

APPENDIX A



Ubuntu Releases

Ubuntu is the result of tens of thousands of software projects coming together and receiving polish and integration. From the incredible work done by the Debian project to the focused effort by the Ubuntu community, this takes time and care. Canonical drives much of the design for the Unity interface and the foundational work done to support cloud, server, phone, and embedded platforms. But the bulk of the actual development and coding is done by the greater Free Software community.

Release Schedule

Every six months, Ubuntu syncs its software repositories with Debian and works to polish and improve the software, sending general fixes back “upstream” to Debian whenever possible. After another couple of months, the software has improved and a new Ubuntu release is made.

When the Ubuntu project officially launched in 2004, it promised a new release every 6 months, with security and maintenance support for 18 months. Each release was given a version number matching the year and month of its release, so the first version of Ubuntu which was released in October 2004 was called Ubuntu 4.10.

After only six months of development, the release was very promising but still had some rough edges. The developers jokingly gave it the code name “warty warthog.” The software repository was named “warty.” Ubuntu 5.04 followed six months later in April and was a marked improvement. To celebrate the extra maturity of the software, it was code-named “hoary hedgehog.”

Ubuntu releases are typically referred to by their release number or the adjective part of the code name. Thus, Ubuntu 16.04 LTS, the “Xenial Xerus” release, is referred to as both “16.04” and “xenial.” Each release code name is alliterative and chosen to reflect the goals for the release. For example, LTS names are chosen to evoke their extended lifetime support. “Dapper” received extra polish; “hardy” saw greater adoption on servers; “lucid,” “precise,” “trusty,” and “xenial” all speak to the Ubuntu’s clear focus and direction as it continues to evolve.

Long-Term Support

As Ubuntu began to grow in popularity as a desktop system, there was a desire to start running it on servers as well. Servers require a more reliable platform because performing a major software upgrade on a server every six months takes a lot of planning and downtime, and third-party hardware and software developers found it hard to target Ubuntu because of the rapid release schedule. It was decided that a long-term support release was required, and that Ubuntu 6.04 would be supported for three years instead of 18 months, and that the server components would be supported for a total of five years. Weeks before the release, the developers decided to delay the release for six more weeks to allow for final polishing. The planned Ubuntu

6.04 was released as Ubuntu 6.06 LTS. Additional releases came every six months as planned; and two years later, Ubuntu 8.04 LTS was released, which allowed Ubuntu 6.06 LTS users to upgrade directly, skipping the intermediate releases.

In April 2014, Ubuntu 12.04 LTS was released with the promise of five years of support for the desktop as well as the server, and the non-LTS releases saw their support lifetime drop from 18 months to 9 instead. Ubuntu 16.04 LTS continues with five years of support on both the desktop and the server, and a reliable foundation for computing everywhere.

List of Ubuntu Releases

Table A-1 provides a list of Ubuntu releases from Ubuntu 4.10 to Ubuntu 18.04, along with their code names, release cycles, and release and end-of-support dates. It is very important to use a supported version of Ubuntu on any computer with a network or Internet connection.

Table A-1. Each Ubuntu Release Has a Version Number, a Code Name, and Lifetime Support

Release	Code Name	Released on	Supported Until
4.10	Warty Warthog	October 26, 2004	April 30, 2006
5.04	Hoary Hedgehog	April 8, 2005	October 31, 2006
5.10	Breezy Badger	October 12, 2005	April 13, 2007
6.06 LTS	Dapper Drake	June 1, 2006	(Desktop) July 14, 2009 (Server) June 1, 2011
6.10	Edgy Eft	October 26, 2008	April 26, 2008
7.04	Feisty Fawn	April 19, 2007	October 19, 2008
7.10	Gutsy Gibbon	October 18, 2007	April 18, 2009
8.04 LTS	Hardy Heron	April 24, 2009	(Desktop) May 12, 2011 (Server) May 9, 2013
8.10	Intrepid Ibex	October 30, 2008	April 30, 2010
9.04	Jaunty Jackalope	April 23, 2009	October 23, 2010
9.10	Karmic Koala	October 29, 2009	April 30, 2011
10.04 LTS	Lucid Lynx	April 29, 2010	(Desktop) May 9, 2013 (Server) April 30, 2015
10.10	Maverick Meerkat	October 10, 2010	April 10, 2012
11.04	Natty Narwhal	April 28, 2011	October 28, 2012
11.10	Oneiric Ocelot	October 13, 2011	May 9, 2013
12.04 LTS	Precise Pangolin	April 26, 2012	April 2017
12.10	Quantal Quetzal	October 18, 2012	May 9, 2013
13.04	Raring Ringtail	April 25, 2013	January 27, 2014
13.10	Saucy Salamander	October 17, 2013	July 17, 2014

(continued)

Table A-1. (continued)

Release	Code Name	Released on	Supported Until
14.04 LTS	Trusty Tahr	April 17, 2014	April 2019
14.10	Utopic Unicorn	October 23, 2014	July 23, 2015
15.04	Vivid Vervet	April 23, 2015	February 4, 2016
15.10	Wily Werewolf	October 22, 2015	July 28, 2016
16.04 LTS	Xenial Xerus	April 21, 2016	April 2021
16.10	Yakkety Yak	October 13, 2016	July 20, 2017
17.04	Zesty Zapus	April 13, 2017	January 2018
17.10	Artful Aardvark	October 2017	July 2018
18.04 LTS	“B”	April 2018	April 2023

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