









The Dangers of Running End-of-Life Linux



While Linux is a versatile and powerful operating system, the joy and utility we get from using many Linux distributions come with a downside: **security support expiration dates.**

Popular, wildly successful distributions like CentOS, Ubuntu, and Oracle Linux, all have versions that have or will eventually reach end of life (EOL), as their software publishers provide new features, bug fixes, etc. with new releases.

When a Linux distro version reaches its EOL phase, which is when the vendor stops sending security updates, organizations who continue to run that unsupported EOL software run a greater risk of dealing with:

 <p>Compliance and Legal Risks</p> <p>Using EOL Linux can lead to non-compliance with data security standards, potentially resulting in heavy fines or industry bans, and may increase liability in the event of a breach</p>	 <p>Outdated and Incompatible Solutions</p> <p>EOL Linux is outdated and often misses the latest features, leading to a technology lag and potentially causing compatibility issues with evolving tech solutions</p>	 <p>Security Risks</p> <p>EOL Linux lacks vendor support for security updates, leaving known vulnerabilities unpatched and accessible to hackers, which could result in costly cybersecurity breaches</p>
 <p>Issues with Reliability</p> <p>EOL Linux, being out of sync with technological advances, can lead to functional discrepancies, creating reliability issues when interacting with updated software components</p>	 <p>Growing Costs</p> <p>The maintenance and custom solutions required for EOL Linux can increase over time, leading to greater overall costs, including the potential for hefty compliance violation fines</p>	 <p>Despite these risks, some organizations find themselves using EOL Linux versions well after their support cycle has ended</p>

Why might enterprises keep using EOL software anyway?



Workload-Specific Requirements

Your EOL distro might contain specific features crucial to your operations, and updated versions may break existing solutions or necessitate costly adjustments



Resources Are Limited

Companies often prioritize immediate operational costs and new features over software updates, resulting in neglected OS upgrades due to limited resources



Migration Challenges

Large-scale migrations can be so complex and daunting, taking up to a year for many enterprises, so maintaining the existing EOL OS may seem more feasible



Lack of Accountability

Due to leadership deficits or flawed organizational structures, there may be no one willing or authorized to manage the end-of-life status of software, preventing necessary migrations from happening

