Datasheet

TuxCare

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:

Compliance and Legal Risks

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

Outdated and Incompatible Solutions

EOL Linux is outdated and often misses the latest features, leading to a technology lag and potentially causing compatibility issues with evolving tech solutions

Security Risks

EOL Linux lacks vendor support for security updates, leaving known vulnerabilities unpatched and accessible to hackers, which could result in costly cybersecurity breaches

Issues with Reliability

EOL Linux, being out of sync with technological advances, can lead to functional discrepancies, creating reliability issues when interacting with updated software components

Growing Costs

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

Despite these risks, some organizations find themselves using EOL Linux versions well after their support cycle has ended

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 may not have the budget to execute a large-scale migration soon enough, or they could simply lack the expertise or the necessary personnel to pull off a successful migration

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

Fortunately, there's a way to continue using EOL Linux safely while you plan for a migration to a supported distro version, even years after the EOL date.

Extended Lifecycle Support

from TuxCare

TuxCare's Extended Lifecycle Support (ELS) delivers security updates for your EOL software for up to four years past its vendor-supported lifecycle, so you can:

Avoid a Rushed Migration

Performing such a large-scale transition is not something you want to rush – which is when costly mistakes happen

Stay Secure & Compliant

TuxCare sends you timely, extensively-tested vulnerability patches so that your systems remain compliant and protected from exploits

Reduce Hefty Costs

Optimize your spending by signing up for an affordable option to continue receiving security patches instead of having to pay for costly premium subscriptions

TuxCare's Extended Lifecycle Support currently supports several end-of-life distributions, including:

CentOS 6 · CentOS 7 · CentOS 8 · CentOS Stream 8 · Oracle Linux 6 · Oracle Linux 7 · Ubuntu 16.04 · Ubuntu 18.04 · Ubuntu 20.04

as well as software development languages and frameworks, including:

PHP · Python · Java · Spring · .NET 6.0

Certifications

FIPS 140-1 140-2 · AICPA SOC · Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard Level 1 Service Provider · EU GDPR Compliant · CCPA · SAM System for Award Management

Awards

2021 IT World Awards Information Technology Cyber Security · Bronze 2021 Stevie Winner · Cyber Security Excellence Awards Winner 2023 · Gold 2022 Stevie Winner International Business Awards · Gold · Bronze 2023 Stevie Winner Customer Service

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+1 (800) 231-7307 sales@tuxcare.com