March 11, 2014

Originally released in 2001, Microsoft will stop supporting the Windows XP operating system as of April 8, 2014, and will no longer provide security updates and patches for the operating system. This will make computers running the Windows XP operating system vulnerable to malicious security attacks and malware. For these reasons, we strongly urge all Windows XP users to upgrade to Windows 7 or 8.1 by April 8th.

If your computer hardware meets the minimum requirements, it is recommended you upgrade to Windows 7 or higher. We strongly encourage you to back up all of your files to an external hard drive, USB flash drive, or CD prior to upgrading your computer. A clean installation of these newer operating systems does not preserve your data, any installed programs, or custom settings.

If your computer hardware does not meet the minimum requirements, it is recommended that you purchase a new computer that will come pre-loaded with a new operating system.

**Want to upgrade to Windows 7?**
To review the Windows 7 systems requirements, please visit:

To review the steps necessary to upgrade from Windows XP to Windows 7, please visit:
http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows7/help/upgrading-from-windows-xp-to-windows-7#T1=tab01

Windows 7 upgrade is available from the Software Portal (http://software.rutgers.edu). This upgrade is complimentary for University owned computers and is also available for personally owned computers at a nominal price.

**Want to upgrade to Windows 8.1?**
To review the Windows 8.1 systems requirements, please visit

To review the steps necessary to upgrade from Windows XP to Windows 8.1, please visit: http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-8/upgrade-from-windows-vista-xp-tutorial

**Want to learn about Microsoft’s lifecycle on operating systems?**
For more information on Microsoft's operating system lifecycle, please visit
If you have any questions, or need assistance with determining if your computer meets the minimum requirements for an upgrade, please contact the Help Desk via telephone at (973) 353-5083 or via email at help@newark.rutgers.edu.