eZ Platform Release Process and Roadmap

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Release Process

This document explains the release process for eZ Platform and eZ Enterprise.

eZ Platform is an open source Content Management System (CMS) developed by eZ Systems together with the open source community. eZ Platform's code base is available on GitHub under the GPLv2 license.
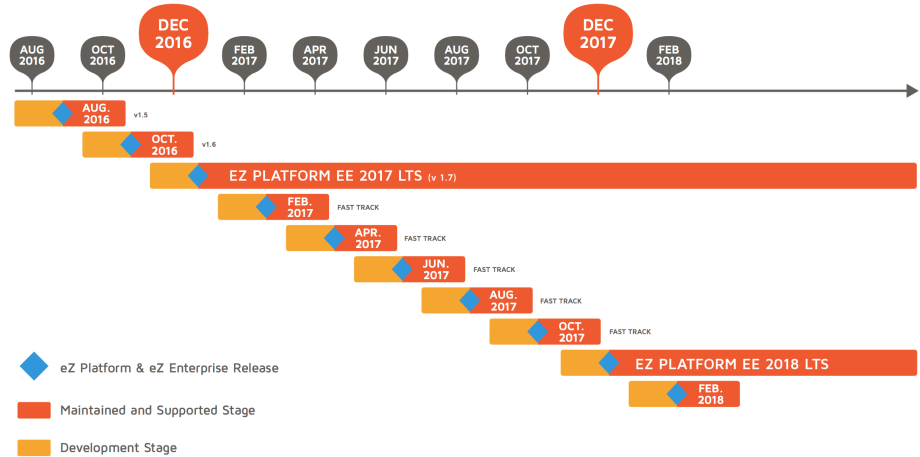
eZ Platform Enterprise Edition (EE) is a commercial software available under eZ Business User License, comprised of eZ Platform Open Source edition and additional features provided as part of the **Studio** feature set.

The **eZ Platform** release and support cycle is described below.

We manage the release of eZ Platform using an agile *iterative process* and a *continuous software development* model.

There are two kinds of eZ Enterprise releases:

- **Long Term Support** releases (LTS) which are supported by eZ Systems for a long period of time (see support lifecycle below), for eZ Enterprise subscribers.
- **Fast Track** releases (FT) which are supported for a short period of time, only until the next FT release is introduced. These are supported for both the open source community and eZ Enterprise subscribers.

Versioning Conventions

eZ Platform Open Source and Enterprise editions use Semantic Versioning.

eZ Platform and all inner components have a version number following the semantic versioning conventions vX.Y.Z.

- Changes to X, the first digit indicate a breaking change to the API, and developers know that they may need to implement a re-write of their code to continue consuming the API moving forward.
- Y, the middle digit represents new features and functionality.
- Z, The final digit represents patches, bug fixes and other forms of "oops" and "aha!".

In addition to the version number, we communicate on eZ Platform Enterprise releases using their release name, which provide information on the support and maintenance service availability.

Example: *eZ Platform Enterprise 2017* for the Long Term Supported release that came mid December 2016 or *eZ Platform Enterprise 2017.04* for the Fast Track release that comes in April 2017.

This way, distribution files of our product are as following:

- eZ Platform uses its own unique semantic version number: **ezplatform-vX.Y.Z.tgz**
- eZ Platform Enterprise uses its semantic version number: **ezplatformenterprise-vX.Y.Z.tgz**

Support Life Cycle

Our software products are continuously evolving, and we have released many versions over the years.

As we strive to release stable products with cutting-edge technology, there is an obvious need for Software Maintenance services to provide bug fixes as well as adjustments for evolving web technologies. And, as our products always provide new features and possibilities, our documentation and user forums may not always be able to provide an answer to all questions that may arise. That's why our Professional Services Team stands ready to assist.

Over time, existing product versions mature and new versions become the center of attention for customers wanting the latest and greatest in features and extensibility. We adapt to this continuous evolution by phasing out services for the old versions while commencing services for the new ones. This means that our services specific to each release are only available from a given start date until an end date. The time in between the start and end dates is what we call the product's **Service Life**.

This table provides an overview of the beginning and end of the **Service Life** of our products*.

Product Release	First Ship Month (FSM)	Last Ship Month (LSM)	End of Service Life (EOSL)	Service Life Extension (SLE)
eZ Platform April 2017 FT	Planned for end of April 2017	June 2017	N/A (Fast Track)	N/A (Fast Track)
eZ Platform February 2017 FT (v1.8)	Planned for end of February 2017	April 2017	N/A (Fast Track)	N/A (Fast Track)
eZ Platform 2017 LTS (v1.7)	December 2016	December 2017	End of December 2019	TBD
eZ Enterprise 2016.10 FT (v1.6)	October 2016	December 2016	N/A (Fast Track)	N/A (Fast Track)
eZ Enterprise 2016.08 FT (v1.5)	August 2016	October 2016	N/A (Fast Track)	N/A (Fast Track)
eZ Enterprise 2016.06 FT (v1.4)	June 2016	August 2016	N/A (Fast Track)	N/A (Fast Track)
eZ Enterprise 2016.04 FT (v1.3)	April 2016	June 2016	N/A (Fast Track)	N/A (Fast Track)
eZ Enterprise 2016.02 FT (v1.2)	February 2016	April 2016	N/A (Fast Track)	N/A (Fast Track)
eZ Enterprise 2015.12 FT (v1.0)	December 2015	February 2016	N/A (Fast Track)	N/A (Fast Track)
eZ Publish Platform 5.4 LTS***	November 2014	November 2015****	End of November 2017	Eligible. End of November 2021****
eZ Publish Platform 5.3 LTS	May 2014	May 2015	End of May 2017	Eligible. End of May 2019
eZ Publish Platform 5.2	November 2013	May 2014	End of November 2014	Not Eligible
eZ Publish Platform 5.1 LTS	May 2013	May 2014	End of May 2016	Eligible. End of May 2018
eZ Publish Platform 5.0	November 2012	May 2013**	End of November 2013**	Not Eligible

eZ Publish Enterprise 4.7	May 2012	May 2013	End of May 2015*	Eligible. End of November 2017
eZ Publish Enterprise 4.6	November 2011	November 2012	End of November 2015	Eligible. End of November 2017
eZ Publish Enterprise 4.5	March 2011	March 2012	End of March 2015	Eligible. End of March 2017
eZ Publish Enterprise 4.4	September 2010	September 2011	End of September 2014	Eligible. End of September 2016
eZ Publish 4.3	March 2010	March 2011	End of March 2014	Eligible. End of March 2016
Releases preceding eZ Publish 4.3 have all reached their end of Service Life.				

- FSM: The First Ship Month we accept installations to start using this version.
- LSM: The Last Ship Month we accept installations to start using this version.
- EOSL: End Of (normal) Service Life, the last month we provide Product Support and Software Maintenance services for a given version.
- SLE: Extended Software Maintenance which includes security updates beyond EOSL. Contact your sales representative for more details.
    - *Note: SLE is a "best effort" product with no bug fix guarantee. Hence, under SLE it is not recommended to do new development like redesign, moving to new servers, new server operating system or similar. For such efforts, please upgrade to a version within normal service life first.*
- LTS: Long term supported release

* For individually agreed lengths of Service Life, please consult your contract. If it goes beyond EOSL it will effectively be valid under the terms of SLE.

** 5.0 was changed to a short term release for new customers when 5.1 came out, thus old contracts have an EOSL in November 2016 but we highly recommend that all existing 5.0 customers upgrade to an LTS release.

*** 5.4 introduces new features in "6.0/Platform stack" and will continue to get certain new features during 2015 to ease forward compatibility with eZ Platform and eZ Studio. For further information see 5.4 release notes.

**** 5.4 being the last eZ Publish release, it will be available for existing eZ Publish customer beyond Last Ship Month (until EOSL), and have an extended service life, making it an ideal release for slow migration to eZ Platform and eZ Studio.

Roadmap

Our roadmap is updated continuously following our custom ScrumBan iterative development methodology *(our own adaptation and combination of Scrum and Kanban)*. Our agile board is open so that anyone can have a clear view of the ongoing and upcoming development. Progress is based on the prioritized Epics from a living backlog into phases of specification and design, development and documentation, and QA. The final phase of our development includes a dedicated period of Certification and Quality Assurance, which ensures our ability to deliver a stable first version of the professionally supported software.

If you want to know what are the EPICS (big features) we are working on, please look at our dedicated product development board:

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How to Read the Board

The Epic board can at first be daunting to understand, so here are some things to be aware of:

- **Doc**: Means the feature has most likely either been developed already in the last release, or will be in the next one, but might still be missing some documentation.
- **Dev**: Features in progress, unless just started, they will be part of the next upcoming release (barring some roadblocks).
- **Prioritized/Spec**: These are the next features we will start working on, prioritization and main responsibility to specify is done by eZ Product Management team.

- **Open**: A backlog of features we want to have in place in the future.

Work currently in progress

The following list represents the Epics currently in progress and which *might* make it in the next release.

Key	Summary	Updated	Assignee	Reporter	P
EZS-1252	Studio Internationalization (I18n)	Jan 11, 2017	Unassigned	André Rømcke	↑
EZS-1253	Form Builder M2	Jan 18, 2017	Unassigned	Roland Benedetti	↑
EZP-25793	UDW finder	Jan 18, 2017	Stéphane Diot	Roland Benedetti	↑
EZP-26647	Content Type View	Jan 25, 2017	Unassigned	Roland Benedetti	↑
EZP-26828	Tools, documentation and processes for contributing translations	Jan 30, 2017	Unassigned	Bertrand Dunogier	↑
EZP-25541	Rich Text Editing M3	Jan 24, 2017	Damien Pobel	Damien Pobel	↓
EZP-25696	HTTP cache multi-tagging	Jan 24, 2017	Bertrand Dunogier	Bertrand Dunogier	↑
EZS-1265	Rename Studio > EE	Jan 04, 2017	Unassigned	David Christian Liedle	↑

8 issues

Next up: Top of the queue

Below is the first 10 epics we have prioritized to work on next.

Key	Summary	Updated	Assignee	Reporter	P
EZS-830	Flex Workflow Create without Publish rights	Jan 30, 2017	Unassigned	Roland Benedetti	↑
EZS-988	eZ Enterprise on Platform.sh	Dec 21, 2016	Gunnstein Lye	David Christian Liedle	↑
EZP-26526	FieldType UI Doc	Nov 28, 2016	Unassigned	André Rømcke	↑
EZP-25989	REST Embedding	Jan 16, 2017	Bertrand Dunogier	André Rømcke	↑
EZP-25357	Rich Text Custom Tag M1	Jan 18, 2017	Unassigned	Roland Benedetti	↑
EZP-23738	Permissions UI granularity	Jan 17, 2017	André Rømcke	André Rømcke	↑
EZP-26866	POC Hybrid SF app loading YUI modules from 1.x	Jan 25, 2017	David Christian Liedle	Roland Benedetti	↑
EZP-26465	Search Facets	Jan 17, 2017	Unassigned	André Rømcke	↑
EZP-25939	Content on the Fly M2	Dec 13, 2016	Damien Pobel	Roland Benedetti	↑
EZP-25778	Display Semantic Version Number in UI	Nov 05, 2016	Unassigned	David Christian Liedle	↑

Want to Contribute?

Our process being open, please feel free to report bugs or suggest features via our JIRA projects: the EZP Jira project for all things related to eZ Platform, and the EZS Jira project for all things related to eZ Studio (the enhanced version of Platform available only with eZ Enterprise).

If you'd like to help speed things up because you need a feature on a project, Epics in the **Open** state are relatively safe to jump on.

1. Simply add a comment on the one you have already worked on or would like to start on among the epics on the board, and folks at eZ will try to help on specifying the feature.
2. For discussions on how to tackle the feature technically, *or anything else*, reach out on Slack using the self service sign on page.
3. When a Pull request has been opened, most of the discussion will happen in the relevant github repositories.
4. When a feature is done, you can help out on documentation by proposing documentation using for instance gist.github.com and link to them via comments on the Epics.