

Qt On OS X Support Plan

We would like Qt to work on as many OS X versions as possible, but there is a tradeoff against dev and CI resources. This means Qt will from time to time drop support for older OS X versions.

- In general we want to give a warning one minor release before removing support (deprecate, then remove).
- Customer/User feedback: Dropping support for 10.6 proved to be quite unpopular but was necessary due to the reasons laid out in this document.
- Removing support means removing the code paths - we don't leave the code to bitrot.
- Long Term Support releases affect the support plan. The current thinking is that we want to drop support *before or at* a LTS release, in order to minimize the maintenance burden of the release.
- From a dev perspective CI testing of the oldest and newest supported OS X version is more important than testing the "middle" versions.
- Older OS X versions have historically been supported as *deployment only* before support was dropped outright. This status has often been tied to whether Qt Creator and the binary SDK package can be installed. [which again is/was often limited by Creator's WebKit dependency].
- We keep QtBase compiling for deployment-only OS X versions (if possible). This is required for CI testing, since the current CI system does not support *building* on a recent OS X version and *running* that build on lower deployment targets.
- Qt on iOS requires the up-to date SDK, which limits the development platform to recent versions of OS X.
- Qt on OS X requires the latest available SDK when supporting "historical" OS X versions.
- Dropping support for an OS X version (often) means dropping support for a class of hardware as well - those who can't upgrade. (This seems to be less true for recent OS X versions. Are we at a "plateau" of capable hardware?)
- Recent OS X upgrades are free of charge, which will hopefully affect the update rate and get us to the desired "the only version is the current version" land.
- This document concerns Qt 5 only.

OS X Version overview

| Version | Name | Release Date | Price | Depre-c ated | Max Qt Version (deployment) | Market Share (Late 2014) | Apple Support (Late 2014) |
|---------|---------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 10.5 | Leopard | | | | | <2% | No |
| 10.6 | Snow Leopard | 2009 | \$29 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 10% | No |
| 10.7 | Lion | 2011 | \$69 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 8% | No |
| 10.8 | Mountain Lion | 2012 | \$19.99 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 7% | Yes |
| 10.9 | Mavericks | 2013 | \$0 | | | 28% | Yes |
| 10.10 | Yosemite | 2014 | \$0 | | | 45% | Yes |
| 10.11 | El Capitan | 2015 | \$0 | | | | |

Alternative view: Qt Version -> Min OS X version

| Qt Version | Min OS X Version |
|------------|------------------|
| 5.3 | 10.6 |
| 5.4 | 10.7 |
| 5.5 | 10.7 |
| 5.6 | 10.7 |
| 5.7 | 10.8 |
| 5.8 | 10.9 |

OS X System requirements (dropping a version bumps the requirements to the next version)

10.6 **Requires:** Intel CPU

10.7 **Requires:** Intel Core 2 Duo, Core i3, Core i5, Core i7, or Xeon processor.

Not supported: Core Duo&Solo - (iMac/Mac Mini 2006 - 2007 era)

10.8 **Requires:** [64-bit EFI](#) **Not supported:** "Old" graphics cards.

Supports these systems:

- mid-2007 or newer iMac

- aluminum MacBook, 2009 or newer polycarbonate MacBook

- 2007 or newer MacBook Pro

- late-2008 or newer MacBook Air

- 2009 or newer Mac Mini

- 2008 or newer Mac Pro

- 2009 Xserve

10.9 No known extra requirements.

10.10 No known extra requirements.

10.11 No known extra requirements.

TODO: What is the exact diff between 10.7 and 10.8?