

Operating System Current Version Policy

I. POLICY STATEMENT

Only currently supported and patched versions of operating system (OS) software will be run on Auburn University computers.

II. POLICY PRINCIPLES

The intent of this policy is to ensure that Auburn University computers are secure, up-to-date, and supportable.

III. EFFECTIVE DATE

Implemented September 2006; Revised October 1, 2017

IV. APPLICABILITY

All university computers – see Exclusions below.

V. POLICY MANAGEMENT

Responsible Office: Office of the CIO

Responsible Executive: Provost, Executive Vice-President

Responsible Officer: Chief Information Officer (CIO)

VI. DEFINITIONS

A. Auburn University computers: Computers owned or leased by Auburn University. They may be shared computers or computers assigned to particular individuals.

B. Computer Administrative Authority: The authority to install, update, configure, and remove operating systems on particular machines.

C. Currently supported: Actively supported by a vendor or by the open source community.

VII. POLICY PROCEDURES

All persons with computer administrative authority are responsible for the maintenance of current operating systems and the removal of vulnerable and unsupported operating systems. Individuals should coordinate with their IT support provider as needed.

1. If an operating system has industry-recognized security vulnerabilities the administrator must install available security patches or updates, remove vulnerable services, or apply approved compensating controls. Computers with unsupported OS software and supported OS software for which remediation has not been installed must be removed from the network.
2. The Chief Information Security Officer will assign responsibilities for scanning the network for computers not in compliance with this policy and report the findings to the CIO and the appropriate unit head. When an OS is scheduled to be dropped from support by the vendor or the open source community, the Executive Director of the Office of Information Technology will assign responsibilities for the developmental and implementation of a plan to phase out the operating system.

VIII. SANCTIONS

Computers not in compliance with this policy and not falling under the acceptable exclusions 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.

IX. 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 and the college/school/departmental IT providers to implement appropriate limits and controls. Such exclusions must be approved by the CIO or designee and reviewed annually.

X. INTERPRETATION

The CIO or designee has the authority to interpret the policy and its application.