Please note the following announcement provided in the IT Forum Newsletter today.

If your unit is operating Windows XP system please be sure to alert your unit head of this deadline so a plan of action may be formulated.

Finally be sure to note that the request for exceptions, etc. for this effort are to be sent to the Campus ISO as Computer Information Services manages the campus network.

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APRIL 8: WINDOWS XP
NO LONGER ALLOWED
ON CAMPUS
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Microsoft is discontinuing support of Windows XP on April 8. After this time, Windows XP systems will no longer be allowed on campus. All exceptions must be approved. If you need to request an exception, send email to CISO@tamu.edu describing the justification for the exception and compensating controls. No systems running XP will be approved for firewall port openings.

Microsoft recently announced the official retirement date (April 8, 2014) of its Windows XP operating system. This means Windows XP computers will no longer receive security updates, hotfixes or online technical content updates from Microsoft after April 8, 2014. Since many units are currently operating Windows XP computers this email is being provided to make you aware of the impending loss of support for these computers and what steps can be taken in preparation.
Once an operating system loses its support this means that any newly uncovered vulnerabilities/exploits will not be repaired/patched creating, over a period of time, an unsecure computer operating on the network.

There are three options to address this upcoming retirement for XP computers currently on the network:

1. If the computer hardware meets recommended standards (see attached XP Update Criteria) then the operating system could be upgraded to the newer, supported version such as Windows 7 Enterprise (or better).
2. If the computer hardware does not meet the recommended standards then consider replacing it with a new computer (suggested system configurations and pricing provided as attachments: HP Elitebook 8750, HP 6300 Pc Quote and HP 8300).
3. Retire the computer

**SPECIAL NOTE:** XP computers supporting instrumentation should be addressed on a case by case basis as there may be cost or functional issues that impact any update decisions.

Several units are already aware of this upcoming change and have begun making plans to address it in a realistic and timely manner. The attached system quotes provide pricing and recommended configurations for a laptop and two desktops. If you are interested in ordering any of these systems or prefer a slightly different configuration please contact the vendor directly. For systems to be updated DIR charges $54 for a full Windows 7 Enterprise license. Please note that Windows upgrade packages are not recommended as this has been shown to cause operational problems long term. The recommended method for updating an operating system is to perform a full install which includes reformatting the drive and then installing a full version of the new operating system.

If and when an order is placed AIT will volunteer to pre-configure (install Sophos, Outlook, Lync, join the computer to the domain, etc.) the system(s), If you would like AIT to perform the pre-configuration please ask the vendor to deliver the order to AIT’s office in College Station. We will complete the pre-configuration then ship it to your location where the final configuration takes place. Units located outside College Station will be responsible for any shipping charges. Additionally, please contact myself or Alan Kurk, at the time the order is placed, so we can add your order to our schedule and ensure available time and personnel are available.

If you have questions regarding this email or on the status of a system please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Tom

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