

Ubuntu Server Hardware Certification Overview (14.04 LTS)

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Summary

The Ubuntu Server Hardware Certification is available to members of the Technical Partner Programme that have a commercial support or distribution agreement to help original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and original design manufacturers (ODMs) manufacture high-quality, enterprise-class server products that are compatible with Ubuntu Server.

Server Certification uses an extensive set of hardware and operating system tests that ensure the certified hardware is fully compatible with the Ubuntu Server OS and the Ubuntu deployment tools.

Canonical's Technical Partner Managers, Field Engineers and the Server Certification Team work closely with manufacturers to resolve test issues and assure that the testing is representative of in-field use.

As of Ubuntu Server 14.04 LTS, MAAS will be used as part of the testing process for testing scale out deployment capabilities which will be a requirement for a system to be listed as Ubuntu Server Certified Hardware. This means that a given server must be able to be automatically provisioned by Canonical's Metal as a Service tool (MAAS) with no unnecessary manual intervention.

To meet this goal the test environment will require a provisioning server running MAAS which will be used to deploy and test the hardware. This is a change from the way we tested Ubuntu on Servers with 12.04 LTS. This general overview covers x86-based servers only, please contact your Canonical account team for support of other architectures.

Certification Goals

- Testing that hardware works correctly with a specific LTS and future point releases of Ubuntu Server.
- Testing that a system can be provisioned and deployed using MAAS.
- Identifying technical issues and potential certification blockers.
- Publicly advertising hardware that is proven compatible with Ubuntu Server, is supported by the OEM, and there is a commercial distribution model for Ubuntu and/or Ubuntu support
- Providing Ubuntu Server users with resources for determining which systems to buy when deploying Ubuntu Server.

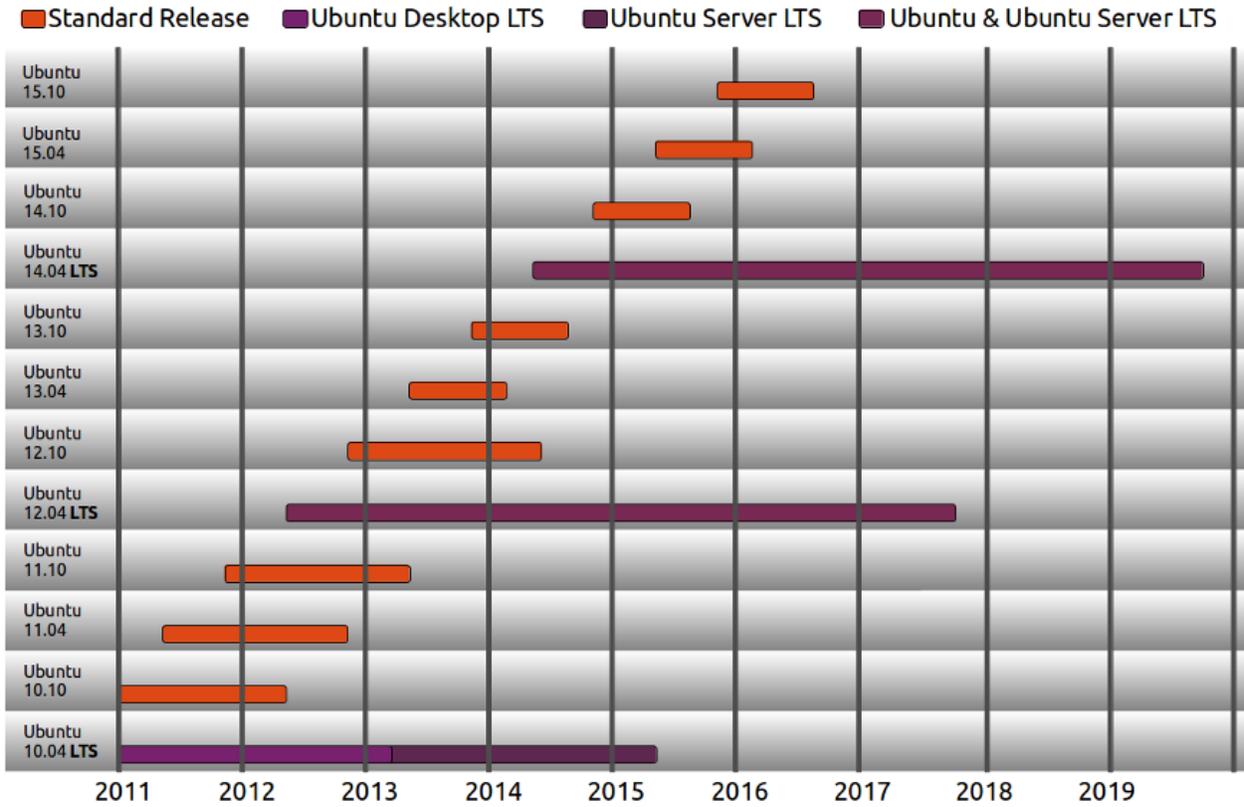
Scope of the Ubuntu Server Hardware Certification

Certification is open to members of the Technical Partners Program (<http://www.ubuntu.com/partners/find-a-partner/hardware>). Servers to be certified are initially tested at customer's premises or in special circumstances at Canonical's certification laboratories to ensure that hardware is fully compatible with Ubuntu Server and Ubuntu deployment tools.

Once systems have passed testing and are to be listed as certified, a representative sample of hardware is sent to Canonical's Labs. This hardware is an agreed upon subset of the partner's product line that encompasses all the various components (storage controllers, network controllers, processor families, etc) that make up the product line. The representative hardware may be used to replicate support cases, SRU and point release testing, as well as ongoing extensive testing as part of our Openstack Interoperability Lab (<http://www.ubuntu.com/cloud/ecosystem/ubuntu-oi>).

Additionally, in some situations it is possible for Canonical engineers to remotely perform certification testing on hardware located on a customer's premises.

Servers are tested using all point releases for the latest supported LTS release of Ubuntu Server. LTS Point Releases (e.g. Ubuntu Server 12.04.4 LTS) and interim releases are tested every three months on actual or representative hardware to find regressions. Although interim releases are tested, Ubuntu Server Certification does NOT include certification against non-LTS releases. Interim release testing is part of the process and eventual testing and certification of the corresponding LTS point release.



Systems are certified for the life cycle of the Ubuntu Server LTS Version against which they were certified, including future point releases. A certificate will be associated with a particular software and hardware configuration. Additional software and hardware configurations may require re-testing. To determine if your additional configurations will require retesting, please contact your technical partner manager who will assist in determination.

Servers that are determined to be Ubuntu Server Certified are listed publicly:

<http://www.ubuntu.com/certification/server>

Website

Public certification listings will be available at [a specific public server certification website](#). OEM/ODMs will have access to additional resources on [the private Canonical certification portal](#).

For each certified server, the certificate will show information about:

- Software configuration used to test that server (Ubuntu image version, point release version, kernel version)
- Hardware configuration of the certified server (a list of the components that are part of the certified server)
 - In the case of multiple configurations of a single model being tested for certification the public site will display an aggregated list of components tested across all configurations in a single entry.

Partner Resources

Partners can advertise and promote the certification of their systems with Ubuntu Server.

Canonical's marketing team provides resources to partners for media and packaging, such as logos and guidelines for logo usage.

Users of Ubuntu are provided with a list of certified hardware that has been formally tested with Ubuntu Server and considered supported.

In the event a system fails certification, Canonical provides a means by which Hardware, OEM, and ODM partners can engage Canonical for hardware enablement services. These services are NOT included by default in either the Technical Partner Programme or as part of Ubuntu Server Hardware Certification.

Programme Access

System manufacturers and builders who want to have their servers designated as Ubuntu Server Certified Hardware can apply online for the Technical Partner Programme. Registration is a simple process and offers partners access to a Technical Partner Manager, access to the Partner Portal and the private Certification Portal.

To apply for Canonical's Technical Partner Programme, use the online Partner Registration form

<http://www.canonical.com/partners/contact-us>

Enter your contact details and company information and a sales representative will contact you regarding your needs.

Once registered, partners can access the certification program online at:

<https://certification.canonical.com/>

If you would like to reach the Technical Partner Program managers directly you can also e-mail tpp@canonical.com.