

# Information Technology Resource Management Council (ITRMC)

## ENTERPRISE STANDARDS – S2500 SOFTWARE – SERVER

Category: S2510 – NETWORK OPERATING SYSTEM

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### I. DEFINITION

The network operating system is the master control software that controls all internal operations on a network server. This includes communications with other networked servers and clients, managing security authorizations, reading and writing from both memory and storage devices, transfer of information to attached printers, and accepting management commands from both keyboard and mouse input.

### II. RATIONALE

Support of network operating systems constitutes a significant portion of Idaho's cost for supporting its technology infrastructure. The more network operating systems supported, the higher the State's costs for technology infrastructure support. Standardizing on fewer network operating systems greatly simplifies technical support requirements and contributes directly to significantly lower support expenses.

### III. APPROVED PRODUCT(S)

1. Microsoft Windows 2000 Server (**NOTE:** Agencies should not install Windows 2000 Server on new computers and should transition to Windows Server 2003 on existing computers where practical and feasible.);
2. Microsoft Windows Server 2003; and
3. Unix.

#### **IV. JUSTIFICATION**

The Unix operating system has proven itself in support of large-scale, high-volume client/server applications. It provides a scalable, stable, high-performance environment to support mission-critical business applications.

While Windows 2000 Server and Windows Server 2003 are proprietary operating systems, they are predominate in the Intel server operating system market and State installations. They have become de facto standards.

#### **V. TECHNICAL AND IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS**

The Microsoft Windows 2000 Server and Windows Server 2003 operating systems are recommended for small-to-medium sized departmental applications, database, file, and print servers. The Unix operating system is recommended for large-scale database, file, Internet, and gateway servers. Those agencies using Windows 2000 Server should note that Microsoft ended mainstream support for that operating system in June 2005. It is still possible to purchase support.

#### **VI. EMERGING TRENDS AND ARCHITECTURAL DIRECTIONS**

Microsoft announced the general availability of Windows Server 2003 in the first quarter of 2003. This server version is expected to replace Windows NT Server 4.0 and Windows 2000 Server.

The ITRMC is aware of interest in fielding Linux for some applications. Interested agencies are urged to assess the impact on scarce technical resources from introduction of a second or third operating system into their environment. They should also consider the potential liability and possible licensing costs that could occur as a result of an adverse ruling in pending court cases surrounding intellectual property rights contained in the Linux operating system. When the legal issues surrounding these claims are settled, the ITRMC will assess the technical and business case merits of adopting Linux as an approved product.

The next generation of Microsoft server software, known as Longhorn, is expected to be released sometime in 2007. ITRMC will evaluate this for adoption as a state standard when production versions are available. The second service pack (SP2) for Windows Server 2003 is also expected in 2007.

Agencies still using Windows 2000 Server should give serious consideration to migrating from that platform in anticipation of its eventual removal from the list of state-approved products.

#### **VII. REVIEW CYCLE**

Six (6) Months

## VIII. TIME LINE

Last Reviewed: March 7, 2007

Last Revised: March 7, 2007

Effective Date: October 17, 2001

## IX. REVISION HISTORY

- 3/7/07 Revised to note information on Microsoft Longhorn and the anticipated release of Windows Server 2003, Service Pack 2. Agencies encouraged to migrate from any existing systems still using Windows 2000 Server.
- 12/13/05 Revised to note that Microsoft has ended mainstream support of Windows 2000 Server. Administrative corrections were made to product names, i.e. "Windows Server 2000" is properly titled "Windows 2000 Server" and to move the Unix operating system to a separate line from Windows Server 2003.
- 8/25/04 Revised to remove Windows NT Server from list of approved standards, to prevent installing Windows Server 2000 onto new computers, and to recommend transitioning existing servers to the Windows Server 2003 operating system. Minor changes were made throughout the document to reflect the new standard and to update emerging trends.