CLOUD

Take Ctrl.

Windows 10   Data#3

WINDOWS 10

WORKING FOR CLOUD

Responding rapidly to dynamic business requirements has always been an essential mission for IT Managers and their teams. The increasing consumerisation of technology in business is driving faster and faster adoption cycles, while downward pressure on budget and resource limits capacity to respond.

At the same time, we're in the middle of the heralded 'ideas boom'. Innovation and creativity are at a premium and with this appetite comes great opportunity for IT teams to accelerate Cloud strategies within the business.

Cloud computing initiatives can address the immediate needs of the business to positively change the economies of technology investment, increase productivity and meet the rapidly changing preferences and behaviours of a digitally connected workforce.

Importantly, the right Cloud strategy will also address realistic and foreseeable future demand. IT teams will undoubtedly be expected to help the business embrace IoT, wearables and virtual reality technologies as they mature over time.

Accelerating Cloud strategy today, avoiding foreseeable pain in the near future, positioning your team to take an active role in delivering new and value to the enterprise - these are just some of the rock-solid reasons why Windows 10 is such an important release.

HERE ARE TEN ADDITIONAL POINTERS TO CONSIDER WHAT IT COULD BRING TO THE TABLE FOR YOU:

01 LICENCE TO DRIVE

One of the first and most valuable developments with the release of Windows 10 is that Microsoft has addressed the licensing structure, moving from per-device to per-user. This will not only provide surety to license cost projections, it also removes the impediments to Virtual Desktop Integration (VDI) initiatives. Combined with the increased options for connecting to Cloud service providers, the latency and reliability issues that have stalled VDI deployments will be addressed.

02 CONNECTION CAPABLE

The Cloud is now the defining feature of the enterprise IT world. Windows 10 brings a new level of integration to business services with native connection to online services. A key feature of Windows 10 is integration with Azure Active Directory and third party management services, making it easier for system administrators to manage users and departmental needs regardless of where they are on the planet.

03 RUN TO SCALE

Adoption of Cloud enables your business to scale to whatever size your requirements dictate. Sizing your resources and capacity to meet demand can be done with relative ease, without the need to add on hardware.
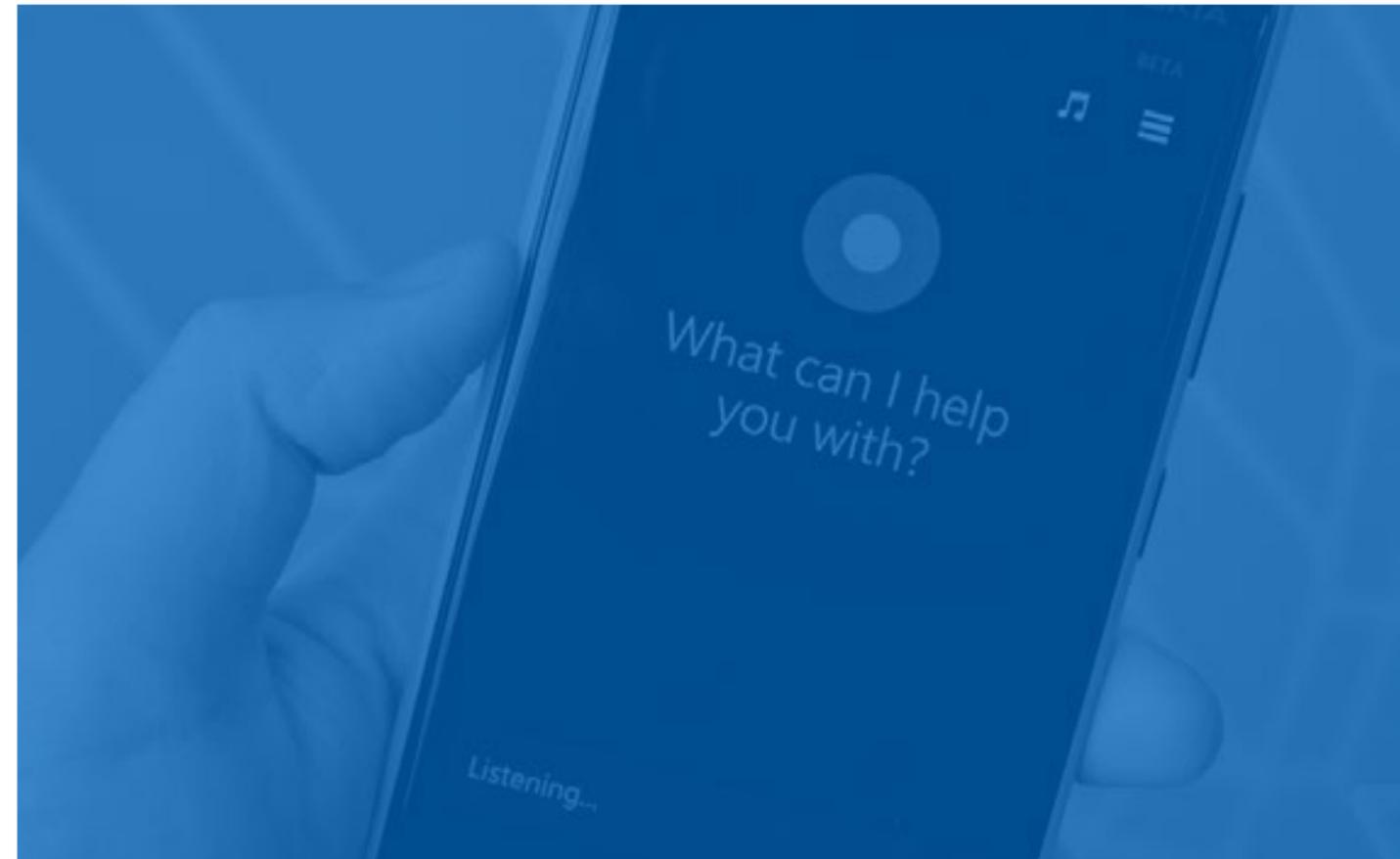
The choice to virtualise Windows 10 can deliver numerous benefits at the service and infrastructure layer, combined with the flexibility to offer VDI, running multiple instances of the operating system to a single user endpoint. That represents some real efficiency gains for those that have to support multiple types of laptops.

04 SELF-SERVICE SATISFACTION

Increasingly users are demanding to take control of their own needs and provisioning. Windows 10 provides unified management for IT Managers and a common self-service interface for all users. This reduces pressure on overworked helpdesks and support staff while giving a consistent experience across desktops, laptops and tablet devices.

05 PRODUCTIVITY PRIMER

Microsoft's long standing workplace strength has been its integration between productivity tools and operating systems for the enterprise. Windows 10 takes user productivity to another level by integrating with products such as OneNote and Office 365, coupled with Cortana's features that allow both administrators and users to simplify search and how they access information.

06 LEAVE THE PATCHES FOR PIRATES

As Windows 10 continually upgrades, unpatched attack vectors within the Enterprise are minimised. Windows 10 patched devices provide a stronger security footing than unpatched or manually patched endpoints. In a world where security and data integrity are board-level concerns, dispensing with 'Patch Tuesday' leaves IT Managers free to concentrate on strategic applications of technology.

07 LOCKED AND LOADED

With the highly mobile nature of business today, users and devices can be anywhere in the world. Securing these users and devices is increasingly a concern for senior management. Windows 10 offers vastly improved management services and security controls.

Data can be secured through encryption. User access can be secured dependent on their role and geographic location. Windows 10 gives IT managers far more control over the security environment than ever before, from the Cloud to network assets, device and endpoint.

Importantly, Windows 10 gives far more insight into the flow of data. This allows for better understanding of what is happening between the Cloud, the network and the apps and devices that employees use to access information.
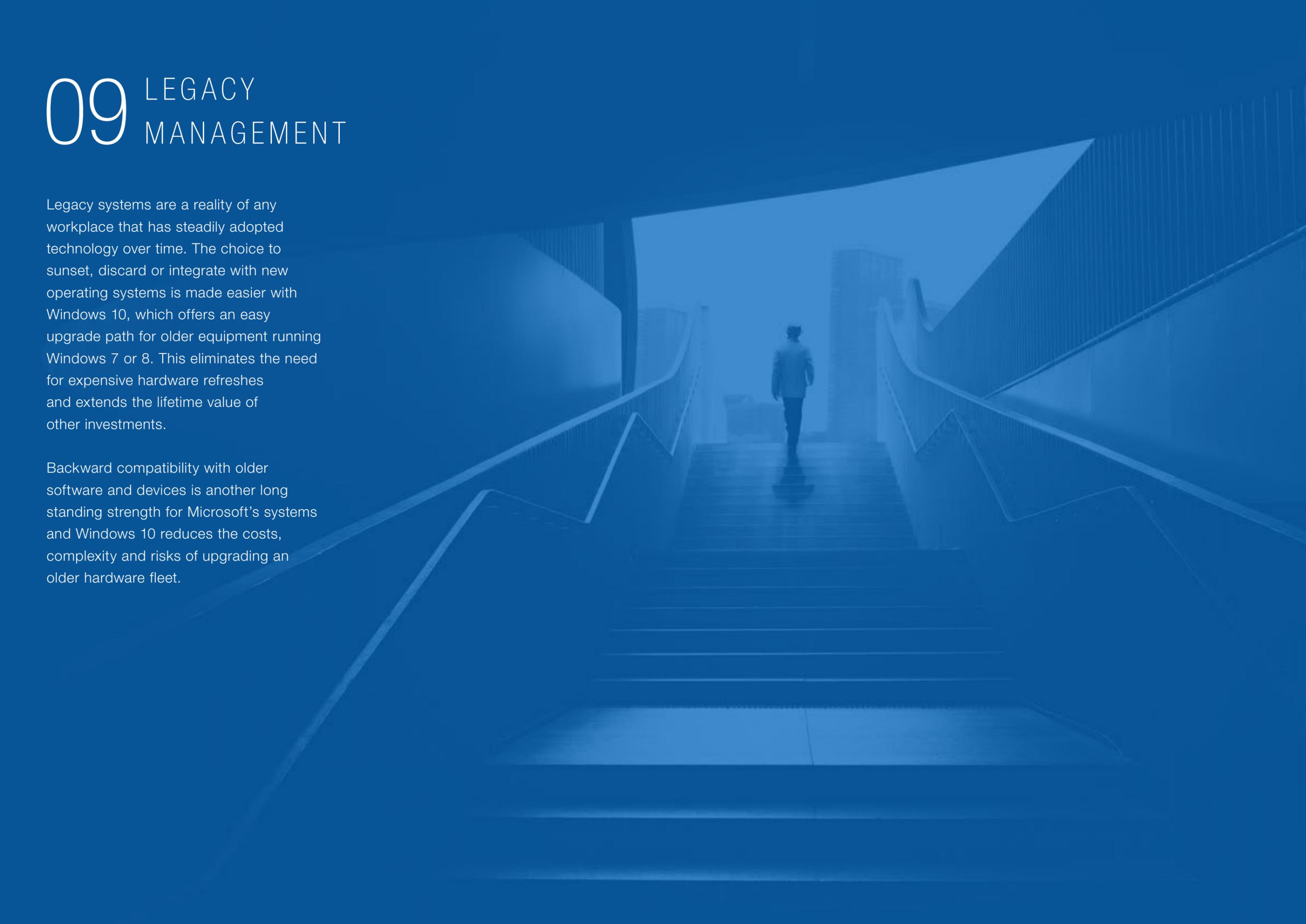
08 COMPUTER SAYS YES

It can be frustrating to really want to support a new initiative but find your enthusiasm curbed by having to constantly work around or add complexity because of limitations to the operating system. The good news is another long standing strength of Microsoft's is device compatibility and this is particularly true of Windows 10. As new Cloud technologies mature, applications are released and additional device types start to become mainstream in the workplace, the IT team will be ready to adopt and enable the benefits for the business.

09 LEGACY MANAGEMENT

Legacy systems are a reality of any workplace that has steadily adopted technology over time. The choice to sunset, discard or integrate with new operating systems is made easier with Windows 10, which offers an easy upgrade path for older equipment running Windows 7 or 8. This eliminates the need for expensive hardware refreshes and extends the lifetime value of other investments.

Backward compatibility with older software and devices is another long standing strength for Microsoft's systems and Windows 10 reduces the costs, complexity and risks of upgrading an older hardware fleet.

10 BETTER BACKUP

With Windows 10 being developed with native Cloud integration, file management and storage is improved with simplified backup that reduces an organisation's concerns about data loss. With less focus on the risks of losing business critical information, IT professionals can focus on delivering value to the organisation.

IT Managers are required to help guide their enterprise's strategy as technology increasingly becomes the enabler of business strategy. Deploying Windows 10 frees technology professionals to focus on how they can deliver value to their organisation.

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THE VERDICT

Much more than a refresh of previous versions of Microsoft's operating system, Windows 10 positions IT Managers and their teams to devote less of their attention to managing diverse networks and using expensive and finite resources on maintenance of older, disparate equipment.

Instead, the focus can now turn to accelerating Cloud adoption for the business, improving productivity and user experiences, and providing a workplace that is attractive for top performers.

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