

# Operating System Support Plan for Test Delivery System 2016–2017

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*Prepared by the American Institutes for Research<sup>®</sup>*



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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 schools manage operating system deployments based on the support timelines.

## **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.

## 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.



### Warning: Support for All Operating Systems on Devices Used for Testing

Operating systems that become available but do not appear in the following tables are not supported. 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.

Table 1. Supported Operating Systems

Supported Operating System	Release Date	Anticipated End-of-Support Date	Notes
<b>Windows<sup>a</sup></b>			
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 (RT and Professional), 8.1	Oct. 2012	End of 2021–2022 School Year	
10 (Educational and Professional)	July 2015	End of 2024–2025 School Year	
11 <sup>b</sup>	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	
<b>Mac OS X (Intel)<sup>a</sup></b>			
10.7	July 2011	End of 2020–2021 School Year	Mac OS X computers with PowerPC processors are not supported.
10.8	July 2012	End of 2021–2022 School Year	
10.9	Oct. 2013	End of 2022–2023 School Year	Apple does not document end-of-life status for its products. AIR recommends using the most recent releases.
10.10	Oct. 2014	End of 2023–2024 School Year	
10.11	Oct. 2015	End of 2024–2025 School Year	
10.12 <sup>b</sup>	Pending	End of 2025–2025 School Year	
			AIR support for a given version of OS X ends 10 school years after its release date.

Supported Operating System	Release Date	Anticipated End-of-Support Date	Notes
<b>Linux<sup>c</sup></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 <sup>b</sup>	Pending	End of 2019–2020 School Year	
Fedora 25 <sup>b</sup>	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.
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	
<b>iOS</b>			
7.0–7.1 8.0–8.2 9.2–9.3 10.0 <sup>b</sup>	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
<b>Android</b>			
4.3, 4.4, 5.0, 6.0 <sup>b</sup>	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

Supported Operating System	Release Date	Anticipated End-of-Support Date	Notes
<b>Chrome OS</b>			
48+	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 48 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.

# Appendix A. Change Log

This Change Log can be used to identify specific changes that are made to any of the information included in the original document throughout the current school year.

Change	Section	Date
Included sub-versions of Windows 8 & 10 Operating Systems	Table 1	11/2/16