Knowledge Base: Windows IoT Enterprise LTSC (Vicon Servers)

Updated: September 5, 2025
Applies to: Vicon servers shipped with Windows IoT Enterprise LTSC

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1) Purpose & Scope

Vicon servers are **dedicated appliances**, purpose-built and fully optimized for our VMS applications. We standardize on **Windows IoT Enterprise LTSC** specifically to maximize **stability**, **predictability**, and **long-term support** while avoiding disruptive, frequent feature changes.

Our OS images are curated (drivers, services, policies, performance tuning) to deliver the best performance with Vicon software. **Field reconfiguration or in-place OS upgrades are not supported**, as they can compromise system reliability and performance.

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2) Mainstream vs Extended Support

Microsoft provides two phases of support for Windows operating systems:

- **Mainstream Support (first 5 years):**
  Includes security updates, non-security fixes, feature updates, and design change requests.

- **Extended Support (next 5 years):**
  Includes **security updates and critical bug fixes only**. No new features or non-security fixes are delivered.

All Vicon servers ship with **Windows IoT Enterprise LTSC**, which benefits from a **10-year lifecycle** (5 years Mainstream + 5 years Extended).

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3) FAQs

Q1. Do we need to be concerned if Mainstream Support has reached End of Life (EOL)?

Answer:
No. Once Mainstream support ends, the system will no longer receive feature or non-security updates. However, it will continue to receive **security updates and major bug fixes** until the Extended Support period ends.

Q2. Can Mainstream support be extended beyond its EOL?

Answer:
No. Mainstream support dates are fixed and cannot be extended. For regular Windows 10 editions, Microsoft offers an **Extended Security Updates (ESU)** program. However, **IoT Enterprise LTSC does not require ESU**, as it already includes 10 years of support (Mainstream + Extended).

Q3. If a customer is running Windows 10 and it has already reached Extended Support EOL, can they upgrade to a newer version directly?

Answer:
No. Once Extended Support ends, the only option is a **clean installation** of a newer OS. Direct in-place upgrades are not supported for IoT Enterprise LTSC.

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4) Vicon Policy

- **In-place upgrades are not supported.** Vicon does not provide an upgrade path from Windows 10 IoT Enterprise LTSC to Windows 11 IoT Enterprise LTSC.

- **Licenses are not transferable.** An existing Windows 10 IoT Enterprise LTSC license cannot be reused for a newer version. A new license must be purchased, as Microsoft does not offer direct OS migration for IoT Enterprise LTSC editions.

- **End-of-life considerations.** Windows 10 IoT Enterprise LTSC versions remain supported through their defined Extended Support dates (see lifecycle table below).

- **Older releases.** Systems running LTSC 2015 or LTSC 2016 should be scheduled for hardware refresh to ensure continued support, stability, and compatibility with current Vicon software.

5) Lifecycle Quick Reference (IoT Enterprise LTSC)

Product / Edition	Release	Mainstream End	Extended End	End of License
Windows 10 IoT Ent LTSB 2015	Jul 2015	Oct 2020	Oct 2025	Oct 2025
Windows 10 IoT Ent LTSB 2016	Aug 2016	Oct 2021	Oct 2026	Oct 2026
Windows 10 IoT Ent LTSC 2019	Nov 2018	Jan 2024	Jan 2029	Jan 2029
Windows 10 IoT Ent LTSC 2021	Nov 2021	Jan 2027	Jan 2032	Jan 2032
Windows 11 IoT Ent LTSC 2024	Oct 2024	Oct 2029	Oct 2034	Oct 2034

- **End of License** indicates that the product is no longer available from Microsoft.

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6) Practical Guidance for Customers & Partners

- **No action required** if you are currently running Windows 10 IoT Enterprise LTSC 2019, LTSC 2021, or Windows 11 IoT Enterprise LTSC 2024. These versions remain fully supported with security updates until their respective Extended Support end dates (2019 supported through 2029; 2021 supported through 2032; 2024 supported through 2034).

- **Plan for refresh** if you are running LTSB 2015 or 2016, as their extended support ends in **2025** and **2026**. Start preparing for migration to a newer LTSC or hardware refresh.

- **When support ends**: Once extended support ends for your LTSC version, no further updates are provided. At this point, a **clean OS reinstallation with a newer LTSC version** is required.

- **Licensing**: IoT Enterprise LTSC licenses are **device-bound and non-transferable**. Moving to a new LTSC requires purchasing a **new license**.