If you are currently running Windows XP on your computers that contain electronic protected health information (e-PHI), please read the following information regarding Windows XP End of Support (EOS).

**What does it mean if my version of Windows is no longer supported?**

An unsupported version of Windows will no longer receive software updates from Windows Update. These include security updates that can help protect your PC from harmful viruses, spyware, and other malicious software, which can steal your personal information. Windows Update also installs the latest software updates to improve the reliability of Windows—new drivers for your hardware and more.

**Potential risks of staying with Windows XP**

Running Windows XP SP3 in your environment after April 8, 2014 may expose you to potential risks, such as:

- **Security:** Without critical Windows XP security updates, your PC may become vulnerable to harmful viruses, spyware, and other malicious software which can steal or damage your business data and information. Anti-virus software will also not be able to fully protect you once Windows XP itself is unsupported.
Compliance: Businesses that are governed by regulatory obligations such as HIPAA may find that they are no longer able to satisfy compliance requirements. More information on HHS’s view on the security requirements for information systems that contain electronic protected health information (e-PHI) can be found here (HHS HIPAA FAQ - Security Rule).

Lack of Independent Software Vendor (ISV) Support: Many software vendors will no longer support their products running on Windows XP as they are unable to receive Windows XP updates. For example, the new Office takes advantage of the modern Windows and will not run on Windows XP.

Hardware Manufacturer support: Most PC hardware manufacturers will stop supporting Windows XP on existing and new hardware. This will also mean that drivers required to run Windows XP on new hardware may not be available.

For more information on this topic, please visit Microsoft’s website:

Office Ally's system requirements and recommendations are available on our Help page found by going to www.officeally.com > Contact Us > Help, or by clicking here.