Information Technology Policy
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Governor's Office of Administration / Office for Information Technology

ITP Number:	**ITP-PLT005**	
ITP Title:	**Intel Based Server Operating System Policy**	
Issued by:	**Deputy Secretary for Information Technology**	
Date Issued: January 6, 2006		**Date Revised: December 20, 2010**
Domain:	**Platform**	
Discipline:	**Server Technology**	
Technology Area:	**Intel Based Server Operating System**	
Revision History Date:	**Description:**	
12/20/2010	**ITP Refresh**	

Abstract:
The purpose of this Information Technology Policy (ITP) is to establish enterprise- wide policy and standards for Microsoft- and Linux-based servers. The list of product standards contained within this policy provides agencies with a list of currently acceptable Microsoft and Linux server operating system releases. The policy section provides guidance for use, including implementation and migration considerations, as well as direction with respect to emerging technologies.

General:
This ITP applies to all agencies, boards, commissions and councils under the governor's jurisdiction. Agencies not under the governor's jurisdiction are encouraged to follow this policy to ensure they develop and implement applications that facilitate enterprise-wide interoperability and standardization.

The Platform Domain Team was engaged to set Microsoft and Linux server standards for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. For the creation of these standards the team took into consideration currently deployed technology within the Commonwealth, projected market longevity, vendor viability, technical and support capabilities, performance and management functionality, and other relevant business and technical criteria for developing their recommendations.

Policy:
All new projects implementing Microsoft and Linux server operating systems are required to adhere to product standards as defined in ITP-PLT005A, *Microsoft and Linux Server Operating System Standards*.

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

I. ***Microsoft Server Platform***
Agencies investing in Windows server infrastructure are to continue to monitor the Commonwealth 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. This is to be done in a timely fashion that coincides with the timelines as shown in the Commonwealth Roadmap. 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.

II. *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 Novell 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.

Refresh Schedule:

All standards identified in this ITP are subject to periodic review and possible revision, or upon request by the Enterprise Architecture Standards Committee (EASC).

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. Contact your agency CoP Planner for further details or assistance.

Questions:

Questions regarding this policy are to be directed to ra-itcentral@pa.gov.

Policy Supplements:

STD-PLT005A - Intel Based Server Operating Systems Standards

References:

ITP-SYM006 - Desktop and Server Patching Policy