

Information Technology Policy

Server Operating System Policy

ITP Number ITP-PLT005	Effective Date January 06, 2006
Category Platform	Supersedes None
Contact RA-ITCentral@pa.gov	Scheduled Review October 2019

1. Purpose

Establishes enterprise-wide policy and standards for Microsoft and Linux-based servers.

2. Scope

This Information Technology Policy (ITP) applies to all departments, boards, commissions and councils under the Governor's jurisdiction. Agencies not under the Governor's jurisdiction are strongly encouraged to follow this ITP.

3. Policy

All projects implementing Microsoft and Linux server operating systems are required to adhere to product standards as defined in the Commonwealth Server Operating Systems Standards tables detailed at the end of the Policy section.

All products are to be deployed and kept up-to-date with patch levels in accordance with ITP-SYM006 *Desktop and Server Patching Policy*.

Microsoft Server Platform

Agencies investing in Windows server infrastructure are to continue to monitor the Microsoft Product Roadmap and plan hardware and software deployments accordingly. Minor releases are to be deployed on a tactical, as-needed basis; major releases are to be deployed only after extensive application and integration testing has been performed.

It is essential that agencies develop plans to migrate from products that are listed in "Contained" status. Microsoft typically ends mainstream or "fix" support six (6) years after their Release to Manufacturer (RTM) date. End-of-life, including end of security patch releases, occurs ten (10) years after RTM. It is recommended that a migration plan be completed no later than two (2) years prior to end-of-life to allow sufficient time for testing and the actual migration.

Linux Server Platform

Agencies are to implement only standard kernel releases and are not to modify the Linux kernel. Modifying and recompiling the Linux kernel could nullify the vendor support contract and may affect application portability.

Note: Both enterprise versions of Red Hat and SUSE have their products certified as Linux Standard Base (LSB). LSB helps increase the compatibility among Linux systems and enables software applications to run on any conforming system. It also helps coordinate efforts to allow independent software vendors to port and write products for such systems.

Naming Standards

Commonwealth Governor's jurisdiction agencies are to adhere to OPD-PLT005A *Server Naming Standards* (authorized CWOPA personnel only, contact RA-ITCentral@pa.gov for requests) which details the requirements for the configuration of servers and their naming conventions.

Any new servers deployed on and after the Effective Date detailed in OPD-PLT005A not in compliance with this policy must obtain a COPPAR waiver approval against this policy prior to deployment of said servers into an operational environment. Refer to section 7 for guidance on that process.

Commonwealth Server Operating Systems Standards

CURRENT STANDARDS

These technologies meet the requirements of the current architecture and are recommended for use.

Software	Technology Classification
Windows Server 2016	Current
Windows Server 2012 R2	Current
Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7.x	Current
SUSE Linux Enterprise 11.x	Current

NOTE: All products are to be patched with service packs within six months of the release date in accordance with ITP-SYM006 *Desktop and Server Software Patching Policy*.

CONTAIN STANDARDS

These technologies no longer meet the requirements of the current architecture and are not recommended for use. They will be phased out over time. No date has been set for their discontinuance.

Software	Technology Classification
Windows Server 2012 (pre-R2)	Contain
Windows Server 2008/2008 R2 (preference to R2)	Contain
Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6.x	Contain
SUSE Enterprise Linux 10.x	Contain

EMERGING/RESEARCH TECHNOLOGIES

Emerging technologies have the potential to become current standards. At the present time, they are to be used only in pilot or test environments where they can be evaluated. Use of these technologies is restricted to a limited production mode and requires approval of a waiver request.

Software	Technology Classification
Microsoft Nano Server 2016	Research

4. Responsibilities

Commonwealth Agencies are to adhere to OPD-PLT005A *Server Naming Standards* for the configuration of server naming conventions for any new servers deployed on and after the Effective Date detailed in OPD-PLT005A

5. Related ITPs/Other References

Commonwealth policies, including Executive Orders, Management Directives, and IT Policies are published on the Office of Administration's public portal:

<http://www.oa.pa.gov/Policies/Pages/default.aspx>

- Management Directive 205.34 *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy*
- OPD-PLT005A *Server Naming Standards* (authorized CWOPA personnel only) (Contact RA-ITCentral@pa.gov for requests)
- ITP-SEC000 *Information Security Policy*
- ITP-SYM006 *Desktop and Server Patching Policy*

6. Authority

Executive Order 2016-06, Enterprise Information Technology Governance

7. Publication Version Control

It is the user's responsibility to ensure they have the latest version of this publication, which appears on <https://itcentral.pa.gov> for Commonwealth personnel and on the Office of Administration public portal: <http://www.oa.pa.gov/Policies/Pages/default.aspx>. Questions regarding this publication are to be directed to RA-ITCentral@pa.gov.

8. Exemption from This Policy

In the event an agency chooses to seek an exemption, for reasons such as the need to comply with requirements for a federally mandated system, a request for waiver may be submitted via the Commonwealth of PA Procurement and Architectural Review (COPPAR) process. Requests are to be entered into the COPPAR Tool located at <http://coppar.oa.pa.gov/>. Agency CIO approval is required.

This chart contains a history of this publication's revisions. Redline documents detail the revisions and are available to CWOPA users only.

Version	Date	Purpose of Revision	Redline Link
Original	01/06/2006	Base Document	N/A
Revision	12/20/2010	ITP Refresh	N/A
Revision	09/06/2017	ITP re-formatting Merged STD-PLT005A into ITP Removed "Intel Based" from ITP title Revised list of OS versions in Current/Contain/Retire Standards Revised list of OS versions in Emerging/ Research Standards	N/A
Revision	10/04/2018	Added Server Naming guidance Added OPD-PLT005A Removed Retired Standards table	Revised IT Policy Redline 10/24/2018