

The 6-Month Hardware Lifecycle Planning Companion

A practical checklist for making refresh decisions under constraint

Clarify Your Starting Position

Before you adjust anything, write this down:

1. What are we optimizing for right now?

- Cost containment
- Security enforcement
- User experience
- Operational stability

2. Where are we willing to absorb pressure?

- Support load
- Security exceptions
- Performance variability
- Capital volatility

3. Which roles cannot tolerate degradation?

List them explicitly:

4. What threshold triggers intervention?

Example:

- Login time > X seconds
- Ticket increase > X%
- Exception aging > X days

This forces clarity before action.

Avoid These 4 Common Mistakes

Mistake 1: Extending everything uniformly
→ Different workloads degrade at different rates.

Mistake 2: Waiting for ticket spikes
→ Drift becomes capital shock.

Mistake 3: Treating all users equally
→ High-impact roles absorb friction first.

Mistake 4: Planning refresh annually
→ Volatility requires shorter review loops.

If you see one of these happening now, correct it immediately.

Decision Readiness Check

Before committing to a refresh adjustment, confirm:

- We have baseline performance data
- We understand workload distribution
- We have identified high-impact roles
- We have defined intervention thresholds
- Finance understands the sequencing plan

If you can't check these boxes, pause before expanding deferral.

What to Monitor Monthly

If you only track a small set of indicators, track these:



Performance

Average login time/device cohort
Application launch time trends
CPU/memory utilization variance



Support

Ticket volume by device age
Recurring performance complaints



Security

Patch exception aging
OS compatibility posture



Experience | Feedback from high-impact roles

Sequence the Next 6 Months



Month 1-2

- Establish performance baseline
- Categorize workloads by intensity
- Identify high-impact roles

Month 3-4

- Review drift indicators
- Adjust workload prioritization
- Evaluate refresh wave candidates

Month 5-6

- Plan refresh wave sequencing
- Align capital timing with finance
- Reassess visibility maturity

Want a structured second opinion?

If you'd like help pressure-testing your lifecycle plan against real workload data, request a Device Lifecycle Health Check. We'll review workload distribution, performance drift signals, security exception posture, refresh wave sequencing, and visibility maturity.

GET A HEALTH CHECK

