Supported Operating Systems

The Ohio State University, the College of Engineering, and ETS have specific requirements and restrictions on the use of operating systems. These apply regardless of who manages the asset. Every OS must be ISCR compliant and must be actively supported with patches. Some ISCR non-compliant OSes can be accommodated with compensating controls. Additionally, an OS must have passed Terms & Conditions with OSU Purchasing/Legal and may be subject to Digital Accessibility requirements. OSes (or other software) that fail to pass T&C or Accessibility cannot be used for OSU business purposes.

ETS also limits the selection of operating systems it supports based upon resource limitations and compatibility with its management tools.

ETS Supported Operating Systems

- Windows 10 Enterprise (21H2 and higher)
- Windows 11 Enterprise (22H2 and higher)
- macOS 11 (Big Sur)
- macOS 12 (Monterey)
- macOS 13 (Ventura)
- macOS 14 (Sonoma)
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7 (only with Extended Support)
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8
- Ubuntu Linux 20.04 LTS
- Ubuntu Linux 22.04 LTS

NOTES:

1. Windows OSes are updated in conjunction with the Microsoft release schedule.
2. macOS can only be supported on Apple hardware that is capable of running the given OS. Traditionally, Apple has allowed mac hardware to age out of support based on operating system availability. When an Apple device no longer supports an actively supported operating system, that hardware becomes non-compliant with university and college policies and must be retired.
3. RHEL 9 support is pending the full retirement of RHEL 7.
4. Red Hat has recently changed its software license with “down stream” distributors. As of this moment, Ubuntu is a supported OS, but this may change as the Red Hat situation develops.

Unsupported Operating Systems with Compensating Controls

Operating systems that fall outside the ETS support model, may (important word) still be used under very specific circumstances. Per the Policy for System Asset Administration, there must be a specific business need that cannot be met by a supported operating system. If an OS other than that which is on the ETS Supported Operating Systems list is required, the asset custodian should submit a ticket to the ETS Service Portal with details so that an appropriate course of action may be developed and followed.

Note: all OSes must also have passed T&C and Accessibility reviews. Kali Linux is an example of an operating system that failed review of Terms and Conditions and thus may not be used on OSU assets.

Multi-OS Systems (Dual-boot and Virtualization)

Multi-OS systems are prohibited on COE system assets regardless of management state. These systems pose significant risks to data integrity, system stability, and cybersecurity. Such configurations increase the attack surface, making system assets more vulnerable to malware, data breaches, and unauthorized access. ETS has a support model for Docker-based containerization and OSU offers a container-based service offering. A service request can be submitted to the ETS service portal to initiate a discussion on how these services can alleviate the perceived need for a multi-OS system.