



Jason Smith
Vice President

Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Reached End of Life and Is No Longer Supported

Midland Communications Educates Customers on What to Do and the Dangers of Using This Technology

DAVENPORT, IA — July 27, 2015 — Midland Communications, a leading provider of unified communications, announced today that the company has launched an awareness campaign, alerting businesses of the recent announcement by Microsoft. Microsoft Windows Server 2003 has reached the end of its life and is no longer supported by Microsoft after July 14, 2015. This announcement has massive implications on the security of small to mid-sized (SMB) businesses everywhere, due in large to the ubiquitous presence of Windows Servers in nearly every SMB.

Microsoft will no longer offer customer support on issues related to Microsoft Windows Server 2003. This encompasses all issues of infrastructure performance, capability and security, which are all of obvious concerns to business owners. This is a reflection of the perpetual evolution of technology and Microsoft has made their intentions clear to the public. This is causing many

business owners to step back and address the present-day state of their technology infrastructure and to examine their options.

Business owners tend to avoid making investments in new infrastructure, especially if the underlying technology isn't broken, yet. The key word to pay attention to here is "yet." Any company operating with these servers in-house is exposing themselves to an eventual and certain risk of failure. In other words, the server will fail eventually, and until that day, organizations are essentially "riding blindfolded without a seatbelt". The delays of a malfunctioning server have widespread company impact and will not only negatively affect the performance of staff, but moreover, the integrity of data records and customer privacy is called into question, as well. In recent times, enterprises as large as giants like Target, have been impacted by poor technology infrastructure, leading to millions in damages and costly lawsuits. Midland Communications is aiming to protect its SMB customers from these sorts of complications.

"The greatest risk facing our customers is the unnecessary risk of indecision," stated Jason Smith, Vice President of Midland Communications. "When these things happen, it's unfortunate. However, just because an investment is forced by outside circumstances, we firmly recommend that our customers take swift, preventative steps in order to ensure company safety and data security. We believe in proactively alerting our customers about decisions like this, because we do not accept our customers' businesses being inoperable. The pace of the world continues to increase and we consider it our responsibility to make sure our customers are always prepared for the unforeseen."

Smith later added, "The other side of this is to prevent company liability in security breach lawsuits. One common place that lawyers look to attack an SMB, especially as it relates to a security breach, is to examine whether or not the infrastructure security was up to date. When security is outdated, this does not bode well for businesses and can only mean very harsh things for the lawsuit.

We are glad that our customers act on our recommendations.”

ABOUT MIDLAND COMMUNICATIONS

Midland Communications began more than 60 years ago in 1946 as the Worldwide Marketing Arm of Victor-Animagraph Projectors. In 1977 a communications division was formed due to a partnership with NEC America. Today, As a

distributor of NEC America, for 33 years, Midland Communications has a customer base of more than 3,000 satisfied customers that include general businesses, government agencies, Universities, colleges, hospitals, and hotels.

Midland provides a wide range of communication services including VOIP, PBX and key systems, Wide Area and Local Area networking, computers, Computer

integration, voice mail, CCIS, and video conferencing and paging systems. Our philosophy is simple, provide quality products at a fair price, backed by an average emergency response time of twenty minutes, and the best service in the industry. For more information on Midland Communications, call (563) 326-1237 or visit www.midlandcom.com.