Not having an effective decommissioning strategy and regime may result in your organisation believing that a service has been shut down when in fact it has not, or simply forgetting that it exists.

Lastly, we’re going to share a few tips in order for us to safely disable our unused services.

1. First off is, scan and analyze your environment.
   1. This can be done by cross-validating the results of the network scan by manually retesting any business critical or internet-facing services. While automated scanning is an invaluable tool, false positives or negatives are possible.
2. Secondly, verify which services and protocols are really needed.
   1. Performing this review will take time and resources. It is important to document all the information learned and exceptions that have been found so that in the future, all these won't have to be repeated.
3. Thirdly, disable services and protocols that are not needed.
   1. This should be done on both the server side and the client side. Any services or protocols that do not have a business need are unnecessary and must be disabled.
4. Fourthly, perform thorough post-decommissioning checks to ensure that the procedure has succeeded.
   1. Not having an effective decommissioning strategy and regime may result in believing that a service has been shut down when in fact it has not, or simply forgetting that it exists.
5. Ensure that any decommissioned hardware is disposed of in a safe, appropriate and compliant manner.
   1. Many electronic devices contain hazardous chemicals. If they aren't disposed of safely, those chemicals can pose a safety hazard to people, animals and the environment.