

Long Term Support (LTS) — Understanding the Value Via Practical Insights

In mission-critical industrial environments, can you afford unexpected system downtime? Long Term Support (LTS) for software ensures your systems are stable, secure, and cost-effective, and stay that way for years to come.

Why Software LTS Matters in Industrial Environments?

Stability First

- LTS provides a fixed software base, ensuring compatibility across system components.
- Issues are resolved through targeted patches rather than major version upgrades, significantly reducing regression risks and avoiding disruptive changes.

Long-term Commitment

- LTS offers sustained security updates and bug fixes for 5 to 10 years. For example, Moxa Industrial Linux provides a 10-year support commitment.
- The long-term commitment enables reliable planning for customers building solutions on open platforms, ensuring long-term project sustainability.

Lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)

- Fewer upgrades mean fewer compatibility checks and system migrations, thereby lowering the TCO.
- Internally, lower development costs; externally, minimize maintenance efforts for your customers.
- LTS keeps critical systems in industries like manufacturing and energy compatible with legacy hardware, preventing costly replacements/upgrades.

Enhanced Security and Compliance With LTS

- LTS releases receive proactive patching for known vulnerabilities through trusted channels like Moxa PSIRT and are notified via Product Change Notifications (PCNs).
- Prevent potential risks from unverified features and dependencies introduced via frequent upgrades.
- Focus on security, stability, and operational continuity; not just on adopting the latest (sometimes untested) features at all costs.
- LTS patches not only address known vulnerabilities but also align with cybersecurity requirements, ensuring your systems meet regulatory standards. For example, IEC 62443-4-2 Security Level 2 for Moxa Industrial Linux 3 (MIL3).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: How is LTS different from non-LTS versions?

LTS versions prioritize safety and compatibility with long-term support while non-LTS versions focus on innovation, but typically lack long support cycles and may introduce instability.

Q2: What is the update mechanism for LTS?

Updates are typically applied as patch-level changes only — not major version upgrades, ensuring the system behavior and compatibility remain consistent.

Q3: What are the advantages of LTS for businesses?

LTS for software is critical in maintaining system stability and security and brings the following additional benefits to businesses:

- ✓ Protection of long-term investment and stability.
- ✓ Simplified upgrade planning and risk mitigation.
- ✓ System-level compatibility across software and hardware.

Q4: I currently use a non-LTS OS — should I switch?

If your application requires high uptime, advanced security and reduced maintenance efforts, transitioning to an LTS version is highly recommended.

Q5: When should I consider upgrading an LTS system?

Each LTS release has a defined support timeline (e.g., 5 to 10 years). It's best to start planning the upgrade 1 to 3 years before the end of support (EOL) period.

Your Trusted Partner in Automation

Moxa is a leading provider of edge connectivity, industrial computing, and network infrastructure solutions for enabling connectivity for the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT). With over 35 years of industry experience, Moxa has connected more than 111 million devices worldwide and has a distribution and service network that reaches customers in more than 91 countries. Moxa delivers lasting business value by empowering industries with reliable networks and sincere service. Information about Moxa's solutions is available at www.moxa.com.

© 2025 Moxa Inc. All rights reserved.
The MOXA logo is a registered trademark of Moxa Inc. All other logos appearing in this document are the intellectual property of the respective company, product, or organization associated with the logo.