

Operating System Support Plan for Smarter Balanced 2016–2017

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Section I. Introduction

A supported operating system is one for which American Institutes for Research (AIR) provides updates to the secure browser for that operating system. AIR provides these updates as the supported operating systems are updated or as bugs in the secure browser are detected and fixed.

This document describes AIR’s plan for supporting operating systems during the upcoming test administration and following years. This plan helps districts and schools manage operating system deployments based on the support timelines. A list of all current supported operating systems and browsers can be found on the Vermont portal page at:

<http://VT.portal.airast.org/supported-browsers>.

Section II. Timing of Secure Browser Updates

For major version upgrades to a desktop operating system released before **May 1, 2016**, AIR will provide a secure browser update for that operating system version for the upcoming school year. For example, if an upgrade is released in April 2016, AIR will provide a secure browser that works on that upgrade for the 2016–2017 school year.

For major version upgrades to a desktop operating system released after May 1, AIR will **not** provide a secure browser update until the following school year, and the existing secure browser may or may not be compatible with the upgrade. For example, if an upgrade is released in June 2017, AIR will not provide a secure browser that works on that upgrade until the 2018–2019 school year. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.

For minor version upgrades to iOS, Android, or Chrome operating systems, AIR will provide mobile secure browser updates to ensure compatibility.



Warning: Support for New Operating Systems

Operating systems and versions that become available during the administration year will not necessarily be supported immediately. **Do not** upgrade to new operating systems on computers that will be used to administer online assessments without ensuring the updates meet the required specifications. **AIR recommends locking down all systems prior to the test administration window.**

Section III. Support Plan for Operating Systems

Table 1 lists the operating systems and the anticipated end-of-support dates. The shaded cells in Table 1 indicate the following:

- Yellow shading—AIR ends support for operating systems after the 2016–2017 school year.
- Gray shading—AIR ends support for operating systems after the 2017–2018 school year.

Table 1. Supported Operating Systems

Supported Operating System	Release Date	Anticipated End-of-Support Date	Notes
Windows^a			
Vista	Jan. 2007	End of 2016–2017 School Year	AIR’s support for Windows operating systems ends 10 school years after its release date. For the most part, this coincides with Microsoft’s official end-of-life policies for its operating systems.
7	Oct. 2009	End of 2018–2019 School Year	
8.0, 8.1	Oct. 2012	End of 2021–2022 School Year	
10	July 2015	End of 2024–2025 School Year	
11 ^b	Pending	End of 2025–2026 School Year	
Server 2008	Oct. 2009	End of 2018–2019 School Year	
Sever 2012	April 2012	End of 2021–2022 School Year	
Mac OS X (Intel)^a			
10.6	Aug. 2009	End of 2016–2017 School Year	Mac OS X computers with PowerPC processors are not supported. Apple does not document end-of-life status for its products. AIR recommends using the most recent releases. AIR support for a given version of OS X ends 10 school years after its release date.
10.7	July 2011	End of 2020–2021 School Year	
10.8	July 2012	End of 2021–2022 School Year	
10.9	Oct. 2013	End of 2022–2023 School Year	
10.10	Oct. 2014	End of 2023–2024 School Year	
10.11	Oct. 2015	End of 2024–2025 School Year	
10.12 ^b	Pending	End of 2025–2025 School Year	
Linux^b			
Fedora 23	Nov. 2015	End of 2018–2019 School Year	Official Fedora support typically ends one to two years after a release.
Fedora 24 ^b	Pending	End of 2019–2020 School Year	
Fedora 25 ^b	Pending	End of 2019–2020 School Year	
openSUSE 13.1	Nov. 2013	End of 2016–2017 School Year	Official openSUSE 13.1 support ends November 2016.

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Supported Operating System	Release Date	Anticipated End-of-Support Date	Notes
openSUSE 13.2	Pending	End of 2017–2018 School Year	Official openSUSE 13.2 support ends mid-2017.
Red Hat Enterprise 6.5	Nov. 2013	End of 2020–2021 School Year	Official Red Hat Enterprise 6.5 support ends November 2020.
Ubuntu 12.04 (LTS)	April 2012	End of 2016–2017 School Year	Ubuntu typically supports long term support (LTS) distributions for five years after a release.
Ubuntu 14.04 (LTS)	April 2014	End of 2018–2019 School Year	
Ubuntu 16.04 (LTS)	April 2016	End of 2020–2021 School Year	
iOS			
7.0–7.1 8.0–8.2 9.2–9.3 10.0 ^b	Sept. 2014; rolling	AIR supports the three most recent major releases of iOS. Versions 7.0–7.1 will lose support when version 10.0 becomes available.	Supported iPads: iPad 2 iPad 3 4th Generation (Retina display) iPad Air
Android			
4.4, 5.0, 6.0 ^b	Oct. 2012; rolling	AIR supports the three most recent minor releases of Android. Version 4.3 will lose support when version 6.0 is available.	Supported tablets: Google Nexus 10 Motorola Xoom Samsung Galaxy Note (2014 edition) Samsung Tab 3 and 4 LearnPad Quarto
Chrome OS			
50+	Jan. 2016; rolling	For a given school year, AIR supports the version of Chrome OS available at the start of that school year and any subsequent version. For example if Chrome OS version 50 is available at the start of school year 2016–2017, AIR supports that version and any other version released during that school year.	Google releases new versions of Chrome OS every six weeks. Support may require updating the Chrome kiosk application.

^a If Microsoft or Apple ends support for an operating system sooner than 10 years after its release, then AIR will stop supporting that system one full school year after support ends.

^b Support for this version depends on its availability at the start of the school year.

^c For Linux distributions, AIR will end support at the end of a full school year after the official distributor's announced end-of-life support date.