Avoid unnecessary expenses and workarounds by migrating employee PCs to Windows 10

In iOS, fewer enterprise-level applications and higher cost can frustrate employees and disrupt workflow
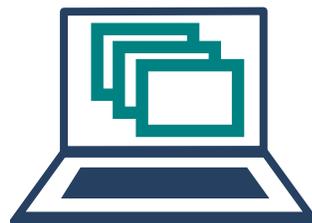
The use of tablets in corporate settings is on the rise, but it can be hard to accomplish enterprise-level work on devices like the Apple® iPad Pro®. The reduced feature set associated with these tablets means they may not be ready to handle the full brunt of an entire organization's work. As it stands, a company running Windows® 7 devices would see a more cost-effective and manageable transition by migrating to Windows 10 as opposed to the iPad Pro.

At Principled Technologies, we performed in-depth research to determine how these two different migration paths would affect a company's wallet and work capabilities. We found that an iPad Pro migration can introduce hurdles, costs, and workarounds that vanish when you migrate to Windows 10.

With Windows 10, you could save big: up to $428,000 on new devices and maintenance for a 500-person organization. You also get to keep all the programs and features you've grown accustomed to in Windows 7—your employees won't have to invest time adjusting to radically new workflows or applications. They will be able to draw on their years of experience and continue to improve their work in a familiar workflow.

Save up to **$856** per employee

Keep the programs you rely on

by migrating from Windows 7 to Windows 10 instead of iOS

A simpler transition with Windows 10

Because the iOS and Windows environments differ greatly, migrating your company to iPad Pro tablets can introduce unexpected consequences for the way your employees work. These deviations can complicate your transition, leaving your team with growing pains that can become hard to manage.

Many programs have no direct equivalent in iOS, which can make resuming work after the migration a challenge. These include popular suites such as the Adobe® Creative Cloud, programs such as Autodesk® AutoCAD®, and many others. If your staff relies on professional graphics, modeling, video, or audio editing software, they will have to either find sub-standard replacements, or retain PCs to use alongside the iPads—thus needlessly complicating your workflow. And if your company relies on custom Windows applications, you will either have to spend time and money developing an iOS-compatible version, or teach your employees how to remotely connect to a Windows system to run that application. Another complication is the lack of a file system in iOS. Being able to organize your files into navigable categories is a cornerstone of the PC workflow. But in iOS, this workflow vanishes, and your employees might find it difficult to adjust.

iPad Pro tablets also have lower processing power and less RAM than many enterprise-level Windows laptops, so they may not be as powerful as the systems your employees use now. For employees who regularly use resource-intensive applications, trying to get these apps to function well on iPad Pro tablets could prove extremely frustrating—if not impossible.

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A cost-conscious migration

Initial migration costs

The Wi-Fi-only 12.9-inch iPad Pro carries an $899 price tag for the 128GB model.[1] If you want to add a keyboard, that will cost an extra $169, for a total of $1,068 per device. For a company of 500 employees, that brings costs up to $534,000 just for the initial aquisition. As we've mentioned before, lost productivity due to an unfamiliar operating system and diminished functionality can cost your company even more. Compare that to the per-license cost to upgrade from Windows 7 to Windows 10: $311. With all that in mind, migrating to Windows 10 instead of iOS means a 500-employee company could save $378,500 (a savings of $757 per employee).

Ongoing maintenance

Because performing DIY maintenance on Apple products is difficult and risks voiding your warranty, your company may want to invest in the AppleCare+ two-year maintenance plan. That plan runs an additional cost of $99 per device, adding another $49,500 in expenses for a 500-person company. Unfortunately, this plan does not mean Apple will perform complementary repairs for any damaged devices, however; each repair will still incur a $49 service fee.

This brings the total cost of iPad migration and maintenance to $583,500 for a 500-person company. That same company would save $428,000 ($856 per employee) by sticking with Windows devices—and that doesn't include the $49 service fee for every device that would require maintenance from Apple.

	Migrate to Windows 10 Enterprise	Migrate to iOS
Hardware	n/a	$1,068
Maintenance	n/a	$99
Software	$311	n/a
Totals	$311	$1,167
Savings	$856	

Take full control with Windows 10

Because Windows 10 is a fully-featured operating system, its IT management software allows administrators to have more granular control over user groups and programs. Because iOS has significantly fewer features than Windows 10, it has fewer management options to offer. By moving from Windows to iOS, you lose the depth of control your administrators are used to, potentially putting your compliance with policies and procedures at risk.

Conclusion

When you choose to migrate your company to a new operating system, you need a reliable solution that can sustain the work your business does now while priming your employees to accomplish new tasks. The short list of compatible enterprise-level programs on iOS prevent it from becoming a serious candidate for a company-wide device migration. Compared to iOS, a migration to Windows 10 can allow you to keep using the trusted workflows and critical programs your company relies on for success.

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1   We chose this model as a representative choice for businesses looking to replace laptops without being too expensive.

This project was commissioned by Microsoft.