

Idaho Technology (ITA)

ENTERPRISE STANDARDS – S2500 SOFTWARE – SERVER

Category: S2510 – NETWORK OPERATING SYSTEM

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I. DEFINITION

The network operating system is the master software that controls all internal operations on a network server. This includes communicating with other networked servers and clients, managing security authorizations, reading and writing from memory and storage devices, transferring information to attached printers, and accepting management commands input from a keyboard and mouse.

II. RATIONALE

Support of network operating systems constitutes a significant portion of Idaho's cost for supporting its technology infrastructure. The more network operating systems supported, the higher the State's costs for technology infrastructure support. Standardizing on fewer network operating systems greatly simplifies technical support requirements and contributes directly to significantly lower support expenses.

III. APPROVED STANDARD(S)

There is no technical standard.

IV. APPROVED PRODUCT(S)

1. Microsoft Windows Server vendor supported versions.
2. Unix/Linux vendor supported versions.

V. JUSTIFICATION

The Unix/Linux operating systems have proven themselves capable of supporting large-scale, high-volume client/server applications. They provide scalable, stable, high-performance environments that are able to support mission-critical business applications.

While Microsoft Windows Server operating systems are proprietary, they are predominate in the Intel server operating system market and State installations. They have become de facto standards.

VI. TECHNICAL AND IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

The Microsoft Windows Server operating systems are recommended for small-to-medium sized departmental applications, database, file, and print servers. The Unix/Linux operating systems are recommended for large-scale database, file, Internet and gateway servers.

VII. EMERGING TRENDS AND ARCHITECTURAL DIRECTIONS

Linux has been deemed an acceptable operating system to use as a state standard for business and is currently being used by numerous agencies.

Agencies should begin to review and plan for later, supported versions of Windows Server which are currently available as well as planning for Operating Systems that will be End of Life in the future. This planning process should include comprehensive application testing, image building and pilot deployments.

VIII. PROCEDURE REFERENCE

Policy for Patching and Vulnerability Management are detailed in ITA Information Technology [P4520 – Patching & Vulnerability Management](#)

IX. REVIEW CYCLE

Six (6) Months

X. CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, contact the ITA Staff at (208) 605-4064.

REVISION HISTORY

08/19/2014 – Removed references to any approved operating system as long as the OS is vendor supported and must be patched and updated regularly. Added Linux as an acceptable OS to use

07/01/13 – Changed “ITRMC” to “ITA”.

6/16/09 – Added Approved Standard(s), and Procedure Reference to this standard; changed the layout and deleted Timeline

3/7/07 – Revised to note information on Microsoft Longhorn and the anticipated release of Windows Server 2003, Service Pack 2. Agencies encouraged to migrate from any existing systems still using Windows 2000 Server.

12/13/05 – Revised to note that Microsoft has ended mainstream support of Windows 2000 Server. Administrative corrections were made to product names, i.e. “Windows Server 2000” is properly titled “Windows 2000 Server” and to move the Unix operating system to a separate line from Windows Server 2003.

8/25/04 – Revised to remove Windows NT Server from list of approved standards, to prevent installing Windows Server 2000 onto new computers, and to recommend transitioning existing servers to the Windows Server 2003 operating system. Minor changes were made throughout the document to reflect the new standard and to update emerging trends.

Effective Date: October 17, 2001