

Your PCs refused by Windows 11: three paths, priced

For the decision-maker. The dates, the costs and what Blue Fox OS replaces. Prices as of 2026-10-28, in Canadian dollars unless noted.

The dates that matter

October 13, 2026

End of year 1 of Windows 10 Extended Security Updates (ESU).

Until October 12, 2027

Year 2: US\$122 per device. ESUs are cumulative: enrolling now costs US\$183 (about \$257), years 1 and 2.

October 10, 2028

Final end. All three years: US\$427 per device, about \$599. After that, you replace or switch systems.

The free program is for individuals, not organizations.

What Blue Fox OS replaces

Active Directory, Entra ID

Authentik: accounts, groups, two-factor authentication.

Group Policy, Intune profiles

One record in Symbifox, exceptions per person. Each computer rereads it every day.

Windows Autopilot

QR code setup, approved on the phone.

BitLocker and key in Entra ID

Encrypted disk, recovery passphrase in escrow if turned on, reads logged.

Windows Update for Business

All-or-nothing updates, with rollback.

The four questions to settle

- 1 Which computers depend on software that only exists on Windows?
- 2 Do we have Symbifox and Authentik, or do we set them up first?
- 3 Who will be the custodian of the disk recovery passphrases?
- 4 Do we decide before ESU year 3, on October 13, 2027?

Why your PCs are refused

- A processor older than an 8th-generation Intel Core (late 2017) or an AMD Ryzen 2000.
- No TPM 2.0 chip. Microsoft calls this requirement "non-negotiable".
- Fedora, the base of Blue Fox OS, needs at least 2 GB of memory and 15 GB of disk, with no processor list. We recommend 8 GB and an SSD. The TPM chip is optional.

10 refused computers, through October 2028

Pay for ESUs: about \$5,994

Then replace anyway in 2028: another \$12,000.

Replace now: \$12,000

Ten laptops at \$1,200 (assumption).

Blue Fox OS: about \$1,940

No licence. Four SSDs at \$60 and two hours per computer at \$85 (assumptions).

Assumes Symbifox and Authentik are already running. Redo the math with your numbers: the licence spreadsheet comes with this handout.

Managing 25 computers, per year

Business Premium instead of Standard

\$3,240 (\$10.80 per person per month).

Entra ID P1 and Intune Plan 1 on their own

About \$6,219.

Free Authentik and the Policy module

\$0 when self-hosted. Hosted Symbifox: \$25 to \$28 per person per month, for the whole suite.

Only the computers moved to Blue Fox OS leave the Microsoft bill. Windows computers, phones and email stay on it.

We install a workstation in front of you

45 minutes by video call: you change the record, the computer follows. Scan the code to book a demo.



Moving a computer to Blue Fox OS: the steps

For the IT administrator. Inventory, prerequisites, the pilot and the limits to know before you start.

1. Sort the fleet into three piles

On each Windows 10 computer, in PowerShell as administrator:

```
(Get-CimInstance -Namespace root/cimv2/security/microsofttpm  
-ClassName Win32_Tpm).SpecVersion
```

Starts with 2.0: TPM 2.0. Starts with 1.2, or nothing: no TPM 2.0.

```
Get-CimInstance Win32_Processor | Select-Object Name
```

Compare with the Windows 11 processor list (Intel 8th gen, Ryzen 2000).

```
Get-PhysicalDisk | Select-Object FriendlyName, MediaType
```

HDD: plan an SSD. The PC Health Check app also gives the verdict.

The three piles

Windows 11 compatible. Refused but solid (64-bit, 4 GB or more, no required Windows software). To retire.

4. The pilot, two or three computers

- 1 Fill in the record: language, keyboard, time zone, apps, extensions, screen lock, allowed group.
- 2 Download the ISO from os.bluefoxconsultant.com, check its SHA-256 checksum and cosign signature.
- 3 Write the key with Fedora Media Writer or balenaEtcher.
- 4 Boot from the key, confirm the organization, scan the QR code.
- 5 After two weeks: install time, help requests, missing software.

The limits to know

- No remote wipe: a revoked machine is cut off, not erased.
- No managed detection tool like Defender for Business.
- Machine name, language and keyboard are set at installation.
- Software that only exists on Windows keeps its computer on Windows.
- Fedora fixes arrive with each newly published image.

2. Server-side prerequisites

- Symbifox with the Policy and Zero-touch installation modules.
- Authentik: accounts, two-factor authentication and the group allowed to install a computer.
- Nextcloud for the team's files.
- The organization's address reachable from the installer, over the internet.

3. Workstation prerequisites

- 64-bit processor, 8 GB of memory to be comfortable (2 GB minimum).
- An SSD: a mechanical hard drive makes updates slow.
- An 8 GB USB key and a network connection during installation.
- Without TPM 2.0: disk encrypted by default, passphrase from the custodian typed at every startup.

The live USB key (version 1.1.0)

The same system with no install, for a borrowed computer or a trip. Ephemeral session, desktop kept encrypted on the key, or in Nextcloud.

- 64-bit computer that boots in UEFI, internet connection, 16 GB key to keep a desktop.
- The record must have the live key configured. A lost key is revoked remotely.

Files and the demo

ISOs, checksums and videos: os.bluefoxconsultant.com. Record guide: symbifox.com/guide. Scan the code to book a demo.

