Blue Fox OS

DECISION HANDOUT · NOVEMBER 2026

A Windows program with no Linux equivalent: how to decide

Five questions, in order. You stop at the first yes: each route after it takes more upkeep. Questions 3 to 5 are settled by a test, which we run with you. November 2026 prices, in Canadian dollars before tax unless stated.

1 — Does the application have a web version that covers the work?

A recent version often has a web version the older one lacked. It needs the network: offline use rules it out.

YES →

Web application

Declared in the organization's configuration, with its icon. Nothing to install on the workstation.

NO

2 — Does a Linux equivalent cover the actual work?

The person's day, not the feature list.

YES →

Linux equivalent

The program is replaced.

NO

3 — Does it run on Wine?

Wine runs a Windows program directly on the workstation, without Windows. Good candidate: installs without a driver, without a hardware licence key, without hooking into Office. To be tested on a test workstation.

YES →

Wine, the compatibility layer

Free, or CrossOver at 74 US dollars per workstation per year. Someone checks the application again at every update.

NO

4 — Can it run on a Windows host whose window the workstations display?

Not if a device cannot be redirected to the host (to be tested), if it must work offline, or if the publisher's licence does not allow it.

YES →

Remote Windows: the route most often chosen

A machine already paid for (one or two people), a server and one access licence per person (a team), or Windows 365 at 42.90 to 85.90 dollars per person per month, which keeps your data with Microsoft. Licensing to be confirmed with a reseller before purchase.

NO

5 — Does it work in a Windows virtual machine on the workstation?

The route for a connected device, offline use and a hardware licence key. To be tested, with the device.

YES →

Virtual machine on the workstation

One Windows licence per workstation (Windows 11 Pro: 259.99 dollars), since the old computer's licence does not follow. 8 to 16 GB of memory, 80 GB of disk, two systems to keep updated. Only on the workstations that need it.

NO

No route works The workstation stays on Windows until the work or the publisher changes. The fleet then keeps two ways of working.

The five facts to bring

- The exact name and version of the application.
- What the person does with it during the day.
- The devices plugged in: card reader, label printer, licence key.
- How many people use it.
- Any offline use.

Good to know

- "Windows in Docker" is a virtual machine in a wrapper: same costs, not one more route.
- We do not host Windows for clients for now: the host lives with you, or with a provider you choose.
- Prices move: they get confirmed at purchase.

Is a program holding back your fleet?

Bring these facts: we run the tests and decide together. The up-to-date reference: symbifox.com/guide, chapter "Windows applications on Linux". Scan the code to write to us.