

EVOLUTION OF STANDARDS

0923

(No. 9 March 2002)

OPERATING SYSTEMS STANDARDS

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(No. 10 April 2002)

To ensure a secure, compatible, supportable technology environment, Information Technology Services sets policy and standards for operating system use within CAL FIRE. This document outlines these policies and standards.

Servers

Information Technology Services is solely responsible for the purchase, installation and operation of servers within the CAL FIRE environment.

Unapproved installations of servers and server operating systems have already caused major problems with command and control applications, as well as enterprise systems that support all CAL FIRE computer users. For this reason, CIO written approval is required before servers can be acquired and implemented.

File and Print Servers

File and print servers are typically those found in the local office environment. They are used to store local files and applications as well as provide printing services.

Windows 2000 Server is the standard operating system for file and print servers and is the only allowed server operating system to be used within the CAL FIRE environment for servers of this type.

Application and Database Servers

Application Servers are typically used to run CAL FIRE software such as MIRPS and Historical Financial Database.

Database Servers are typically used to store and operate on departmental data used by applications such as MIRPS and Historical Financial Database.

Windows 2000 Server is CAL FIRE's standard operating system for Application servers. Installation of this operating system on an application server requires approval of the Chief Information Officer before implementation.

CAL FIRE's standard operating system for database servers is Unix Solaris for Intel and Sun. Installation of this operating system requires approval of the Chief Information Officer before implementation.

Servers - Special Case

Some locations utilize special case servers for specific applications approved by Information Technology. All of these special case servers require prior approval by the Chief Information Officer before implementation.

Client Work Station Operating Systems

Client workstations are commonly referred to a “desktop” or “laptop” computers. They are used for general purpose computing.

These operating systems are approved for new purchases, upgrades from older operating systems, and use on CAL FIRE Client Workstations. Purchase or installation of any other operating system not specifically denoted here requires written CIO approval.

- **Windows XP Professional (Only)**
- **Windows 2000 Professional**

These operating systems are specifically not allowed due to security, support and integration problems.

- **Windows XP Home Edition (Only)**
- **Windows ME**

Discontinued Product Support

Because the manufacturer is discontinuing product support, the following operating systems are being retired on the dates noted below. Business unit managers are encouraged to plan for upgrading operating systems and client workstations as necessary prior to the retirement date. Once retired, CAL FIRE ITS will make best effort to provide support, but will not guarantee support availability. Business unit managers should be aware that these operating systems will not be included in future technology planning efforts, and continuing to use them after their retirement date could lead to loss of some or all computing services.

Windows NT 4.0 Workstation

Microsoft will discontinue support of Windows NT 4.x workstation as of June 1, 2002. CAL FIRE will partially support this operating system as long as it remains in our environment. CAL FIRE cannot guarantee that users of this OS will have full access to all CAL FIRE resources. The user or business unit will own limitations caused by this operating system.

Windows 98

Microsoft will discontinue support of Windows 98 as of June 1, 2002. CAL FIRE will partially support this operating system as long as it remains in our environment, with no guarantee that users will have access to all of the CAL FIRE resources. The user or business unit will own limitations caused by this operating system.

Windows 95 (All versions)

Windows 95 is obsolete and is being phased out. Business units may operate Windows 95 until 01/01/2003 when CAL FIRE Information Technology will no longer support it. At this time the Workstation must be removed or upgraded to an approved client workstation operating system.

*Note: Client workstations running Windows 95 may not be powerful enough to run the new operating system and may not be upgradeable. In those cases, a new workstation must be purchased.

Exceptions Process

Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis. A business unit manager may submit a request and justification in writing to the CIO for consideration.

For more information please contact, Ron Ralph, at (916) 445-5053, Keith Barton at (916) 324-3391, or the CAL FIRE Help Desk at (916) 324-3541 or 1 (877) 595-HELP.

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