

## *IT Governance Sub-Committee on Standards and Support*



<i>Practice Title</i>	<b>Advisory and Guidelines for Operating System Selection and Use</b>
<i>Responsible Management</i>	IT Governance Standards & Support Sub-Committee
<i>Date Approved</i>	06-03-2005
<i>Date Last Amended</i>	06-19-2006
<i>Date of Next Review</i>	June, 2007

### **Purpose**

Historically, individual units at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona have had no central guidance for general purpose computer operating system (OS) selection. However, there are at least two important reasons to provide OS guidelines:

1. Using the campus backbone network with OSs that are obsolete and not vendor-supported can increase security risks, since vendors will not provide updates to address security weaknesses for outdated OSs. A security breach on any campus computer connected to the campus backbone network is an issue for the entire campus, because one compromised computer can expose other computers to attack, and because any release of confidential data is a potential legal and public relations issue for the campus and threatens the university's mission.
2. Adequately supporting many general-purpose OSs on campus is difficult with the limited support staff and funding available. Moreover, a multiplicity of operating systems tends to decrease the campus network's overall stability and security, further increasing the support overhead.

### **Advisory**

1. Computer users and support personnel responsible for computers that utilize the campus backbone network are strongly encouraged to use OSs that are vendor-supported. (Unique needs are addressed in #3.) Campus units should plan and budget for OS upgrades or system replacements *before* OS vendors discontinue support for a particular OS. Early action will certainly reduce lifetime cost for the unit.
2. The I&IT Support Department will collect information from OS vendors and publish an OS "roadmap" annually, to alert the campus to anticipated vendor schedules for OS support.
3. Unique needs, such as support for specialized lab equipment, may in a few cases make it difficult or impossible to upgrade the computer OS. In these cases, department

representatives will work with I&IT to best manage network impact and risk for the computer with an unsupported OS. As needed, I&IT assist the unit in meeting its needs, for example, by arranging for special firewall configurations. Note - These situations apply to equipment connected to the campus network. For specialized equipment that NEVER connects to the campus backbone network, such as specialized controllers, microprocessors or memory devices, the OS guidelines do not apply.

4. Campus personnel that want to connect OSs identified in paragraph number 3, above, to the campus network must notify I&IT before doing so. This allows time for review of OS compatibility by I&IT and technical personnel within the unit or college.

### **Responsibilities**

The IT Governance Standards & Support Sub-Committee is responsible for publishing an annual OS phase-out list.

### **Terms & Definitions**

**Microprocessor** – Usually an electronic component or chip that can process programs, store information or perform calculations.

**Operating System (OS)** – In generic terms, the OS is software that controls the execution of programs and that may provide services such as resource allocation, scheduling, input/output control and data management. Although operating systems are predominantly software, partial implementations in firmware or hardware are possible. For computing applications, an operating system is the program that manages all the other programs on a computer. The other programs are called application programs. The application programs make use of the operating system by making requests for services. In addition, users can interact directly with the operating system through a user interface such as a command language or a graphical user interface.

**Vendor** – Provider of an operating system for computers. Examples are Microsoft and Apple. Also, an open source consortium can be defined as a “vendor.” Examples include the group that supports Unix OSs such as Berkeley Systems Development (BSD) UNIX.

### **Original Publication, Revisions**

<b>Practice Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author/Approval</b>	<b>Amendments and/or Action</b>
1.0	06/03/05	Denny Mosier/Ed Hohmann	
1.1	06/19/06	Denny Mosier/Debra Brum	Update OS Phase-Out Appendix

## Appendix A: Table of microcomputer operating system support

The following table has been compiled by I&IT Support and reflects Cal Poly Pomona's current OS phase out schedule. Questions about this schedule should be directed to your department's tech: <http://www.csupomona.edu/~ehelp/techs.html> .

OS Name	Date being Phased out	Explanation	Upgrade
MAC 8.1	In process	Apple no longer provides support	MAC 10.1,2,3,4
MAC 8.6	In process	Apple no longer provides support	MAC 10.1,2,3,4
MAC 9.1	1 year		MAC 10.1,2,3,4
MAC 9.2	1 year		MAC 10.1,2,3,4
MAC 10.1	Current standard		N/A
MAC 10.2	Current standard		N/A
MAC 10.3	Current standard		N/A
MAC 10.4	Current standard		N/A
MAC OS X Server	Current standard		N/A
Win 98	July 11, 2006	Patches and Critical Updates until June, 2006	Win XP
Win 98SE	July 11, 2006	Patches and Critical Updates until June, 2006	Win XP
WinMe	July 11, 2006	Patches and Critical Updates until June, 2006	Win XP
Win NT	In process	Microsoft no longer provides support	Win XP
Win 2000	Current standard	Patches and Critical Updates until June, 2010	Win XP
Win XP Pro	Current standard	Patches and Critical Updates until June, 2011	N/A
NT Server	In process	Microsoft no longer provides support	2003 Server
2000 Server	Current standard	Patches and Critical Updates until June 2010	2003 Server
2003 Server	Current standard	Patches and Critical Updates until June 2013	N/A
XP Service Pack 1	Oct. 10, 2006	Microsoft will no longer provide support	XP Service Pack 2
<b>Support Contact</b>	Find your Tech:	<a href="http://www.csupomona.edu/~ehelp/techs.html">http://www.csupomona.edu/~ehelp/techs.html</a>	