



WHITE PAPER

Top 10 questions about Ubuntu Server Edition

What our customers most frequently ask

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So, what questions do our customers most often ask about Ubuntu Server Edition?

What's different about Ubuntu Server? Is it secure enough to use in my business? Will it work on my hardware?

Whether you've already deployed Ubuntu in your business or are just starting to consider it, we know that you're bound to have questions as have others before you. We have asked our customer-facing technical heads to compile those questions they get the most.

HERE'S WHAT THEY HAVE COME UP WITH...

1. What is different about Ubuntu Server?

Ubuntu is built from the bottom up. The default install is minimal, and deploys the smallest set of software required to start building your server. That means you spend less time on maintenance and updates.

Ubuntu Server also includes a collection of tasks that automatically provision the server software required for common workloads (LAMP stack, Mail server, DNS and many others).

Ubuntu's package management makes it easy to add and remove software, and its official repositories boast more software packages than any other commercial distribution.

Ubuntu Server is free to use. Updates to the software are and will always be free. It can also include a professional support service, which is part of the Ubuntu Advantage offering, for critical and production environments.

2. Does Ubuntu Server provide virtualisation capabilities?

Ubuntu Server has provided in-kernel KVM technology since Ubuntu 8.04 LTS Server Edition.

Ubuntu assembles the best of open-source virtualisation tools and technologies. It integrates all the software you need to use open-source virtualisation and run a virtual operating system.

No third-party software required.

3. What is Ubuntu Enterprise Cloud (UEC)?

UEC is a set of software tightly integrated into Ubuntu Server. This software enables you to deploy an Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) cloud computing environment on your premises, within your data centre.

Ubuntu provides an automatic and easy way to deploy a cloud and get started with cloud computing. You can find complete documentation on our website at <https://help.ubuntu.com/community/UEC/>

4. How do I manage several Ubuntu systems?

We recommend Landscape, the centralised web management platform from Canonical, which allows you to manage any Ubuntu system: servers, desktops, virtual machines and cloud instances. It also provides a single view of your organisation and helps you to manage and maintain your entire Ubuntu deployment.

Landscape, part of the Ubuntu Advantage subscription service, is available in two deployment models: a SaaS version, which is hosted by Canonical in its data centre, or a dedicated version, Landscape Dedicated Server, that runs on your premises.

5. How long is Ubuntu Server supported for?

Ubuntu Server standard releases are supported for 18 months. We designed the Long-term support (LTS) releases for stable deployment scenarios and are supported for five years.

6. What server hardware works with Ubuntu Server?

Ubuntu Server runs perfectly on most server hardware. Additionally, you can find a list of certified systems at <http://webapps.ubuntu.com/certification/>

7. Can I authenticate an Active Directory while using Ubuntu?

Yes you can! Ubuntu comes with Likewise or Centrify which help you authenticate Ubuntu systems to an existing Active Directory infrastructure.

8. What are Ubuntu Security Notices (USNs)?

USNs are software updates that have a noticeable and potential impact on security. They are officially released by the Ubuntu security team and are provided as a special report to help systems administrators react quickly and minimise the impact of security threats.

9. How can I deploy Ubuntu Server?

You can deploy Ubuntu Server using a CD or a USB stick.

Ubuntu Server also supports automated non-interactive deployment with preseed or kickstart.

10. Can I install server packages on an Ubuntu Desktop installation and vice versa?

Yes – Ubuntu’s flexibility makes it easy. The Ubuntu software repositories do not isolate packages to particular types of deployments. All the server software in the repositories is available to the desktop user, and all the desktop software can also be installed on the server.

This means Ubuntu provides a simple testing platform, where software can be trialled, adapted and configured on a systems administrator’s workstation easily, before being deployed on the server.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

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