

## Computer Tips

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### Michael's Computer Services

#### An Update on Windows XP .....

As many of our readers already know, as of April 9, 2014, Microsoft discontinued support for their veteran operating system, Windows XP. Now that we are into 2015, what does this mean for users still running Windows XP.

Well, there is good news and there is bad news. The good news is, your computer is still running, and most things will be operating as normal. Microsoft even released a small update around October last year for Windows XP Pro users. Even recently, Microsoft released an article stating people who were using Microsoft Security Essentials on XP will continue to receive updates for it until July 2015.

However, the bad news is that since the 31st of December 2014, security software companies are progressively removing program support for their security software when running on Windows XP. Microsoft's Security Essentials will not install at all on XP, AVG Free 2015 has several issues when installing on XP, and Norton has announced it cannot guarantee the new versions of their security software will work on Windows XP.

Because Microsoft are no longer patching security holes in Windows XP, hackers and malware creators are able to take advantage of Windows XP flaws. Further to this, your Internet provider and software providers may not be able to support you. If you make a call to your provider with an issue, when you mention you are running Windows XP, they may not be able to help you.

#### So what should you do?

We strongly recommend that if you are currently running Windows XP, that you upgrade to Windows 7. Windows 7 is stable, and has the best support for the programs you ran on Windows XP. However, because Windows 7 is a larger operating system than XP, some older XP systems will need to be updated to support Windows 7.

Wondering about Windows 8? We are seeing more and more Windows 8 or 8.1 computers come into our shop with various issues, and we still recommend using Windows 7. We use Windows 7 here in the workshop ourselves, and find it the best operating system for stability and compatibility.

To get your computer upgraded, or for more information on upgrading, come in with your computer to see us, or call us on 4171 0981.



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