

PowerShell 2.0 removal from Windows

► Applies To

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Summary

Windows PowerShell 2.0, a legacy component first introduced with Windows 7, is being removed from the Windows operating system (OS) in upcoming releases. PowerShell 2.0 was officially [deprecated](#) in 2017, and it remained available as an optional feature for compatibility as described in the [Windows PowerShell 2.0 Deprecation](#) blog.

PowerShell 2.0 will be removed in a later release starting in August 2025 for Windows 11, version 24H2 and a September 2025 release for Windows Server 2025. All later releases for Windows 11 and Windows Server 2025 will not include PowerShell 2.0. [Windows Insider preview builds](#) already reflect this change, with the PowerShell 2.0 feature removed as of July 2025. This removal is part of a broader effort to clean up legacy code, reduce the complexity of the PowerShell ecosystem, and improve Windows security.

For most users and organizations, this change will be uneventful – newer versions of PowerShell such as [PowerShell 5.1](#) and [PowerShell 7.x](#) continue to be available and supported. However, if you have legacy scripts or software that explicitly depends on PowerShell 2.0, you will need to take action and update them or use a workaround to prevent any disruptions.

This article provides a timeline of the change, the impact on different user groups, and guidance on how to mitigate any issues.

Mitigation Guidance

If you do have a dependency on PowerShell 2.0 in your environment, here's how you can mitigate issues:

- **Recommended: Migrate scripts and tools to a newer PowerShell version**
Microsoft primary guidance is to update anything using PowerShell 2.0 to use PowerShell 5.1 or PowerShell 7. PowerShell 5.1 introduced many improvements and is backward-compatible for almost all commands and modules. The [PowerShell team blog](#) provides a guide for this migration.
- **Update or replace outdated software**
In some cases, the "fix" might be to upgrade the software that needed PowerShell 2.0. For example, if an old installer fails, look for a newer version of that product.
 - Many Microsoft server products that once used PowerShell 2.0 (Exchange, SharePoint, SQL, and so forth) have newer versions that use modern PowerShell. Use those updated versions if you plan to run them on new versions of Windows.
 - If it's a third-party tool, check the vendor's website for an update or a newer release that removes the PowerShell 2.0 requirement. Given the deprecation has been known for years, some vendors may have addressed it.

Frequently asked questions

What is PowerShell 2.0?	▼
Why is PowerShell 2.0 being removed from Windows?	▼
Which Windows versions are affected?	▼
When will the removal happen?	▼
What should I do if I have old scripts or programs that need PowerShell 2.0?	▼
What will happen if I have legacy scripts or scheduled tasks that specify version 2.0?	▼
Are there scenarios where the removal could cause errors?	▼
What happens if an installer or application looks for PowerShell 2.0?	▼



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