



# Ready for Windows 11 in your endpoint device park?

Sébastien Dellabella, Siavas Firoozbakht, Michał Kwiatek

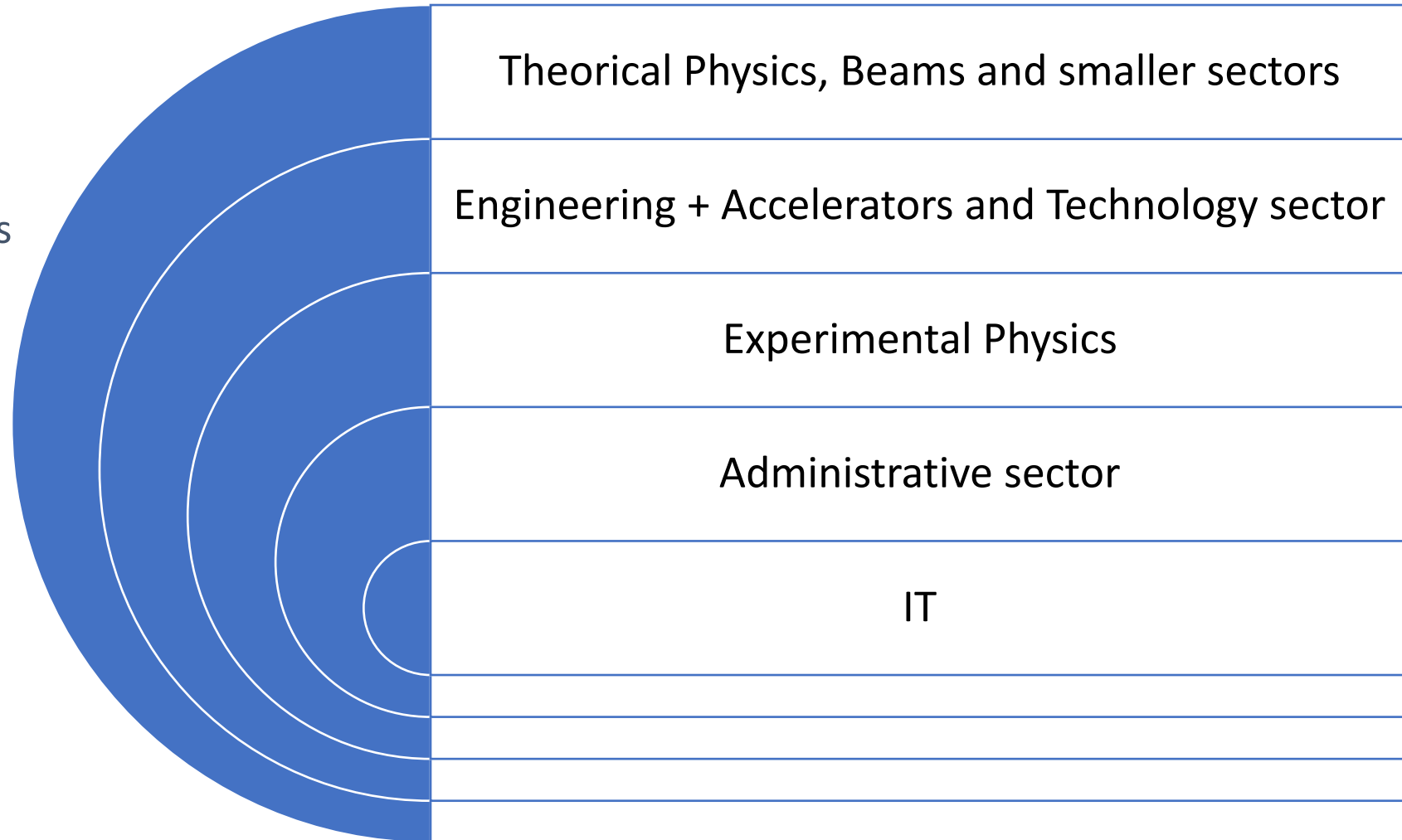
HEPiX 2024 (Spring)

# In this talk :

- CERN-Managed device park overview
- Past experiences with major Windows upgrades
- Challenges of migration to Windows 11
  - Establishing device compatibility
  - Migration mechanics
  - Software compatibility
  - Data Privacy with Microsoft Copilot
  - Migration planning
- And what if you cannot migrate?

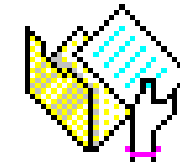
# CERN-managed device park overview

- 10000 CERN managed Windows endpoints
- Deployment is staged in 5 rings which progressively include all CERN sectors
- For a tailored schedule, we use different tools:
  - Windows Update (GPOs)
  - CMF




# Past experiences with major Windows upgrades

- Tools we use
  - CMF is a CERN proprietary software deployment tool (similar to System Center Configuration Manager from Microsoft)
    - Used mainly to deploy software and feature updates with a tailored schedule



CERN home > IT Department opssf@cern.ch (opssf) Remaining: 6h:59m:59s [Logout]

 **Computer Management Framework**

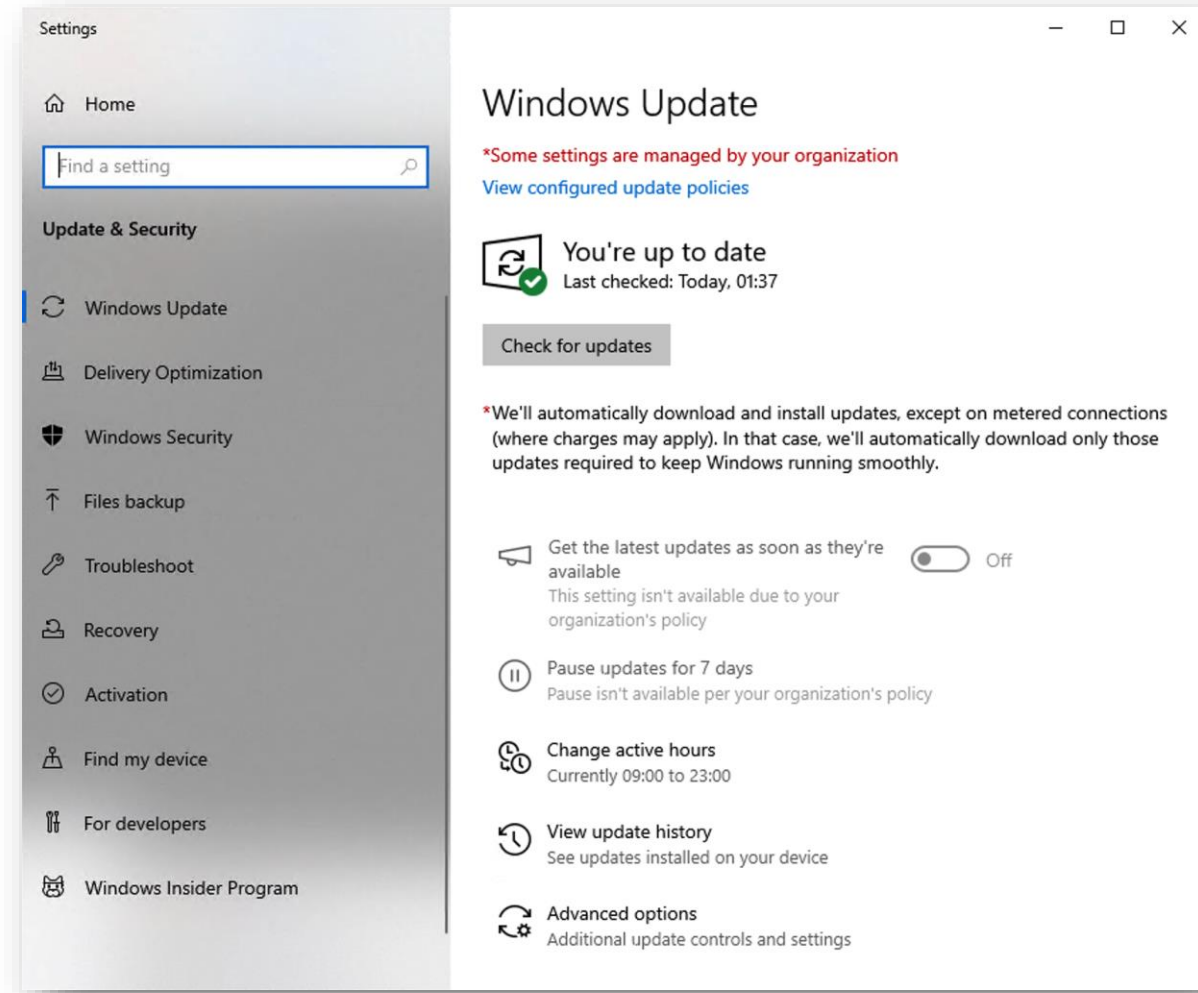
[Home](#) | [Help](#)

Administration	Configuration Information & Status	CMF Global Reporting
<b>Named System Sets (NSS)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Create New NSS</li><li>Edit Existing NSS</li></ul>	<b>System Configuration Views</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Global Overview</li><li>NSS Detailed View</li><li>NSC Configuration Details</li><li>NSC Inheritance Diagram</li><li>PKG Configuration Details</li></ul>	<b>Global Reporting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>File Inventory</li><li>Hardware Inventory</li><li>Software Inventory</li><li>Software Metering</li></ul>
<b>Named Set of Computers (NSC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Create New NSC</li><li>Edit Existing NSC</li><li>NSC Reboot Management</li></ul>	<b>Computer Configuration &amp; Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Computer Configuration &amp; Status</li><li>Computer Action Log</li><li>Computer Software Metering Report</li><li>Computer Software Inventory</li><li>Computer Hardware Inventory</li><li>Computer File Inventory</li></ul>	
<b>Packages (PKG)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Create New PKG</li><li>Edit Existing PKG</li></ul>	<b>Administrative Reports &amp; Logs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Front-End User Action Log</li><li>Server Task Logs</li></ul>	
<b>Computers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Add/Remove CMF Packages</li><li>PC Installation and Settings</li></ul>		
<b>Metering &amp; Inventory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Edit Software Metering List</li><li>Edit Hardware Inventory Parameters</li><li>File Inventory Parameters</li></ul>		

Last update: December 2023 - Contact: [service-desk@cern.ch](mailto:service-desk@cern.ch)

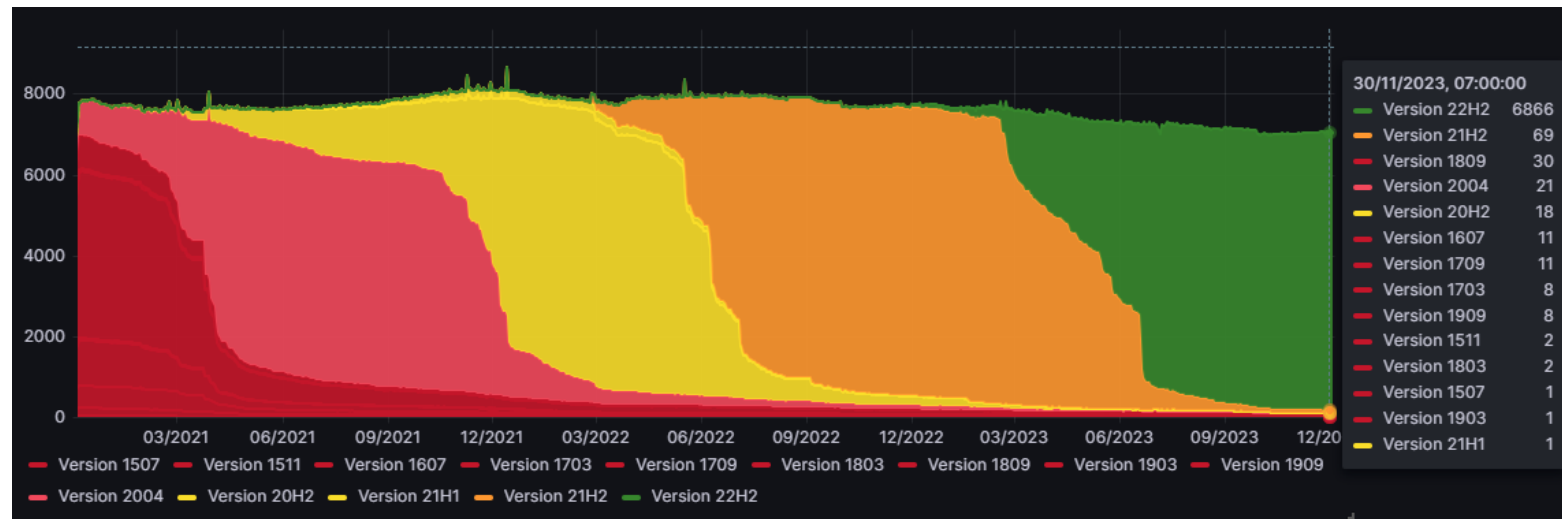
# Past experiences with major Windows upgrades

- Tools we use
  - Windows Update is a built-in update mechanism provided by Microsoft on Windows.
    - Used by default CERN-wide to deploy quality updates and feature updates with a flexible schedule
    - Very useful when devices are not connected to the CERN Network; scheduling capabilities more limited than in CMF



# Past experiences with major Windows upgrades

- Previous migrations
  - Upgrading from Windows 7 to Windows 10 was easier
    - Windows 10 require a processor running at 1GHz minimum
    - The first 1GHz Intel processor was the Pentium III released already in 1999, **15 years before Windows 10.**
  - Migrating from one Windows build to another was almost flawless using the tools mentioned before as requirements didn't change over time.



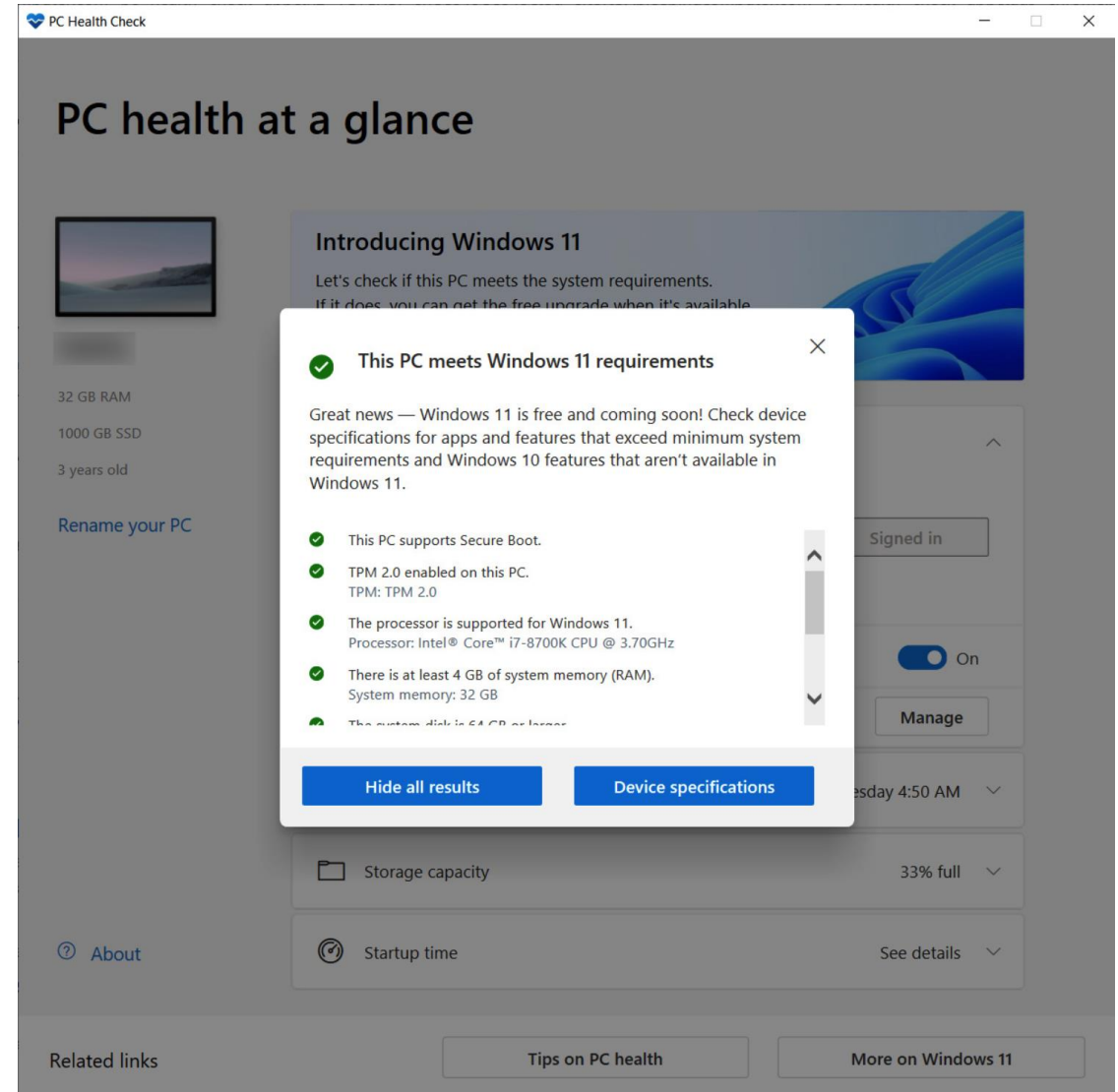
# Challenges of migration to Windows 11

- Windows 11 hardware requirements are more restrictive:

	Windows 10	Windows 11
Processor Minimum	1GHz CPU or SOC	1GHz on a <b>CPU that is not older than 2017 (8<sup>th</sup> Gen)</b> with at least 2 cores
TPM 2.0 and UEFI	Not Required	<b>Required</b>
Storage for upgrade installation	20Gb	64Gb
RAM requirements for 32bits system	1Gb	Not Supported
RAM requirements for 64bits system	2Gb	4Gb
Display Minimum	Direct X 9 , WDDM 1.0 driver, 800x600 resolution	Direct X 12, WDDM 2.0 driver, 8bits / colour channel, HD support

# Establishing device compatibility 1/4

- PC Health Check
  - Recommended by Microsoft
  - Only works with individual PCs
  - Impossible to centralise results
  - **Not working on domain-joined devices**





# Establishing devices compatibility 2/4

- Microsoft's PowerShell readiness script
  - Useful at first but became outdated quickly as Microsoft changed the list of supported CPUs over time.
  - Impossible to keep the supported list of CPUs updated automatically, the script is not dynamic

```
> HardwareReadiness.ps1 X
Users > siavas > Downloads > HardwareReadiness.ps1
26
27 [int]$MinOSDiskSizeGB = 64
28 [int]$MinMemoryGB = 4
29 [UInt32]$MinClockSpeedMHz = 1000
30 [UInt32]$MinLogicalCores = 2
31 [UInt16]$RequiredAddressWidth = 64
32
33 $PASS_STRING = "PASS"
34 $FAIL_STRING = "FAIL"
35 $FAILED_TO_RUN_STRING = "FAILED TO RUN"
36 $UNDETERMINED_CAPS_STRING = "UNDETERMINED"
37 $UNDETERMINED_STRING = "Undetermined"
38 $CAPABLE_STRING = "Capable"
39 $NOT_CAPABLE_STRING = "Not capable"
40 $CAPABLE_CAPS_STRING = "CAPABLE"
41 $NOT_CAPABLE_CAPS_STRING = "NOT CAPABLE"
42 $STORAGE_STRING = "Storage"
43 $OS_DISK_SIZE_STRING = "OSDiskSize"
44 $MEMORY_STRING = "Memory"
45 $SYSTEM_MEMORY_STRING = "System_Memory"
46 $GB_UNIT_STRING = "GB"
47 $TPM_STRING = "TPM"
48 $TPM_VERSION_STRING = "TPMVersion"
49 $PROCESSOR_STRING = "Processor"
50 $SECUREBOOT_STRING = "SecureBoot"
51 $I7_7820HQ_CPU_STRING = "i7-7820hq CPU"
52
53 # 0=name of check, 1=attribute checked, 2=return code
54 $logFormat = '{0}: {1}={2}. {3}; '
55
56 # 0=name of check, 1=attribute checked, 2=return code
57 $logFormatWithUnit = '{0}: {1}={2}{3}. {4}
58
59 # 0=name of check.
60 $logFormatReturnReason = '{0}, '
61
62 # =exception.
63 $logFormatException = '{0}; '
64
65 # 0=name of check, 1= attribute checked a
66 $logFormatWithBlob = '{0}: {1}. {2}; '
67
68 # return returnCode is -1 when an excepti
69 $outObject = @{ returnCode = -2; returnRe
70
```



If you're not yet using Endpoint analytics, or you're using an older version of Configuration Manager, we recommend you use the [Hardware Readiness PowerShell script](#) today as an interim solution that can help you determine if your devices meet the [11 minimum system requirements](#).

While the script can help you get started planning for Windows 11 right away, we also encourage you to use Endpoint analytics so you can benefit from additional Windows 11 insights as well as the existing features that can improve the end-user experience in your organization. And if you're using Configuration Manager, consider enabling the [Hardware Readiness](#) feature so you can benefit from new reports and features – like Windows 11 hardware readiness insights – with no additional software required. To learn more about Endpoint analytics, you can refer to [Microsoft Docs](#) or some of our sessions.

## Running the Hardware Readiness script

To determine whether an individual device meets the system requirements for Windows 11, you can run the script from an elevated PowerShell prompt. To run the script at scale, we recommend leveraging Microsoft Endpoint Manager. If your script has not been digitally signed by Microsoft, you may need to [adjust the PowerShell Execution Policy](#) on your Windows device.

Microsoft Intune users can leverage the Intune management extension to upload the Hardware Readiness script to a target set of devices. As with any deployment, we recommend testing on a small set of devices before rolling out more broadly. Then, use Microsoft Graph explorer to access and aggregate the results of the script. The results can be ingested into Azure Log Analytics or saved locally for you to query and visualize as desired. A step-by-step guide to using this method to aggregate script results is available on the [Device Management in Microsoft blog](#).

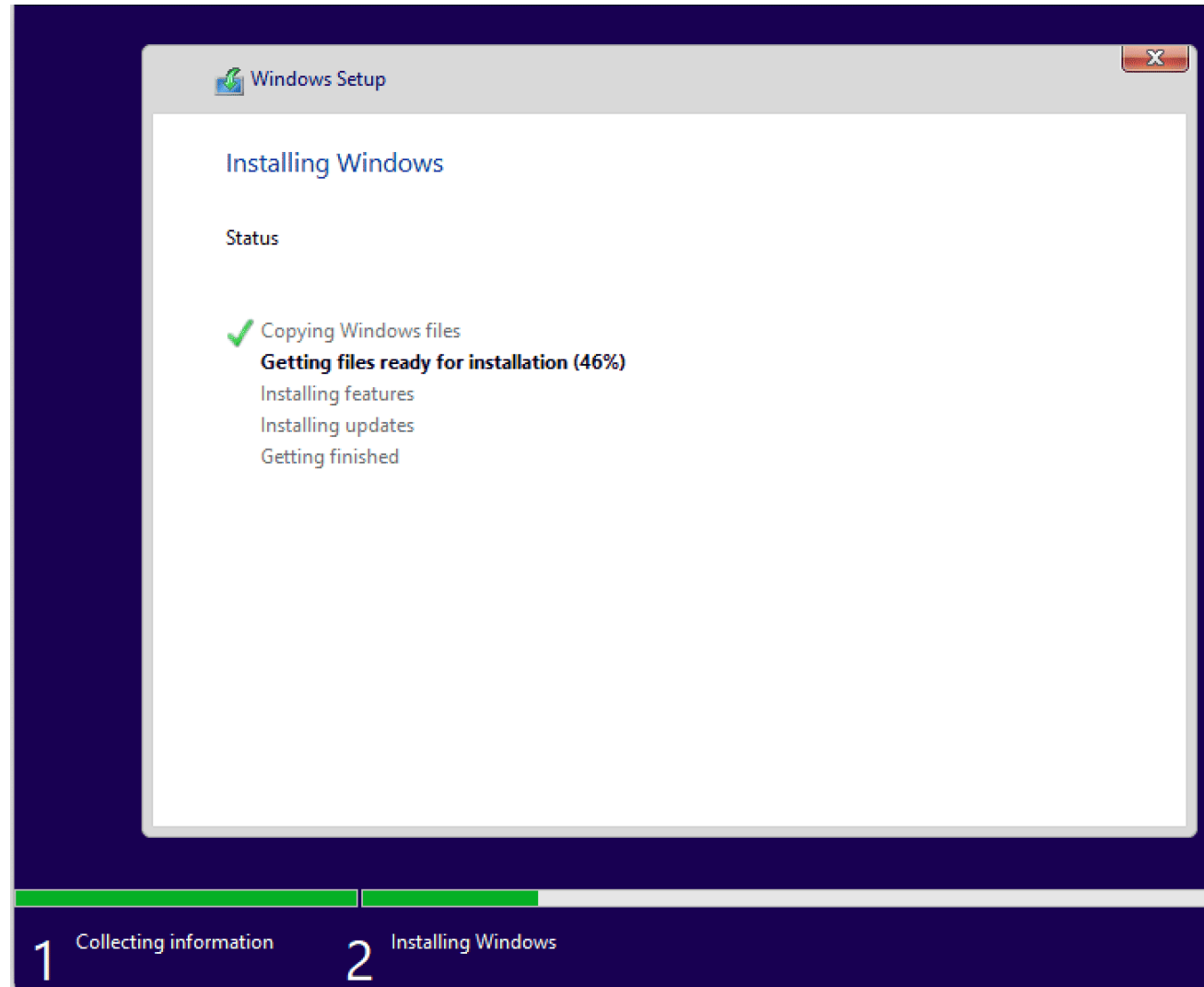
Organizations using Configuration Manager can use the [Run Scripts](#) feature which provides the built-in capability to aggregate results from a PowerShell script. To learn more about this process, the [Script output](#) section of the [Create and run PowerShell scripts from the Configuration Manager console](#).

## Understanding the Hardware Readiness script output

The Hardware Readiness script is meant to determine if a device meets the minimum system requirements for Windows 11. In the case that not all requirements are met, it will highlight which hardware checks failed. Results are returned as a list of four key/value pairs:

# Establishing devices compatibility 3/4

- Windows Setup as a compatibility checker
  - The Windows Setup executable has a special parameter for that (/compat)
  - Advantage: Obsolescence of the PowerShell script is solved
  - Cons: Process hanging and not yielding any results from time to time



# Establishing device compatibility 4/4

- Windows internal checker (Appraiser)
  - Advantage: dynamically updated by Windows
  - Cons: not officially documented by Microsoft
  - Final choice: reliable results for 94% of our Windows device park

The image shows a PowerShell script on the left and a Windows registry/compatibility settings window on the right. The script is a PowerShell function for checking Windows 11 compatibility. It sets execution policy to bypass, logs the path, and checks for errors. It then checks for the presence of 'Appraiser' and 'CompatMarkers' in the registry. If they are not present, it creates them. It also checks for the presence of 'Appraiser' and 'CompatMarkers' in the registry. If they are not present, it creates them. The script also checks for the presence of 'Appraiser' and 'CompatMarkers' in the registry. If they are not present, it creates them.

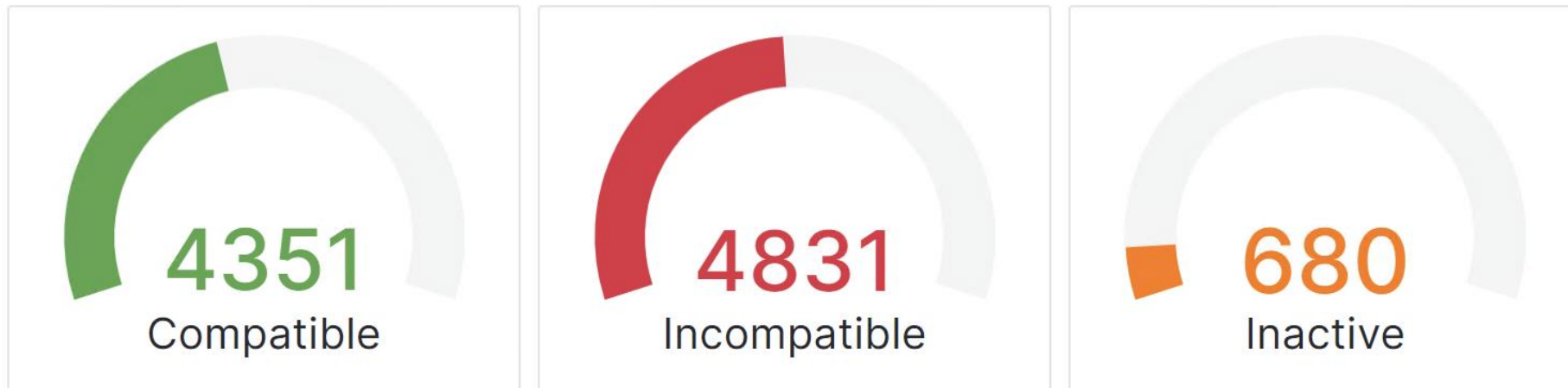
```
1 Set-ExecutionPolicy -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -Scope Process -Force
2 $logpath = $env:TEMP + "w11_readiness.log"
3 Start-Transcript -path $logpath
4 $script:errorOccurred = $false
5 $errorMessage = "Error occurred"
6 $rootFolder = "$env:ProgramFiles\CERN\Windows11_Readiness\"
7 $resultsDestination = "$rootFolder\Results"
8 if (-not (Test-Path $resultsDestination)) {
9     New-Item -Path $resultsDestination -ItemType Directory
10    if (-not $?) {
11        $script:errorOccurred = $true
12    }
13 }
14 $isCompatible = $false
15 $isUnknown = $false
16 $versions = gci Registry::"HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\CompatFlags\CurrentVersion"
17 $unknownReason = "Unknown"
18 if (-not $versions) {
19     $isUnknown = $true
20 }
21 else {
22     # Move previous results to archive folder
23     $previousResultsFolder = "$rootFolder\Previous"
24     if (Test-Path $previousResultsFolder) {
25         Remove-Item $previousResultsFolder -Recurse -Force
26         if (-not $?) {
27             $script:errorOccurred = $true
28         }
29     }
30     if (Test-Path $resultsDestination) {
31         Move-Item -Path "$resultsDestination" -Destination $previousResultsFolder
32     }
33     $hasAnyValidVersion = $false
34     $mostRecentFolder = ""
35     if (-not $?) {
36         "Could not move previous results folder, therefore writing to current folder"
37         $script:errorOccurred = $true
38     } else {
39         $lastTimestamp = [DateTime]::MinValue
40         $crossCheckValues = gci Registry::"HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\CompatFlags\CurrentVersion"
41         $versions | % {
42             $isCompatible = $false
43             "Version $($_.PSChildName)"
44             $thisVersion = $_.PSChildName
45             $crossCheckPath = $_
46             $values = Get-ItemProperty Registry::$crossCheckPath
47             $toConsider = $false
48             $crossCheckValue = $crossCheckValues | Where-Object {$_.PSChildName -eq $thisVersion}
49             if ($crossCheckValue) {
50                 $crossCheckProperties = Get-ItemProperty Registry::$crossCheckPath
51                 if ($crossCheckProperties.DestBuildNum -ge 20000) {
52                     "Destination build $($crossCheckProperties.DestBuildNum), alternative match (2 letters followed by 2 digits) for Win11"
53                     $toConsider = $true
54                 } else {
55                     "Alternative match (2 letters followed by 2 digits) for Win11"
56                     $toConsider = $true
57                 }
58                 $hasAnyValidVersion = $true
59             } else {
60                 $toConsider = $true
61             }
62             "Destination build $($crossCheckProperties.DestBuildNum), alternative match (2 letters followed by 2 digits) for Win11"
63         }
64     }
65     $isCompatible = $hasAnyValidVersion
66     $isUnknown = $false
67 }
```

# Device compatibility

- Approximately 10000 desktops in total are CERN-managed
  - 4831 of which are not compatible with Windows 11
    - 3906 are physical devices, 925 are OpenStack VMs in the CERN Cloud

Windows 10 devices **7503** Windows 11 devices **2359**

## Windows 11 Compatibility



# Migration mechanics – OpenStack VMs

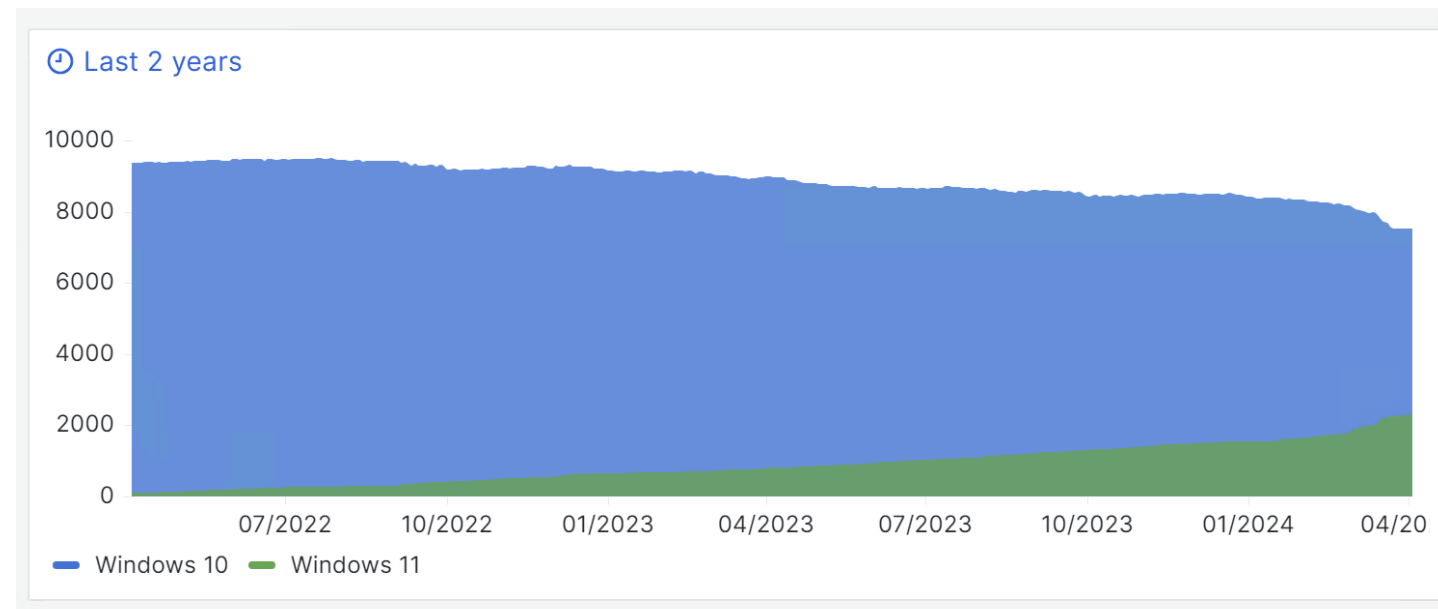
- Windows 11 requires TPM 2.0 and a compatible CPU ( $\geq$  Intel Cascade Lake) which in CERN OpenStack translates to:
  - Upgrading from Train (T) to Yoga (Y) to enable vTPM support on compatible hardware
  - Hypervisor upgrade (cc7 to el8)
- Windows 11 VMs can now be installed in CERN OpenStack
- Limitation: vTPM cannot be added on existing VMs
  - As a physical device attached to a VM, it prevents some operations like live-migrations and rebuild
  - Existing Windows 10 instances cannot be upgraded in-place to Windows 11

Component	S	Train	U	V	W	X	Yoga	Z	A	B
OS	CC7	EL8					EL9			
Barbican	Now						Desired			Upstream
Nova		Now					Desired			Upstream
Neutron		Now					Desired			Upstream
Placement		Now					Desired			Upstream
Horizon				Now			Desired			Upstream
Cinder					Now		Desired			Upstream
Manila					Now		Desired			Upstream
Glance					Now		Desired			Upstream
Mistral						Now	Desired			Upstream
Keystone						Now	Desired			Upstream
Ironic						Now	Desired			Upstream
Octavia								Now		Upstream

■ Now    ■ Desired    ■ Upstream

# Migration mechanics – Physical devices

- Deployment via an in-place upgrade package in CMF with a tailored schedule over the first 6 months of 2024
- Windows 11 has been proposed by Windows Updates automatically but would not be forced by MS until Windows 10 reach EOL (October 2025)



# Migration mechanics – Physical devices

- An in-place upgrade is not possible when the original OS language is different from the OS language of the upgrade package.
  - Impossible to install our proposed English International (UK) version on English US systems.
  - **Solution:** We remotely deployed and installed the language pack and changed the OS language on concerned systems prior to Windows 11 upgrade.
- An in-place upgrade is not possible even with more than 20 GB of free disk
  - Microsoft recommend at least 20 GB of free disk space in the official specifications, but sometimes up to 37 GB is requested.
  - **Solution:** We implemented additional checks in the Windows package to ensure the system will have enough disk space to perform the upgrade after the setup is launched

# Software compatibility

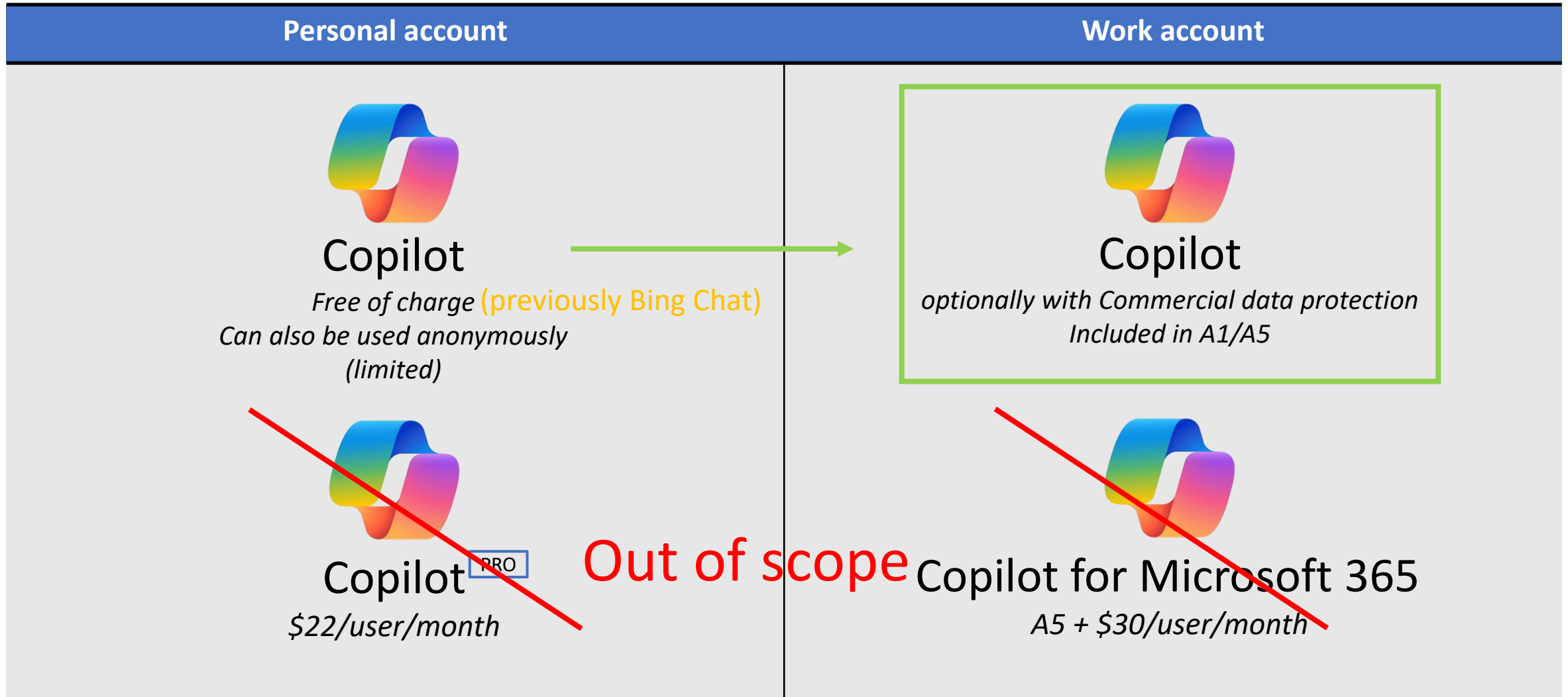
- The version of one of our main CAD software is currently not compatible with Windows 11
  - Impossible to migrate to Windows 11 until a compatible version has been deployed
  - **Mitigation: Additional dependencies in the CMF package to ensure migration is on hold until required version of the given software has been deployed**
  - **Solution: engage with the CAD software support to establish a feasible migration timeline**
- New Windows 11 security features interfere with software widely used at CERN
  - Concretely: Credential delegation in PuTTY and StarNet X-Win32 does not work with Credentials Guard (a feature of Virtual Based Security on Windows 11), which allows isolation of secrets such that only privileged system software can access them.
  - **Workaround for Putty: disable credential delegation**
  - **Solution for X-Win32: in preparation, feature request has been accepted by StarNet**
  - More information on Credential Guard and Virtual Based Security:  
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/identity-protection/credential-guard/>



# Data Privacy with Microsoft Copilot

- Copilot brand is used for a dynamic family of ChatGPT-like products that leverage the same LLM models (GPT-3, GPT-4 Turbo)
- Microsoft is aggressively extending the Copilot brand to a wide range of products, both old and new
- Previous “Bing Chat Enterprise” (free of charge) is now “Microsoft Copilot”
  - Offers new feature for enterprise data privacy called “Commercial data protection”
  - Is a likely replacement for Cortana, the previous Windows assistant, whose standalone app was discontinued in June 2023.
  - Is increasingly integrated with the operating system
- Not to be confused with:
  - Copilot Pro
  - Copilot for Microsoft 365
  - GitHub Copilot, Copilot Studio, etc.

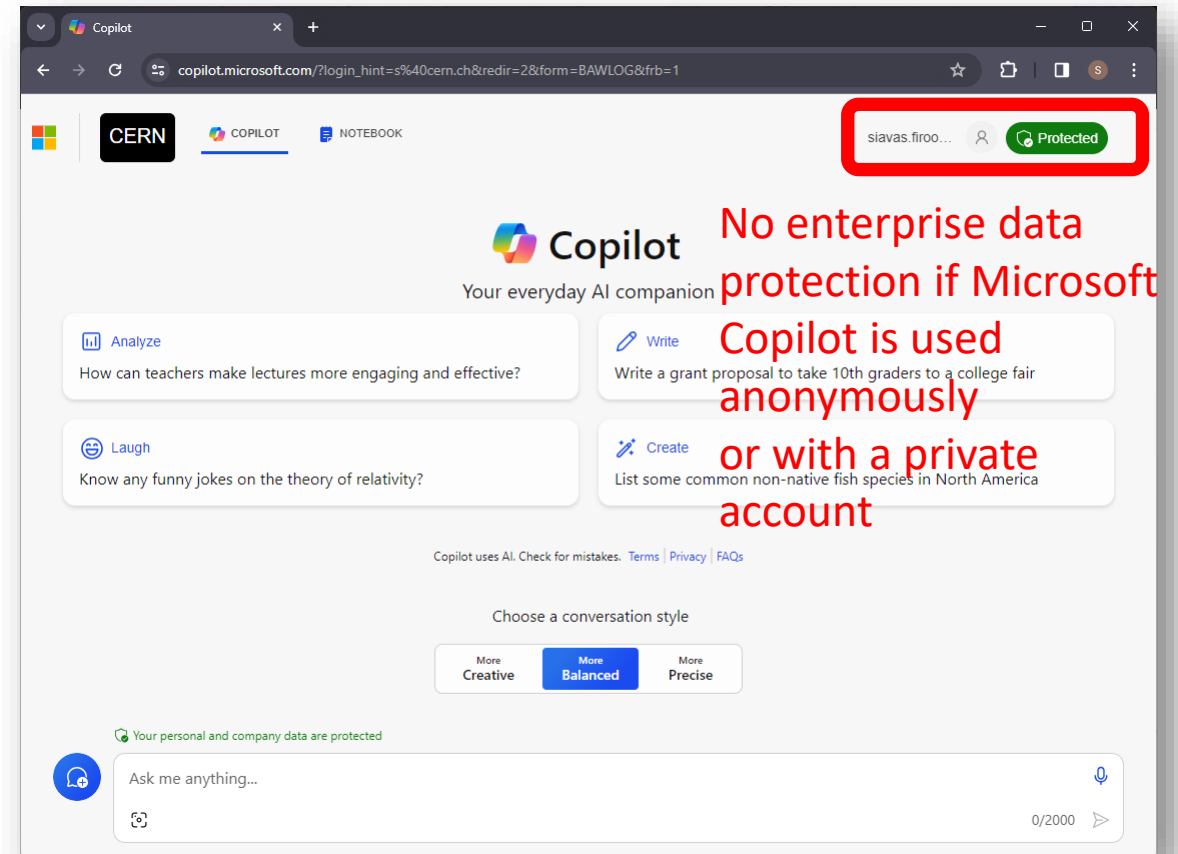
# Clarifying Copilot confusion



# Data Privacy with Microsoft Copilot

When the user is logged on with an account that has an A1/A5 licence item “Commercial data protection for Microsoft Copilot” enabled:

- The free of charge Microsoft Copilot<sup>\*)</sup> does not access or use any organisational data other than the one directly provided in the chat as prompts. Organisation and user information is removed from the chat data at the start of a session.
- None of the data provided is used to train the underlying LLM model
- Sessions are temporary and cannot be saved. The session is closed when the browser tab is closed or when the current login times out. Chat history is not available.
- Advertising in Entra ID is not based on chat history. In Copilot, however, advertisements pertinent to the chat session may be shown.
- No usage reports and auditing are available to administrators of the Organisation
- The data that is collected from prompts and responses lives as long as the session.
- To provide chat responses, Copilot uses global data centres for processing and may process data in the United States. Optional Bing-backed connected experiences don't fall under Microsoft's EU Data Boundary (EUDB) commitment.

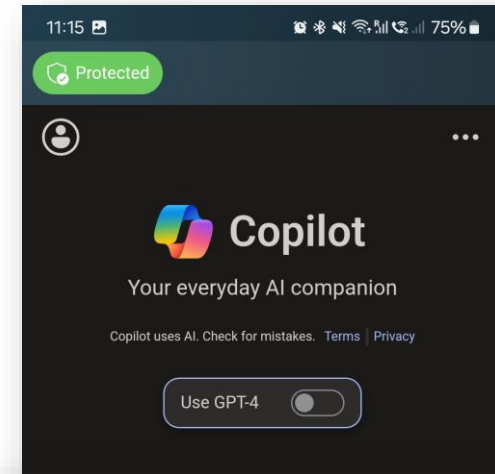


No enterprise data protection if Microsoft Copilot is used anonymously or with a private account

<sup>\*)</sup> Other Copilot flavours have different data privacy challenges, out of scope of this talk

# Data Privacy with Microsoft Copilot

- We expect Copilot to be integrated in Windows OS in the future
  - Foreseen for Windows 11 24H2 in Fall 2024
- Also, in PC hardware (dedicated key on the keyboard)
- Our intention is to enable it in a way that ensures appropriate data privacy
  - M365 A1/A5 licences
  - GPOs



# Migration planning

- At CERN, endpoint device purchasing is done per administrative units/experiments and there is no central purchasing plan
- Communication around the migration started 2 years before the end-of-support date and includes:
  - Presentations to the IT representatives of user communities
  - Providing of up-to-date data regarding device compatibility in each department
  - Technical help to dedicated support teams
  - Monitoring the evolution of the migration across CERN user communities and follow-up with their representatives

	A	B	
1	PCName	CompatibilityStatus	SuggestedAction
2	nucbe16223	Unsupported processor	Plan replacement
3	pcte224461	Unsupported processor	Plan replacement
4	lapte273582	Compatible	No action required
5	lapte267920	Compatible	No action required
6	lapte261466	Compatible	No action required
7	lapte252834	Compatible	Upgrade using
8	lapte232571	Unsupported processor	Plan replacement
9	pcte224499	Unsupported processor	Plan replacement
10	lapte242629	Unsupported processor	Plan replacement
11	lapte273589	Compatible	No action required
12	pcte224492	Unsupported processor	Plan replacement
13	lapte262605	Compatible	No action required
14	lapte276411	Compatible	No action required
15	lapbe15358	Could not check (inactive or compatibility pack)	Ensure device is
16	lapbe16971	Compatible	Upgrade using
17	nucbe16221	Unsupported processor	Plan replacement

# And what if you cannot migrate?

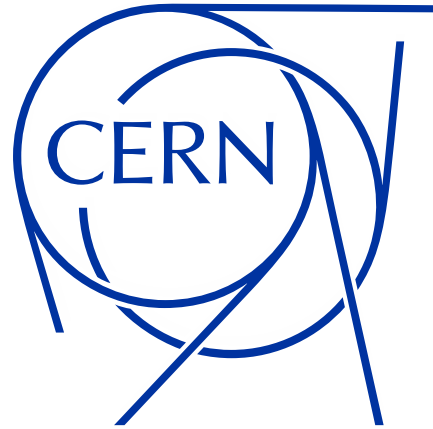
- Extensive discussions with Microsoft have not been promising so far
  - Microsoft would not change hardware compatibility criteria
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Generation processor remains the minimum
  - Proposed alternative was to move end-user devices to the (Microsoft) cloud and replace current devices with thin clients
- Possible alternatives
  - Consolidation: workloads from multiple devices combined into small number of newer devices **COST—**
  - Recycling: devices could be used with another OS, ex.: Alma Linux or RHEL9
    - Devices produced after 2014 support x86\_64-v2 architecture which is the requirement for RHEL9 **COST—**
    - The cost of user training may be higher than the cost of replacing the hardware **COST++**
  - Switching to Windows Server OS for specific workstations where supported **COST+**
    - For engineering workstations where hardware is planned to be replaced in 2-3 years
  - In specific scenarios, switching to Windows 10 Ent. LTSC or IoT LTSC (supported until 2027/29) **COST++**
    - Only to be considered for computers where licenced software requires running Windows 10 (e.g., workstations with engineering software or control equipment).
  - Migrating to the latest build of Windows 11 late in 2025 overriding HW requirements **COST—**
    - To extend HW lifetime by up to 12 months, assuming possible with W11b24H2 (TBC when released)



# To conclude :

- Windows 10 end-of-life is 23 October 2025
- Plan and communicate early
  - despite uncertainty caused by evolving HW requirements
  - it makes budget planning easier
- Identifying (in)compatible devices may be a challenge
- Consider data-privacy impact of Copilot
- All alternatives to replacing old hardware come with its own cost
- It is an opportunity to consolidate your device park





Questions? Thoughts? Your own experience?

Thank you for your attention !

Sébastien Dellabella, Siavas Firoozbakht, Michał Kwiatek

HEPiX 2024 (Spring)