Microsoft: Windows Server 2016 reaches end of support in 60 days



Microsoft has announced that Windows Server 2016 will reach end of support in 60 days. Institutions still running it should confirm their exposure and plan migration or other treatment now.

- Microsoft states that Windows Server 2016 reaches end of support in 60 days.
- The source text available to us was unreadable beyond the headline, so exact dates and support terms should be confirmed with Microsoft.
- Any server still on this version needs a documented decision: migrate, upgrade or treat the risk.
- Unsupported systems are a compliance and audit topic as well as a technical one.

What was announced

Microsoft has indicated that Windows Server 2016 will reach end of support in 60 days. The article text we could access was unreadable apart from its headline, so this note does not restate specific dates or the detailed terms of support. Please check those directly with Microsoft's official lifecycle documentation.

Why it matters for regulated institutions

Servers that remain in production after a product leaves support are usually treated as a elevated risk item in security reviews. For banks, insurers, payment providers and other regulated entities in the Kingdom, this affects risk registers, asset management and audit evidence, not only patching. Decisions made early leave more room for testing, change windows and budget approval.

Recommended approach

The sensible response is calm and structured: know where the version runs, decide what happens to each system, and record the decision. Migration of business-critical workloads often takes longer than expected because of application dependencies, so starting the inventory now is the most useful first step.

- Identify every physical and virtual server on Windows Server 2016.
- Rank them by business criticality and exposure.
- Agree a target path for each: upgrade, replace or retire.
- Document any temporary exception with an owner and an expiry date.

What to do now

1. Inventory all servers running Windows Server 2016, including those in test and disaster-recovery environments.
2. Confirm the exact end-of-support date and terms in Microsoft's official lifecycle documentation.
3. Prioritise migration for internet-facing and business-critical systems.
4. Record unsupported systems in the risk register with compensating controls and an approved exit date.
5. Brief the CISO and audit stakeholders so the plan is reflected in ECC and SAMA CSF compliance evidence.