

# Question of the Fortnight

## Will US courts force Microsoft to keep supporting W10?

A Californian man is suing the firm for axing the operating system

**L**awrence Klein is doing what many *Computeractive* readers have told us they hoped someone would. He's suing Microsoft for ending support for Windows 10, and wants judges to force the company to postpone the decision.

Klein, from California, says the two Windows 10 laptops he owns will become obsolete on 14 October. He claims Microsoft wants to "force its customers to purchase new devices optimised to run Microsoft's suite of generative artificial intelligence software such as Copilot, which comes bundled with Windows 11 by default".



fewer than 10 per cent of computers still run it. That might come sooner than some

in October when Microsoft pulls the plug, that'll probably level out in early 2026.

**“ Microsoft wants to force customers to purchase new devices optimised to run AI tools like Copilot ”**

He argues that millions are in the same boat, stuck with perfectly good machines that don't meet Windows 11's strict hardware requirements, and will either have to buy a new PC, pay for extended support, or risk running Windows 10 without security updates.

In his 25-page filing to a San Diego court ([www.snipca.com/55917](http://www.snipca.com/55917)), he also warns of the environmental cost of dumping working kit early, and says Microsoft's tactics amount to "forced obsolescence" under Californian consumer law.

He wants the court to force Microsoft to keep updating Windows 10 for free until

analysts would have predicted a year ago, when 63 per cent of all Windows computers were running Windows 10.

That figure started to fall at the start of 2025 and since May has dropped sharply from 53 to 43 per cent. For the first time Windows 11 is more popular. It suggests Microsoft's persistent warnings about Windows 10's demise are working.

If Windows 10's market share continues to fall at the same rate after May, the 10-per-cent threshold Klein demands will be hit next May.

But we think that's unlikely to happen. While there's bound to be another large fall

Many people will simply stick with Windows 10 for a variety of reasons, such as not wanting to buy (or not being able to afford) a new computer, or being willing to risk running it without security updates. Others just want to continue using what they know and love, and don't want Microsoft to boss them around.

However, that doesn't address more immediate concerns – that right now around 240 million computers worldwide run an operating system which has less than two months to live.

So, will Klein win? We won't know until after support actually ends, because the case could take years to be heard. Microsoft will almost certainly file a motion to dismiss or challenge the claims. It will argue its terms and conditions state

### THE FACTS

- A Californian man is suing Microsoft over its plan to end support for Windows 10 on 14 October
- He says it amounts to "forced obsolescence" and wants Microsoft to keep supporting the operating system for free until fewer than 10 per cent of computers still run it
- Microsoft is expected to call for an early dismissal of the case, and it's unlikely to be heard by courts before support ends

that support can end.

But Klein has been smart to broaden what the case is aiming for. It's not just about keeping Windows 10 updates going a bit longer. At its core, it demands "clear disclosures" from Microsoft about how long Windows will last when customers buy a licence.

If successful, this could set a precedent forcing software companies to be more transparent about how long they'll support their products. This echoes what consumer groups have been demanding for years.

Should Klein win, it'll come too late for Microsoft to postpone its decision – so don't let it affect what you plan to do in October. There are several ways to keep running Windows 10 safely well into 2026. We'll explain them all in Issue 718's 'Windows 10 Survival Guide'.