



Solutions

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AaSys Group will be closed on the Following Days:

- Thursday, December 24, 2020 AaSys Helpdesk will close at 3PM
- Friday, December 25, 2020 in observance of Christmas Day
- Thursday, December 31, 2020 AaSys Helpdesk will close at 3PM
- Friday, January 1, 2021 in observance of New Year's Day
- Monday, January 18, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

“Adobe will not provide new security updates, leaving Flash users exposed to new vulnerabilities and attacks after December 31, 2020.”

Adobe Flash Approaching End of Life

In previous years, Adobe Flash was a popular go-to tool for writing online games and publishing browser-based software. Flash used to be essential to watch online videos and play online video games. But over time, Adobe Flash lost its appeal and as technology changed, it became obsolete and a security risk. In July of 2017, Adobe announced Adobe Flash Player will become end of life (EOL) on December 31, 2020. That day is fast approaching, and Adobe is asking all Flash users to take action.

Flash had some major security flaws. It had weaknesses that cybercriminals took advantage of, commonly being an entry point for many security breaches. Cybercriminals exploited the bugs in Flash and manipulated content. Hackers were also able to spy on browsers and implant malware on computers. But with the introduction of HTML5, Flash became a thing of the past and the need for it slowly dwindled. HTML5 has proven to be a more reliable, more powerful and much safer option. A majority of websites have already migrated to the HTML5 format years ago. Apple has opted not to support Flash on iOS and has even denied access to any apps that use Flash.

Because Flash Player has always been targeted by hackers and malware, Adobe will not provide new security updates, leaving Flash users exposed to new vulnerabilities and attacks after December 31, 2020.

Adobe has also stated that once Flash reaches the EOL date, they will remove all Flash Player download links from their website and Flash-based content will be blocked from running in Adobe Flash Player. Additionally, Flash will be completely removed from all browsers by December 31, 2020 and into early 2021. Microsoft has also announced they will no longer support Adobe Flash on Windows. Microsoft will provide a Flash removal update but once installed it will be permanent and cannot be uninstalled. Flash Player will remain on your system unless you uninstall, however removing it is a better option that will help keep your system secure.

No one knows exactly what the end of Adobe Flash will bring. But experts are warning that hackers will try to capitalize on the end of Adobe Flash support. They will use phishing emails offering fake downloads from malicious websites, or even malware disguised as a Flash player fix to entice users to click on malicious links. Adobe is asking for users to remove Adobe Flash immediately to help protect their systems and avoid falling prey to potential threats that are expected to come once support ends.



Sources:
Adobe wants users to uninstall Flash Player by the end of the year | ZDNet
<https://www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer/end-of-life.html>
Adobe Flash end of support on December 31, 2020 - Microsoft Lifecycle | Microsoft Docs
<https://www.infoworld.com/article/3601062/adobe-flash-reaches-end-of-life.html>



2021 Predictions

At the end of each year, security firms discuss valuable information security lessons learned, as well as what they foresee happening in the year ahead. 2020 was an unprecedented year and was filled with uncertainty. However, the one thing we know for sure is bad actors will continue to test the limits of security. Below are six predicted cyber threats that are most likely to impact people and businesses in 2021.

1. Security Concerns with Remote Work Will Continue-

Sensitive data that was previously accessed onsite is now being accessed remotely. Cybercriminals have been working overtime during the pandemic to take advantage of any vulnerabilities they can find. In 2021, these are expected to escalate and will require IT professionals to keep networks and data protected.

2. Cloud Security-Migrating data to the cloud was already in the works, with many companies slowly making the transition. However, due to COVID-19, this move has accelerated. Because of the rapid change, some security experts believe there may be gaps that can be exploited by cybercriminals. 2021 will bring a major emphasis on cloud security.

3. Phishing as A Service Will Become More Lucrative-

Phishing scams are not going away. It is the easiest scam to perpetrate and affects the most people. Hackers will continue to profit from these types of scams which will provide incentive for others to develop more phishing kits to sell on the Dark Web.



4. COVID-19 Scams Will Not Stop-We are still in the pandemic, and cybercriminals are keenly aware of how to take advantage of this moment of insecurity to attack. They will continue to prey on human emotions, using fake information and websites to engage the most unsuspecting victims.

5. VPNs Will Be Targeted-Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) have allowed remote workers to have some sense of security, but hackers know if they can penetrate a VPN, they have an open door to a company's network. With that type of access, they can steal credentials that perpetuate other types of forceful attacks including Ransomware attacks. Cybersecurity professionals believe the targeting of VPNs will ramp up in 2021.

6. Ransomware Attacks Will Target the Most Critical Assets of an Organization-A recent Fireeye report called, "A GLOBAL RESET Cyber Security Predictions 2021," highlighted the ongoing concern of ransomware attacks and how these are now a national security concern. Ransomware attacks increased in 2020 and experts believe will only get worse. These types of attacks can have dire effects especially in the healthcare sector where not having access to hospital systems can have life or death consequences on patients.

Fortunately, many organizations have taken crucial steps to protect their networks, employees, and customers during this time of remote working. While threats continue to evolve, and cybercriminals employ new strategies, the work of IT security departments is never done. As we approach 2021, organizations need to remain prepared and ensure data backup and incident response plans are in place.

Sources:
<https://www.watchguard.com/wgrd-resource-center/cyber-security-predictions-2021>
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/louiscolumnbus/2020/12/15/the-best-cybersecurity-predictions-for-2021-roundup/?sh=6fc3d515e8c9>



Thank You

2020 has been one of the most difficult years that any of us have faced. As individuals, as a nation and throughout the world we have lost so much. Lost jobs, lost security, and worst of all, some of us have lost friends and loved ones. The pandemic has affected each one of us, directly or indirectly; and to our customers who have experienced personal tragedy we want to send our deepest condolences and know our thoughts and prayers are with each of you and your families.

As we approach the end of the year and collectively wait to take a sigh of relief come January 1, 2021, it is more important than ever before for us to express our gratitude. AaSys has always strived to meet the needs of all our customers. We understood the challenges some faced transitioning to remote work to ensure their employees remained safe while still trying to service and protect their customers and community. From network support to bank consulting, AaSys remains steadfast and wants all our customers to know we are in this together. We are extremely proud of the way our company has risen to this challenge and remain committed to working with all our customers to provide solutions that will benefit each of your unique circumstances.

As we enter 2021, we know that things will continue to be difficult. However, we also know there is a light at the end of the tunnel and a sense of normalcy will return. We are confident we will get through these difficult times. AaSys is continuing our pledge to bring you more solutions that can help your business thrive and to deliver products and services that you value. We are excited for the future and we remain committed to ensuring your success. AaSys wants to say thank you for your business, your patience, your flexibility, your feedback, and most importantly, your loyalty. Our customers have faithfully supported us and we are here to support you in return.

This holiday season might not be what we all expected, but we all should try and find comfort in the bright spots. We want to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and to continue to stay safe. You have our commitment that we will continue to work hard to help your business grow and succeed.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year From our AaSys family to yours.



Looking Forward to 2021: A Special Note from Executive Vice President Cheryl Buntin

It's easy for us to join the chorus that seeks to push out 2020 and welcome 2021! While 2020 has certainly been challenging to all of us, from the prism of "what doesn't harm you makes you stronger", let's look at what 2020 has offered us.

- We know that technology works and can work anywhere! With many of us almost overnight being forced to work from home, it's rewarding to know that VPNs, Terminal Servers, Video Conferencing and VoIP can keep all of us functioning.
- We know that if management sets the proper expectations, employees can be productive working remotely. The spirit of working together with different constraints has demonstrated what is possible through teamwork.
- We have really grown to appreciate our co-workers (and the chance to work face to face with them again!)
- We have renewed empathy for those less fortunate than us – whether they have fallen victim to hard economic times, COVID-19, or other incidents.

As we jump into 2021, let's not forget what we've gone through in 2020. If we gain nothing more than an enhanced appreciation of "normal" (when we get there), then 2020 will not have been a complete waste! Thanks to our clients who helped us preserve through hard times. Hopefully 2020 will serve to make us all stronger!

