Information Technology Policy
Server Operating System Policy

Number ITP-PLT005	**Effective Date** January 6, 2006
Category Platform	**Supersedes** None
Contact RA-ITCentral@pa.gov	**Scheduled Review** April 2025

1.   Purpose

This Information Technology Policy (ITP) establishes the enterprise-wide policy and standards for Windows 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 Windows 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 Current Standards table in *STD-PLT005B*, 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-SEC041, Commonwealth IT Resource Patching Policy*.

3.1 Windows 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 support five (5) years after their Release to Manufacturer (RTM) date, which is followed by five (5) years of extended support, 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: 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.

3.3 Naming Standards

Agencies shall adhere to *OPD-PLT005A, Server Naming Standards* (Commonwealth access only), 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* 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 the product and naming standards detailed in *OPD-PLT005A* and *STD-PLT005B*.

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:

Adhere to the standards for the server operating systems as detailed in this ITP for 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* (Commonwealth access only)

- *STD-PLT005B, Server Operating Systems Standards*

- *RFD-INF006A, Codes Listing Reference* (authorized Commonwealth personnel only, contact RA-ITCentral@pa.gov to request a copy)

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.

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 Added OPD-PLT005A Removed retire standards table	N/A
Revision	04/10/2019	Removed Microsoft Sever 2019 to current standard	N/A

Version	Date	Purpose of Revision	Redline Link
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	N/A
Revision	12/15/2022	Updated migration plan to a requirement rather than a recommendation.	N/A
Revision	04/01/2024	Minor grammatical, language, and reference updates (no impacts)	Revised IT Policy Redline <04/01/2024>