

Putin Still Uses Obsolete Windows XP, Report Says

December 17, 2019



Microsoft stopped releasing security updates for Windows XP in 2014. Kremlin.ru

Russian President Vladimir Putin appears to still use Microsoft's discontinued Windows XP operating system, the Open Media news website reported Monday after examining photographs of his desktop.

Microsoft stopped releasing security updates for Windows XP and Office 2003, with occasional [exceptions](#), in April 2014. Russian officials are technically [banned](#) from using foreign software as Moscow aims to protect national interests amid fears of foreign espionage and boost Russia's tech industry.

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Windows XP is installed both on Putin's desktop in the Kremlin and at his official residence Novo-Ogaryovo west of Moscow, Open Media said, citing Kremlin press service photographs published this fall.

Putin [avoids](#) smartphones and has long [viewed](#) the internet with suspicion.

Windows XP was the last Microsoft operating system certified for use in Russia's government agencies, according to Defense Ministry export control [documents](#) cited by Open Media. Windows 10, it added, received certification only for computers that do not hold state secrets.

Russia [planned](#) to replace Microsoft and Apple software with domestic operating systems at all government organizations and "strategic" companies by 2025-2030.

The presidential office was [reported](#) to have postponed plans to switch to a Russian-made operating system after it faced setbacks last year. Open Media said it was unable to find the Kremlin's tender offers for the domestic operating system in the Russian government's procurement database.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov did not explain to Open Media why the Kremlin still has not replaced Putin's operating system.

Earlier this month, Russia [banned](#) the sale of smartphones without Russian-made software and apps starting July 2020. Putin also signed into law measures that would cut off the Russian segment of the internet from the rest of the world when needed.

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