

PRESS RELEASE

Companies need to plan now for Windows 7 migration

Businesses in the Channel Islands are being advised to start thinking about changing their operating systems to Windows 7 NOW, and not delaying until 2014 when Windows XP will cease to be supported technically by Microsoft ('not supported' means Microsoft will no longer provide technical support or security fixes for its Windows XP software).

C5 Alliance recently hosted seminars with Microsoft in Jersey and Guernsey to tell local companies what they need to be considering now, to enable a smooth transition for their users, highlighting the enhanced, integrated features that they can look forward to benefitting from by using modern technology (XP was launched in 2001). SoftwareOne are also providing guidance on the all-important subject of licencing, so that people know what they own, what they are entitled to use and how a presence in many jurisdictions can provide licencing opportunities.

Tony Perry, who is leading the C5 Alliance team on Windows 7, says businesses still have three years to plan for a smooth transition from the old to the new software, but warns that implementation time on larger projects could take at least a year or more to complete.

"Working backwards from the cut off date and allowing for planning, budget sign off and then project implementation you can see that there is not as much time as people think" says Mr Perry. "There are some major considerations to take into account", he adds. "We will have to test the compatibility of a company's hardware and software for Windows 7 and then carry out a full assessment of both the existing hardware and software to know exactly what needs to be done in each case."

C5 reinforced this message at the two seminars that ran in November, highlighting that companies should seize the coming changeover as an opportunity to review the entire infrastructure of their business.

"It's not just a case of looking at the desktop solution" says Mr Perry, "it's a chance to look at your whole desktop infrastructure to see if you have an efficient managed user environment".

C5 Alliance has assembled a team of experts from across all areas of its business to help clients prepare for migration to Windows 7. Today's seminars will feature a keynote speaker at each event - Steve Wheeler, of Microsoft UK, will tell the audiences about the development of Windows 7 and the difference it will make to their business systems.



Background information

Tony Perry is a qualified Microsoft systems engineer and holds one of the highest level of accreditation from the Corporation – an MCITP:EDA which is based on the scale of knowledge about Microsoft products and solutions.

Windows XP and Windows 7 are software operating systems produced by Microsoft. The Corporation has given notice that it will no longer provide upgrades or security fixes for Windows XP after 2014. This will leave any business that does not migrate with potential security and compliance issues. Windows XP was launched in 2001.

Windows 7 is available now and migration concerns are likely to affect businesses upgrading their systems, companies involved in mergers or acquisitions and new enterprises.

