

China rules out Windows 8 for government computers

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China's government says it will avoid buying computer equipment that runs on Windows 8 in a setback for Microsoft's efforts to promote the operating system.

Tuesday's announcement said desktop, laptop and tablet personal computers bought for government use must use a different operating system. The brief statement gave no explanation.

Microsoft wants customers to switch to Windows 8 after support for its 13-year-old Windows XP operating system ended in April. Some customers have avoided that, citing expense and inconvenience.

The [government](#) is the biggest buyer of computer software in China, so its purchasing decisions can have a significant impact on sales.

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