 14th, 2025

- What is end of life?

No further updates (quality or security) or assisted support!

Only a matter of time before software vendors drop support as well.

- What does that mean?

Continued use of Windows 10 over time will become **increasingly risky**.

Vulnerabilities and issues with the OS will likely not be patched.

- Do you remember Windows XP or Windows 7 end of life?

- Ever heard of WannaCry or the EternalBlue exploit?

Is Your Fleet Ready for Windows 11?

Minimum System Requirements:

Supported x64 Processor (1GHz, 2 or more cores)

4GB RAM

64GB Storage

Secure Boot Capable UEFI Firmware

TPM 2.0

No 32-Bit Option! (x86)

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11-system-requirements-86c11283-ea52-4782-9efd-7674389a7ba3>

Note on CPU Compatibility:

Most common CPUs from late 2018 or newer are compatible.

AMD Ryzen 2000 series and Intel 8th Gen or newer!

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-hardware/design/minimum/windows-processor-requirements>

Is Your Fleet Ready for Windows 11?

My Recommended System Specs:

Supported AMD Ryzen 5 or Intel i5 Processor (4 or more cores)

16GB RAM

250GB SSD Storage

Secure Boot **Enabled** UEFI Firmware

TPM 2.0

Note on CPU Compatibility:

Most common CPUs from late 2018 or newer are compatible.

AMD Ryzen 2000 series and Intel 8th Gen or newer!

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-hardware/design/minimum/windows-processor-requirements>

Why Upgrade: Key Features and Benefits

- **Updated UI** -- Specifically better multi-monitor support
- **Enhanced Security:**
 - Virtualization Based Security & Memory Integrity
 - Secure Boot and TPM
 - Smart App Control
 - Kernel DMA Protection
- **Collaboration** -- Integration with Microsoft Teams
- **App Compatibility:**
 - Works with most apps that run on Windows 10 64-bit

If you're running an end-of-support / end-of-life OS in production, you're setting yourself up for failure!

Navigating Pain Points

Hardware Incompatibility

- Know your **inventory**!
 - MDM / RMM tools
 - Spiceworks / LAN Sweeper
- **Replace or Upgrade** to maintain compatibility!
 - Add a TPM 2.0 Chip
 - Convert MBR to GPT; Enable Secure Boot
- Establish a **replacement cycle** for workstations
 - Spread out the cost and work over time.
 - Document and improve your “new workstation” procedure.
 - Create a golden image and improve your deployment process.

Remember: If your PC is not compatible, it is likely older than 2019. 😊

[PC Health Check App!](#)

Please do not run “hacked” installs of Windows 11 in production.

Navigating Pain Points

App Compatibility

- **Identify** your critical business apps and hardware.
- **Contact vendors** to learn about any quirks.
- **Test** in a dedicated Windows 11 environment.
- Seek assistance – Microsoft's [App Assure Program](#)

Remember:

VMs are your friends. 😊

Test & Compare:

Is my app still functional on an in-place upgraded Windows 11 PC?

Is my app functional on a clean install Windows 11 PC?

Before performing upgrades, consider taking a backup.

Navigating Pain Points

User Resistance

- Whether you're convincing an executive or an end user, you must clearly **communicate why** the upgrade is necessary.
- If needed, do what you can to make it familiar:
 - **Train** employees on the changes and new features
 - **Tweak** UI elements to resemble a classic Windows experience
(Right-click Context Menu, Left-Align Start, Taskbar, etc.)
- **Consider Upgrading More** than just your OS.
 - Old-school folder redirection
 - File shares to Sharepoint
 - On-premises AD-join to Entra-AD Cloud-Join
 - Roll out a new EDR, MDM, etc.

Remember: Windows 11
was initially released in
October 2021. 😊

Streamline Your Rollout

Pre-Rollout Testing: You wouldn't test in production... Would you?

- **Phase 1: Pilot**
 - IT Staff and Power Users – Those who will find, report, and help fix problems.
- **Phase 2: Controlled Deployment**
 - Departmental Rollouts (Or other logical incremental groups)
 - Lessen the load on your team by creating manageable objectives
- **Phase 3: Broad Deployment**
 - Rollout to everyone, and eliminate stragglers.
 - Automation, MDM, etc. practically required for en masse, no-touch upgrades.

Upgrade Methods

High Touch:

- Full Backup Recommended, then Wipe/Reinstall.
- IT is fully involved.
- Maximum control, but most labor-intensive.
- All apps and files must be reinstalled and restored manually.

A well-designed “Golden Image” will greatly lessen the burden of a High-Touch Upgrade.

Moderate/Low Touch:

- In-Place Upgrade
- Windows 11 Installation Assistant / Windows Update
- Optimize with GPOs, Registry Keys, Scripts, etc.

When in doubt... Take a backup.

10-Day Rollback

No-Touch / Zero-Touch:

- Fully Automated – Just check your settings.
- Intune / MDM Required
- Test **thoroughly** before pushing!

Remember:

VMs are your friends. 😊

Married to Windows 10?

- Extended Security Updates (ESU)
 - [Personal Version](#) requires Microsoft Account (30\$ for one more year)
 - [Corporate Version](#) VLSC (61\$/device/year; doubles per year for three)
- Firewall Policy: Isolation!
 - Block network access (WAN, LAN, VPN VLAN, etc.)
- Make sure you have good backups. Your configuration is accumulating technical debt!

Remember that manufacturers, developers, and vendors of every kind will eventually drop all support for Windows 10.



Thanks! Q&A

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