Microsoft discontinues lackadaisically updated Surface Studio all-in-one desktop

The longest-lived Studio desktop was the Surface Studio 2, which was released in 2018 and wasn’t replaced until a revised Surface Studio 2+ was announced in late 2022. It used an even higher-quality display panel, but it still used previous-generation internal components. This might not have been so egregious if Microsoft had updated it more consistently, but this model went untouched for so long that Microsoft had to lower Windows 11’s system requirements specifically to cover the Studio 2 so that the company wouldn’t be ending support for a PC that it was still actively selling.

The Studio 2+ was the desktop’s last hurrah, and despite jumping two GPU generations and four CPU generations, it still didn’t use the latest components available at the time. Again, more consistent updates like the ones Microsoft provides for the Surface Pro and Surface Laptop could have made this less of a problem, but the Studio 2+ once again sat untouched for two years after being updated.

The Studio desktop’s unique screen and hinge endeared it to some artists, and for those users, there’s no immediately obvious replacement for this machine. But the all-in-one’s high price and its specs always made it a hard sell for anyone else. A lack of wide appeal usually leads to mediocre sales, and mediocre sales usually lead to discontinued products. So it goes.

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