

## Re: [fbsd] HEADS UP: FreeBSD 5.3, 5.4, 6.0 EoLs coming soon

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  - *Date:* Thu, 12 Oct 2006 00:42:25 +0200
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Garance A Drosihn napsal/wrote, On 10/11/06 21:33:

Even if no new ports will be compilable on 4.x, even if the old ports will not be updated with exception of update caused by security bug, I vote for delaying EOL of 4.11

That's easy to say.

I understand that it's much more work than just "you are on your own – EOL arrived".

As I'm not commiter, I'm allowed to submit PR and speak. I'm trying both. This letter is "speak" part.

You can't just keep voting to say "support me forever", and have it cost nothing. Someone, somewhere, has to put up the time and effort to actually do that support. And realistically, that someone has to be the people who are actively running 4.x. Me, I have no desire to run 4.x. I have become too accustomed to a variety of nice features which are in 6.x. I'm also in the process of replacing two of my PC's (because they are having hardware trouble), and once I do that I only have one PC which will even bootup in 4.x --- and that is a 10-year-old PC which I hope to replace before the end of the year.

I never call for "support forever". In advance, I didn't accept other's "I has old hardware, unsupported by 6.x" as strong argument for delaying of EOL. It's about money only and if you run important production server, you should be able to obtain money for it's upgrade.

Problem is performance and trust in stability. It's money and hardware independent problem.

5.x has significant performance hit, so we can't count it as competitive replacement for 4.x. 6.1 is second release in 6.x tree. 6.0 has stability problem. The 6.1 is sufficiently stable on average use, but it still has problems in edge situations. The 6.2 become first RELEASE in 6.x tree acceptable for serious production use. 6.3 will be candidate for first trustable RELEASE if there will not be significant problem with 6.2. It's nothing special on major version changes – 3.0 has been buggy, 4.0 has been buggy, 5.0 has been almost unusable. It's common for other systems also – first usable release of Novell Netware in 3.x tree has been 3.11 (after buggy

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3.0 and 3.1), but stable release has been 3.12 for example.

At this time, there are about 224 unclosed PRs related to kern/6.x tree older than three month, 192 of them are untouched (eg. in plain open state). Nobody knows they are reporting serious problem or they are reports of nonexistent problems and they are a sort bug of submitter or hardware or so. IMHO, committers are hard working on implementing new features, but has no spare time to polish and repair older parts of code.

So, at the time of EOL of well tested, fast and stable version we have the only so-so trustable release as replacement. Despite of a money spent to modern hardware. It's just not so good news. Nothing more. I understand that FreeBSD is volunteer based project so nobody can push a commiter to prefer polishing previously implemented features against implementing new toys. Nobody can force release team to postpone next RELEASE until previously reported problems are analysed and resolved or denied (at least most of them).

I respect you are upgrading to 6.x because of nice features which you need. But I need none of it on most of our infrastructure server (including those routing to network with more than thousand computer). In the fact, I'm using IPFW2 only and it's available on 4.11 as well, so no reason for 6.x for routers, firewalls DNS servers. I prefer performance and stability over new features (it's main reason we selected FreeBSD instead of Linux as main platform for our networks ten years ago).

Well. I'm hesitate that my doubt about stability and performance of current and next 6.x release will not make so much friends for me there. So, no more words with exception of "thank you" for all volunteers. I'm sure they do the best they can.

If I can say my humble opinion with no further explanation – the optimal EOL for 4.11 I see about three months after 6.4-RELEASE. Three months after 6.3-RELEASE is worse but still acceptable.

It's my \$0.02

Dan

P.S. Please note the english isn't my native language.

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