

# Information Technology Policy

## *Server Operating System Policy*

**Number**  
ITP-PLT005

**Effective Date**  
January 6, 2006

**Category**  
Platform

**Supersedes**  
All Prior Versions

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**Scheduled Review**  
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### 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 and any other entity connecting to the Commonwealth Network (hereinafter referred to as "agencies").

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 projects implementing Microsoft and Linux server operating systems shall 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 shall obtain an approved [IT Policy Waiver](#) before procuring or deploying a non-standard product. Emerging or research technologies also require an approved IT Policy Waiver.

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

#### 3.1 Microsoft Server Platform

Agencies investing in Windows server infrastructure shall continue to monitor the Microsoft Product Roadmap and plan hardware and software deployments accordingly. Minor releases shall be deployed on a tactical, as-needed basis; major

releases shall be deployed only after extensive application and integration testing has been performed.

Agencies shall 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. A migration plan shall be completed no later than two (2) years prior to end-of-life to allow sufficient time for testing and the actual migration.

### **3.2 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.

### **3.3 Naming Standards**

Agencies shall adhere to *OPD-PLT005A, Server Naming Standards* (authorized Commonwealth personnel only, contact RA-ITCentral@pa.gov to request a copy), which details the requirements for the configuration of servers and their naming conventions.

Any servers deployed on and after the effective date detailed in *OPD-PLT005A, Server Naming Standards* not in compliance with this policy shall obtain an IT Policy waiver approval, against this policy, prior to deployment of said servers into an operational environment.

## **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](#)
- [ITP-SEC000, Information Security Policy](#)
- [ITP-SEC041, Commonwealth IT Resource Patching Policy](#)
- *OPD-PLT005A, Server Naming Standards (authorized Commonwealth personnel only)*
- *STD-PLT005B, Server Operating Systems Standards*
- *RFD-INF006A, Codes Listing Reference (authorized Commonwealth personnel only)*

## 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 shall be directed to [RA-ITCentral@pa.gov](mailto: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 shall 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 Commonwealth 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 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	N/A
Revision	10/04/2018	Added Server Name guidance	N/A

Version	Date	Purpose of Revision	Redline Link
		Added OPD-PLT005A Removed retire standards table	
Revision	04/10/2019	Removed Microsoft Sever 2019 to current standard	N/A
Revision	01/16/2020	Removed Microsoft Server 2008 from contain, now retired Added clarifying language about use of non-listed products in standards table	N/A
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	N/A
Revision	09/21/2022	ITP Refresh Updated references and links	<a href="#">N/A</a>
Revision	12/15/2022	Updated migration plan to a requirement rather than a recommendation.	<a href="#">Revised IT Policy Redline &lt;12/15/2022&gt;</a>