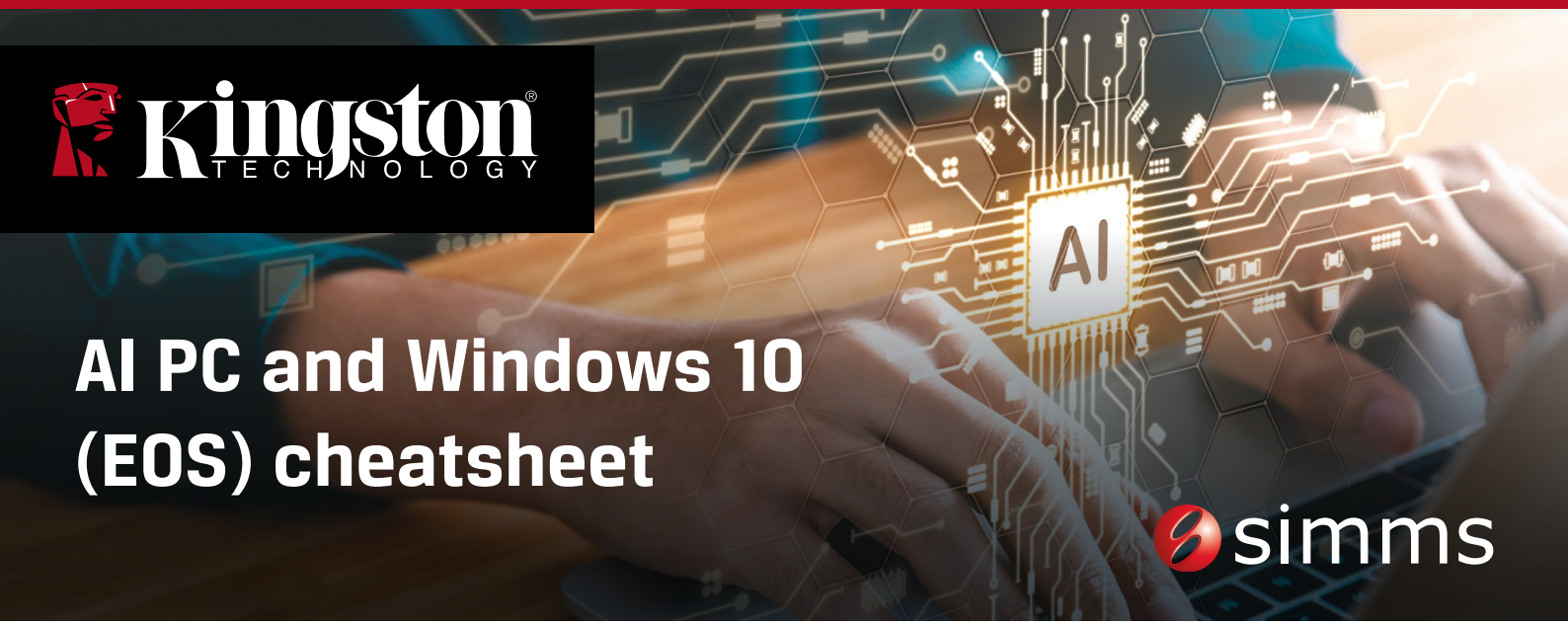

AI PC and Windows 10 (EOS) cheatsheet

This cheatsheet provides insights into AI PCs, the upcoming end of support for Windows 10, and why upgrading SSDs and memory in existing laptops is a cost-effective and efficient alternative to purchasing new AI PCs in the short term.

AI PCs: What are they?

AI PCs are designed to handle artificial intelligence tasks more efficiently than traditional PCs. They typically include:

- **Neural processing unit (NPU):** Specialised hardware for AI tasks.
- **Enhanced CPU and GPU:** For better multitasking and performance.
- **Microsoft Copilot integration:** AI-powered tools and workflows.

Benefits of AI PCs:

- **Faster processing:** Improved performance for AI and machine learning tasks.
- **Enhanced productivity:** AI tools for automating tasks and managing workflows.
- **Better privacy:** Localised and personalised AI experiences without potentially transmitting company data to public AI models
- **Better battery life:** More efficient power usage.

Why organisations might want to wait:

- **Software compatibility:** Many applications are not yet optimised for AI PCs, especially those using ARM-based Snapdragon CPUs.
- **Limited applications:** The current range of software that fully utilises AI capabilities is in early phase and still growing. In the future, these applications will demand more of local hardware.
- **Early adoption risks:** Being an early adopter can mean dealing with bugs, limited support, higher costs, and underperforming hardware – as demands grow.
- **Future improvements:** Waiting allows organisations to benefit from future advancements and more mature technology.

Windows 10 End of support (EOS)

- **End date:** October 14, 2025.
- **Implications:** No more security updates or technical support after this date. This presents a huge security risk for organisations.
- **Options:** Upgrade to Windows 11 or consider hardware upgrades to meet Windows 11 requirements.

Minimum specs for Windows 11:

- **Processor:** 1 GHz or faster with 2 or more cores on a compatible 64-bit processor or System on a Chip (SoC).
- **RAM:** 4 GB or more.
- **Storage:** 64 GB or larger storage device.
- **System firmware:** UEFI, Secure Boot capable.
- **TPM:** Trusted Platform Module (TPM) version 2.0.
- **Graphics card:** Compatible with DirectX 12 or later with WDDM 2.0 driver.

x86 (AMD/Intel) vs. Snapdragon CPUs (CoPilot+)

- **Limited software applications:** Many software applications are still not optimised for ARM-based Snapdragon CPUs, leading to performance issues or incompatibility.
- **Emulation challenges:** Running x86 applications on Snapdragon CPUs often requires emulation, like Prism on Copilot+ PCs, which can result in slower performance, or simply not working at all.

Why upgrade SSDs and memory?

Upgrading SSDs and memory in existing laptops offers several advantages over purchasing new AI PCs:

1. **Cost-effective:**
   - **Lower cost:** Upgrading SSDs and memory is significantly cheaper than buying new AI PCs.
   - **Extended lifespan:** Enhances the performance and extends the life of existing laptops.
2. **Performance boost:**
   - **Faster boot and load times:** SSDs provide quicker boot times and faster application launches.
   - **Improved multitasking:** More RAM allows for better simultaneous operation of programs.
3. **Remove risk:**
   - **Risk of Windows 10 EOS:** Upgrading to Windows 11 with higher performance memory and SSDs, means you get security and performance.
   - **Risk of buying twice:** Buying AI PCs too early means that you may buy twice, if they are underspecified, and/or the software demands more. Instead buy yourself time as the technology matures.

Conclusion

While AI PCs offer advanced features and capabilities, upgrading the SSDs and memory of existing laptops is a practical and cost-effective solution for organisations in the short term. This approach not only extends the life of current hardware but also provides significant performance improvements, making it a smart investment as organisations prepare for the transition from Windows 10, and determine their route with the expected growth of AI PCs.

Kingston laptop upgrade options:

	SSD (NVMe)	Memory	Typical end-users
Mainstream	NV3	ValueRAM DDR4 ValueRAM DDR5	HR, Customer service, Finance execs, Admin functions
High-performance	KC3000 FURY Renegade	FURY Impact DDR4 FURY Impact DDR5	C-suite, Sales teams, Creative, Marketing

Questions for resellers to their customers/end-users

Understand

Where are you in your refresh cycle?

What are your plans for AI PC's?

Is the hype real in your opinion?

What about Win10 going EOS next year – how will you plan things?

Quantify

How concerned are you about buying twice if you make the wrong move?

Qualify

If I could buy you some time – as the market moves by upgrading what you already have – for a significantly lower cost, what would you say?

Further questions?

Contact your Kingston Representative or visit: www.kingston.com/ask-an-expert

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