

Open Source Support Policies; Background

- Open source LTS policies: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long-term_support
- Kura – none. Just make statement about QA activities focused on unit and integration tests and manual tests weeks before release.
- Zephyr – listed of supported boards, and some porting guides, but no support policy
- Pivotal - <https://pivotal.io/support/oss>, 3 years from date of release for major release; 12 months for minor release
- Linaro offers LTS services but nothing by default

In general, open source efforts headed by a single organization may have an LTS and/or STS policy (example Canonical with Ubuntu). In general, open source efforts created by and driven by a community do not have an LTS or STS policy. Node.js is a bit of an exception, which has an 18 month LTS and 12 month STS.

In popular open source infrastructure, support is provided by 3rd parties and may include additional service level agreements, length of supports, etc.

PROPOSED STRAWMAN

EdgeX Foundry Support Policies

LTS is an abbreviation for “Long Term Support”.

STS is an abbreviation for “Short Term Support”.

EdgeX Foundry plans to produce and release a new named version (like Delhi, Edinburgh, Fuji, etc.) of EdgeX every six (6) months. Named versions will also have a version number in the form of X.Y (example 1.0 or 2.1). The community may produce and release a minor release version of EdgeX between named versions in order to provide smaller features or fixes to an existing named version. Minor releases have a version number that is a dot extension to the named version in the form of X.Y.Z (example 1.0.1 or 2.1.1).

A release (whether a named or minor version) of EdgeX includes new and updated micro service artifacts, platform SDKs, documentation, user interfaces, and testing code and frameworks.

EdgeX Foundry provides **LTS** for named releases of EdgeX provided every six months **for a period of two years or through three additionally named releases (whichever is shorter)**. To the user community, this implies that you should be no more than 3 releases behind in order to stay in the EdgeX LTS agreement.

EdgeX Foundry provides **STS** for minor releases of EdgeX **for a period of six months or until the time of the next named release (whichever is shorter)**. To the user community, this implies that you should use a minor release up to the point where it is incorporated into a named release in order to stay within the EdgeX STS agreement.

Support is defined as:

- Community members best effort and development priority to fix a security or system bug or major flaw (as determined by the project’s technical steering committee) within a month of discovery.
- Availability of the source code, test code and artifacts, and program artifacts such as micro service executables, shared libraries, container images (Docker or Snaps), etc. through the support period that were created and made available at the time of the release.
- Availability of the platform documentation through the support period that were created to explain and operate the release and all associated artifacts that were made available at the time of the release.
- Subject to legal restrictions, make available any supporting 3rd party component used by EdgeX as part of the release. Examples include MongoDB, Consul, Kong, Vault, any 3rd party library, etc.

Additional professional support (LTS or STS) may be provided by other members of the EdgeX Foundry community. The EdgeX Foundry project and Linux Foundation can provide connections to providers as necessary.