

Information Technology Policy

Server Operating System Policy

ITP Number ITP-PLT005	Effective Date January 6, 2006
Category Platform	Supersedes None
Contact RA-ITCentral@pa.gov	Scheduled Review October 2022

1. Purpose

This Information Technology Policy (ITP) establishes the enterprise-wide policy and standards for Microsoft and Linux-based servers.

2. Scope

This ITP applies to all offices, departments, boards, commissions, and councils under the Governor's jurisdiction (hereinafter referred to as "agencies"). Agencies not under the Governor's jurisdiction are strongly encouraged to follow this ITP.

Third-party vendors, licensors, contractors, or suppliers shall meet the policy requirements of this ITP that are applicable to the products and services provided to the Commonwealth as outlined in the Responsibilities Section.

3. Policy

All project implementing Microsoft and Linux server operating systems are required to adhere to product standards as defined in the STD-PLT005B *Server Operating Systems Standards*. If a product is not listed within the Standards tables in STD-PLT005B *Server Operating Systems Standards*, agencies must obtain an approved policy waiver before procuring or deploying a non-standard product. Emerging/Research Technologies also require an approved policy waiver.

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 "Contain" 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 shall implement only standard kernel releases and shall not modify the Linux kernel. Modifying and recompiling the Linux kernel could nullify the vendor support contract and may affect application portability.

Note: both enterprise version 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

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 *Server Naming Standards* not in compliance with this policy must obtain an IT Policy waiver approval against this policy prior to deployment of said servers into an operational environment. Refer to section 7 for guidance on that process.

4. Responsibilities

- 4.1 Agencies shall** 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
- 4.2 Office of Administration, Office for Information Technology** shall comply with the requirements as outlined in this ITP.
- 4.3 Third-party vendors, licensors, contractors, or suppliers** shall follow the minimum standard for the server operating systems used by the Commonwealth.

5. Related ITPs/Other References

Definitions of associated terms of this policy are published on the Office of Administration's public portal: <http://www.oa.pa.gov/Policies/Pages/Glossary.aspx>

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](#) Amended *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy*
- OPD-PLT005A *Server Naming Standards* (authorized CWOPA personnel only)
- STD-PLT005B *Server Operating Systems Standards*
- [ITP-SEC000 Information Security Policy](#)
- [ITP-SYM006 Commonwealth IT Resources Patching Policy](#)

6. Authority

[Executive Order 2016-06 Enterprise Information Technology Governance](#)

7. Publication Version Control

It is the [Authorized 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 from the guidance within this ITP, a request for a policy waiver is to be submitted via the enterprise IT policy waiver process. Refer to [ITP-BUS004 IT Policy Waiver Review Process](#) for guidance.

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	
Revision	12/20/2010	ITP Refresh	
Revision	09/06/2017	ITP Reformatting 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	
Revision	10/04/2018	Added Server Name guidance Added OPD-PLT005A Removed retire standards table	Revised IT Policy Redline 10/24/2018
Revision	04/10/2019	Removed Microsoft Sever 2019 to current standard	Revised IT Policy Redline 04/10/2019
Revision	01/16/2020	Removed Microsoft Server 2008 from contain, now retired Added clarifying language about use of non-listed products in standards table	Revised IT Policy Redline 01/16/2020
Revision	10/20/2021	Removed standards from policy and re-created STD-PLT005A Added Third-party vendors to Scope and Responsibilities Sections Updated Related ITPs, Authority and Publication Version Control Sections with current boilerplate language	Revised IT Policy Redline <10/20/2021>