

Wintech Technical Note 166 Rev J

Title: **Obsolescence Planning**

Applies to: All Wintech-built foam cutting machines prior to 2010.

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Purpose: Obsolescence Management

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Obsolescence Management/Repowering:

Wintech commenced manufacturing machines in the late 1980s. So far approximately 500 machines have been built and they are installed in 40 countries. To our credit, some of these machines are still running on their original Apple Macintosh computers. Apple themselves don't support those Macs. So, this causes a problem when a computer fails. For many years, Wintech had an upgrade kit to convert to Windows XP. Now XP is obsolete and so we must update once again. Given the age of some of the Wintech Fleet, new control cabinets are being built as a Retro-fit. The mechanics of the machines are always reliable, it's just the computers and other aging electronic components are failing or obsolete.

So, the Engineers at Wintech have designed an Obsolescence Package which in essence is a new Control Cabinet which includes:

- New touch screen Computer running Windows 10/11 Professional.
- New Profiler Software.
- New control switchgear such as contactors, breakers and inverters.
- New safety controllers
- New Wireless Handset.
- New Stepper Drives to the X and Y axis.
- New cabling to the machine. (where necessary)

To prove the point – Wintech obtained the 10th Wintech machine ever built. This has been repowered with the new package and after a few years of internal use, now lives at a customers site. Since then, we have been “re-powering” customer's machines around the world.

Indexer (Machine CPU):

Wintech has used four variants of Indexers over the last 20 years.

- Indexers built earlier than December 2001 are now completely obsolete and unavailable.
- Those built between December 2001 and August 2010, are now hard to build with parts becoming scarce and expensive. (EE100-5307 and EE100-5407)
- Current version Indexer is EE100-STM32.

Software:

This has two areas for consideration:

1. Operating systems.

Wintech’s Profiling software is recommended to be run on Windows 10/11.

Windows 8.1 is no longer supported by Microsoft and ended extended support on January 10, 2023

Windows 7 is no longer supported by Microsoft and ended extended support on January 14, 2020.

Windows XP is no longer supported by Microsoft and ended extended support on April 8, 2014.

Note: Updates to Windows have meant we need to update our software to run properly.

This means keeping Profiler updated is important.

2. Profiler software.

To run a CNC machine, Wintech’s Profiler software is required. There have been a few variations over time.

Versions up to 5 were developed for Macintosh computers and 6, 7 and 8 for Windows. All versions 1-8 have the same file structure type so drawings generated can be read by any version e.g. version 7 drawing can be read by version 8.

Note: Moving drawings from Apple (Profiler 5) to Windows (Profiler 7, 8) is easy and only requires renaming the file to make it work on a Windows system.




Microsoft’s has made significant changes to the background of Windows, only certain versions of Profiler will work with the variations of Windows. A working and tested Profiler is available for each version.

Table 1 - Profiler variations

	Mac OS	Windows					Registration Type	Software status
		XP	7	8	10	11		
Profiler 1	Tested and working	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	N/A	Obsolete
Profiler 2	Tested and working	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	N/A	Obsolete
Profiler 3	Tested and working	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	N/A	Obsolete
Profiler 4	Tested and working	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	N/A	Obsolete
Profiler 5	Tested and working	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Code	Obsolete
Profiler 6	Impossible	Tested and working	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Code	Obsolete
Profiler 7	Impossible	Tested and working	Possible/Intermittent and unsupported by Wintech.	Possible/Intermittent and unsupported by Wintech.	Possible/Intermittent and unsupported by Wintech.	Impossible	Code/Dongle*	Discontinued
Profiler 8	Impossible	Possible/Intermittent and unsupported by Wintech.	Tested and working	Tested and working	Tested and working	Tested and working	Dongle	Current
Profiler 9	Impossible	Impossible	Possible/Intermittent and unsupported by Wintech.	Possible/Intermittent and unsupported by Wintech.	Tested and working	Tested and working	Cloud	Development
Profiler 10	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Tested and working	Tested and working	TBA	Development

*Version 7.44 onwards

**Online and offline authentication.

-  Possible/Intermittent and unsupported by Wintech.
-  Impossible
-  Tested and working

When considering Computers and Software keep in mind that your controller may not be fast enough to run the next version of Profiler. Contact your Wintech representative for more information.

Cabinets:

Variations have been built over time. The cabinets have seen significant changes.

- Cabinet's pre 2004 are now unable to be upgraded because of obsolete componentry.
- There is a 2004 to 2006 version which, at this time, may be updated without major change.
- The 2006 version already houses many current components.
- The 2010 version has a new Touchscreen Computer fitted, new Handset and is Air-conditioned.
- The latest version has upgraded controllers, safety systems and inverters.



Current version Cabinet with Air-conditioner and Remote Handset

Support / Training:

These new cabinets with their many updates have far superior diagnostic capabilities; hence we are able to support customers far better. Wintech's next software version will incorporate a data logging capability to allow Production Managers to look at the overall and job-by-job performance of their machines. This data will also enable our Service Technicians to follow the recent operating history and thus diagnose faults more easily.

To support these new features, we recommend having internet connections available near the machine cabinets. This will enable Wintech Support to log-on remotely and diagnose issues. Some training can be delivered by this method using Skype.

Summary:

There are so many old machines in the Wintech Fleet that are mechanically robust – but electronically at risk. So we are implementing this plan to “Re-power” machines by changing old cabinets for the new version. Being a complete module, Wintech will provide 12 month's warranty on the componentry of the new cabinet.

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