

Operating System Current Version Policy

Purpose

To ensure secure and supportable operating system software on all Auburn University computers

Policy

All Auburn University computers will run only current edition operating system software that is fully supported by their vendors or the open source community. Operating systems that have industry-recognized security vulnerabilities and/or that have been officially dropped from supported status by the vendor or manufacturer will be scheduled for removal.

Effective Date

This policy takes effect September 2006 and will remain so without expiration until revoked or changed by Auburn University.

Applicability

All university computers - see Exclusions below.

Responsibility

OIT and College/School/Department system administrators and/or individual computer owners with computer administrative responsibility/authority.

Procedures

Develop a phase-out plan for obsolete operating systems. The plan should contain the following elements.

1. Call meeting of IT providers and build consensus on need to phase-out the Operating System (e.g. Win 95/98/ME/NT).
2. Prepare schedule with initial phase-out date
3. Announce schedule and key dates to IT providers
4. Announce to user community via Auburn News of OS phase-out with schedule
5. Establish Network scanning for occurrences
6. Coordinate with IT Providers to remove or quarantine systems after the phase-out date

Sanctions

Computers not in compliance with this policy or falling under the acceptable exclusions (see Exclusions below) will be removed from the Auburn University network. Removal of machines from the Auburn University network will be coordinated with the college/school/departmental IT Provider.

Exclusions

Under appropriate conditions, a computer with an obsolete operating system may continue to be used, provided it is not connected to the university network, or where it is possible and feasible for OIT Campus Networking and the college/school/departmental IT providers to implement appropriate limits and controls.

Interpretation

The Executive Director of the Office of Information Technology or designate will interpret the meaning of this policy and how to apply it.

ADOPTED: September 2006