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27 November 2015

Windows 10 will be the most widely installed version of Windows, Gartner reports-- according to the analyst 50% of enterprises will be running Windows 10 deployments by 2017.



"In the consumer market, a free upgrade coupled with broad legacy device support and automatic over-the-air upgrades ensures that there will be tens of millions of users familiar with the OS before the end of 2015," Gartner says. "For enterprises, we expect that implementation will be significantly more rapid than that seen with Windows 7 six years ago."

Several factors drive migration-- awareness of the January 2020 end of Windows 7 support, strong Windows 7 application and devices compatibility, and tablet/2-in-1 device rollout demand. Gartner expects enterprises to start Windows 10 pilots on H1 2016, before broadening deployments on H2 2016.

The analyst also expects at least 50% of enterprises to start Windows 10 production deployments by the beginning of 2017, with plans to complete migrations in 2019.

In addition, Gartner predicts by 2019 organisations will remotely deliver twice as many applications compared to 2015, while around 30% of all notebooks shipped in 2018 will feature touchscreens. The same year will also see 30% of enterprises spend more on displays than PCs, as employees demand higher resolutions and more screen real estate.

"All of these trends portend a new employee workspace that is more mobile, more capable of

working more naturally with humans, and, overall, more productive and secure. Endpoint support staff must rethink the workspace and work with suppliers to rearchitect and re-cost standards," the analyst concludes. "From an IT perspective, Windows 10 and the move of applications to the back end will dramatically change how those applications are delivered to employees. Updates will be more frequent, more incremental and less obvious to the end user. Software vendors and internal IT have much to do to adapt to this new model and to move away from the image management model for PCs of today."

Go Gartner Predicts 2016: Endpoint Technology Shifts are Accelerated by Windows 10