Preinstalled Windows XP Professional Downgrade Field Communiqué  
December 2009



# Background

In an OEM communication issued on November 23rd, 2009, Microsoft has extended the discontinuation date for Windows XP downgrade systems from April 22nd, 2010 to October 22nd, 2010. HP will adjust discontinuation dates of existing Vista to XP downgrade and Windows 7 to XP downgrade SKUs.

# Overview

Due to customer and OEM demand, Microsoft has extended the availability of all Windows XP downgrade systems. HP and other OEMs will be able to manufacture and distribute systems configured with Windows XP Professional downgrade and Windows Vista Business or Windows 7 Professional COAs through this date.

In addition, Microsoft has extended OEMs’ ability to supply Windows XP Pro and Tablet restore media to customers who have purchased SKUs configured with Windows 7 Professional, Windows 7 Ultimate, Vista Business or Vista Ultimate. This media can be included with these models, or fulfilled through service.

HP will support Windows XP Professional on select 2009 and 2010 business desktop, notebook and workstation models. Microsoft retired mainstream support for Windows XP on April 14th, 2009.

# Requirements

As part of the previous OEM communication (issued on March 24th, 2009), Microsoft imposed the following additional requirements associated with Windows XP preinstalled downgrades.

* Provide Vista or Windows 7 recovery media with all XP Preinstalled downgrade PCs
  + Systems configured with Windows 7 Professional or Ultimate COA labels can include Windows XP Professional or Windows Vista Business downgrade media
* Provide hard drive based Vista or Windows 7 recovery for PCs without optical drives
  + DVD, BD, etc.
* Remove Vista or Windows 7 logo stickers
* Focus description on the preinstalled OS
* Clearly indicate that the end user can only use one OS version at a time
* Each Windows name must be preceded of followed by the word "genuine". "Genuine" is not required with express references to Downgrade Software (e.g., "includes downgrade rights to Windows Vista® Business"), so long as "genuine" appears with the other Windows name in the Line-List.

# Resources

Microsoft Windows Lifecycle Policy web page  
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/lifecycle/default.mspx>

Microsoft Support Lifecycle web page  
<http://support.microsoft.com/gp/lifecycle>

# Questions and answers

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| What does this extension in Windows XP preinstalled downgrade availability mean? |
| HP and other OEMs will be able to continue to distribute PCs with XP Professional preinstalled downgrades through October 22nd, 2010. Systems in HP inventory after this date will need to be re-worked. Currently desktop, workstation and notebook business units are planning for October 1st as a last order date and October 22nd as a last ship date. |
| Will Windows 7 Professional allow for downgrades to Windows XP Professional? |
| Yes, the Windows 7 Professional End User License Agreement (EULA) will allow for downgrade to Windows XP Professional or Windows Vista Business. |
| What is the Certificate Of Authenticity (COA) label? |
| It is the Microsoft label attached to the bottom of our PCs shipped with Windows preinstalled. It is the proof of license from Microsoft. |
| Why did Microsoft make this change? |
| This was done due to customer demand. This provides additional time for Windows 7 and Windows Vista transitions. |
| Will we support Windows XP on new business desktop, notebook and workstation models in 2010? |
| HP will support Windows XP Professional on select 2010 models. |
| Can we continue to sell business desktop, notebook, and workstation PC models configured with Windows XP Professional after October 2010? |
| Yes, through PC Customization Services. |

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