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Windows 10 End-Of-Life 14oct2025 - BHCS

Windows 10 reaches End-Of-Life on 14oct2025. Although Extended Support is available, most organisations will be looking to migrate BHCS to Windows 11, Server 2022 or Server 2025.

Which versions of Barr Systems' BHCS are compatible with the newer OSs?

All of the 7.1.x and 7.2.x software is pre-Windows 11 and therefore incompatible.

All of the 7.3.x software was released post-Windows 11; the latest standard BHCS version is 7.3.1.22, released 02feb2025. This is the version to which you should move. There are no loss of features or additional licensing costs involved. In fact, there are new, free features as detailed beneath.

Note that BHCS 7.3.1.22 is 64-bit ONLY and requires .Net 4.8.

Download the 7.3.1.22 software from barrcentral.com/utilities

BHCS 7.3.1.22 can restore from a BarrBackup of any earlier version (with the usual requirement that Program & Data drives on the target machine match the source machine).

Note that in-place OS upgrades are not recommended. You should stand up a new platform with .Net 4.8 in place, install BHCS 7.3.1.22, then restore a BarrBackup from the old machine.

Barr Systems are happy to add an extra Activation count to your existing license(s) for the migration. This means you can install and Activate your existing license on the target machine with no change to the old machine.

The benefit here is that the old machine is unchanged and able to be immediately fallen back to, in the unlikely event an issue is found.

The migration process is therefore:-

- Build a new machine (physical or virtual) with Windows 11 (or Server 2022/2025). Ensure the drives match the old machine (drives at least as large; bigger is fine).
- Install .Net 4.8.
- Install BHCS 7.3.1.22 to the new machine, ensuring Program/Data dirs. match the old.
- Install and Activate the existing license on the new machine.
- Perform a BarrBackup on the old machine and then turn it off.
- Restore the BarrBackup to the new machine, start receiving work and validating output.
- When you're happy with the new machine, simply De-Activate the license from the old machine and let us know.

BHCS 7.3.1.22 includes, free of charge:

Notifications module

- Write specified Operator Console messages to an sql database.
- Optionally email user(s)/group(s) when certain Operator Console events fire, i.e. email Account Reps Group if any ABC* monthly report fails.

Remote Spool Window (RSW)

- Provides secure, simultaneous access to BHCS from one or more PCs (multi-user).
- Allows Spool and Retain access, with abilities depending on User Rights granted.
- Doesn't expose the whole machine to the remote user, as RDP does.
- First RSW license is included free, extra licenses are chargeable.

Contact Atac for free advice and help migrating your BHCS system(s) to a compliant OS.

Windows 10 End-Of-Life 14oct2025 – Output Manager

How will End-Of-Life for Windows 10 affect Output Manager? Output Manager is already compatible with Windows 11, as well as Server 2019 & 2022 in standalone mode. Client Server configurations run on Server 2019 & 2022 currently.

Migrating to a new platform involves building a new machine and installing Output Manager as a new install.

There are a number of items to consider and replicate on the new machine. In the following, %systempath% is usually "C:\Mgrx.x\" and %userpath% is usually "C:\MgrUserx.x\", where x.x is the Output Manager version number:

- Drive mappings, local & LAN.
- Type of Install (Local, Shared disk, Dedicated disk, LAN location).
- Service Account user/password – local admin and network rights/permissions.
- Users & Window settings - .udf files in %systemdir%\system\vipui.
- Input & Output Clients & their settings - .cfg files in %systemdir%\config.
- Client Auto-Start settings – screenshot old machine, re-enter on new.
- Class assignment logic – screenshot old machine, re-enter on new.
- Connect-??? – connect-???.cfg files in %systemdir%\config.
- Unattended Mode settings – take note of old and replicate on new.
- Resources - %userpath%\<client>\...
- Jobs (profiles) - %userpath%\profile\...
- VDE scripts - %userpath%\vde\...

Any reasonably sized system will probably store client resources, vde scripts and jobs on a network folder, so ensure the new machine has identical drive mappings to the old.

As well as the above, you'll need a license file to get started. Let us know the ip address of the target machine and we'll assign you a temporary license to get up and running. Place license.dat in %systempath%\system\license (you may have to create this sub-folder).

Do a compare of the %systempath%\config files Generic.cfg and VipExec.cfg with the corresponding files on the new machine. These have the old machine name / ip address info within so manually compare and replicate any relevant settings.

Test the new machine extensively, preferably in parallel with the old and compare the output.

Once you're happy with the new platform, remove the license from the old machine and we'll supply a permanent license for the new machine.

Contact Atac for any assistance and advice along the way.

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BHCS ALA Reminders

BHCS incorporates a mechanism which pops-up an Annual License Agreement (ALA) reminder when the ALA renewal date approaches.

We've had a few calls from clients concerned that their Barr system will stop functioning on or after the Expiry Date. This is NOT the case. Here are the guidelines, so you know what to expect:

Timing

For purposes of describing the timing-related features, time is divided into 4 periods:

- More than 30 days until ALA expiration
- Between 30 and 0 days until expiration
- Between 0 and 30 days after expiration
- After the Stop Date has occurred

More than 30 days until ALA expiration

The ALA renewal dialog never automatically displays during this time period.

Between 30 and 0 days until expiration

The ALA reminder dialog displays 10 minutes after the Spool UI is launched. Sometimes the system is extremely busy immediately after launching the Spool UI.

We wanted to give the system a chance to settle down before we bother the user with the ALA reminder.

Between 0 and 30 days after expiration

The ALA reminder dialog displays 10 minutes after the Spool UI is launched. This will happen for up to 30 days, until the Stop Date is reached.

After the Stop Date has occurred

BHCS will continue to function normally until the Stop Date is reached (ALA date plus 30 days, rounded to the next Tuesday if it occurs on Sat/Sun/Mon). If the ALA is not renewed by the Stop Date, the BHCS software will cease to function.

ALA Expiration & Stop Dates

BHCS gets the ALA Expiry Date and the Stop Date from the BHCS license.

Remember

In ALL cases where the ALA reminder displays, it can be simply dismissed by clicking the [REMIND ME LATER] or [OK] button. The software will continue to function normally with no loss of functionality.

However, if the ALA is not renewed by the Stop Date, the BHCS software will cease to run.

Note that Barr Systems require ALA payments to have been actually received into the bank before they'll release updated licenses, i.e. a Purchase Order alone isn't sufficient.

Contact Atac if you have any ALA concerns or queries.

Q & A

Q. We have a PDF job that Output Manager v.3.2.9 aborts with “Error 12 in command TJ%””. How can we get past this to process the job?

A. MGR v.3.2.4 onwards uses the APDFL flattener, which introduced this error. This is fixed in v.3.2.11. To overcome the error in v.3.2.9, the profile option PDFIN_PDF_FLATTENER=JAWS should be used.

Q. We are migrating BHCS from Windows 10 to a new Windows Server 2022 machine. Testing is expected to take longer than 10 days (the usual grace period). Can we get a temporary license for the new machine?

A. Barr Systems have a better solution. They’ll increase the License Activation count by one, allowing you to Install and Activate on the new machine using your existing license.

When testing is complete and you’ve fully cut over to the new machine, simply De-Activate the license on the old box and then let us know. Barr will then decrement the License Activation count. The benefit here is that the old machine is unchanged and available as an immediate fallback until you’re happy with the new system.

Q. We receive a report into BHCS containing Traditional Chinese characters, which are not displaying or printing correctly. How do we fix this?

A. It’s probably Code Page 950 (Traditional Chinese). Verify C_950.nls is present in %windir%\system32. If not found, install Chinese (Traditional, Hong Kong SAR) via Settings | Time & Language | Language.

Set the Code Page of the target printer to 950 on the BHCS printer’s “Advanced Printer Options” screen. Assign NDHBCPAG to 950 on the print file and you’ll then be able to View it correctly too. Code the assignment as a field setting on the LPD Receive queue used to receive this data.

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