

Desktop Modernization Project

This project will consolidate two IT lifecycle activities – the replacement of the bundled base software environment for end-users and the replacement of end-user hardware devices. Specifically, the project will purchase and deploy the Windows 7 desktop operating system, the Office 2010 desktop productivity suite and approximately 5,500 end-user devices (2,500 thin clients and 3,000 thick clients).

The current operating system deployed at BPA is Microsoft Windows XP. This operating system was released in 2001 and has been in service at BPA since 2003. Microsoft ended mainstream support for Windows XP in early 2009, which means there will be no more service packs, design changes or new features. Although Windows XP extended support doesn't end until 2014, it only includes security updates and paid support. Due to its age, Microsoft Windows XP doesn't contain the usability features or the level of security provided by more modern operating systems and is more likely to be incompatible with new software applications.

The Microsoft Office suite is in much the same state as the Windows XP operating system. The current version widely deployed at BPA is the Microsoft Office Professional 2003 suite. Microsoft ended mainstream support for the 2003 version in April 2009 and extended support will end in 2014, at the same time as Windows XP and with the same implications for ongoing fixes, security and compatibility.

Existing asset plans for desktop and laptop computers specify a four to five year lifecycle. However, the hardware refresh for these devices has been postponed for each of the past four years due to BPA budget constraints and priorities. As a result, approximately 85% of the deployed desktops and laptops will not meet the new hardware standards, nor will they likely adequately execute the planned new eGIS, ProjectWise, or LORA applications, among others. In addition, the age of this hardware has caused an increase in failure frequency and subsequent increase in end-user downtime.