MR.PLANB FIELD GUIDE · PROXMOX VE

Proxmox on Dell PowerEdge: Production Field Guide

What Dell's unsupported-OS stance really means, how hardware claims go in practice, and what to prepare.

Updated **2026-10-29** · Full guide: www.mrplanb.com/blog/dell-proxmox-production-compatibility

> Proxmox runs on Dell PowerEdge servers from R720 to R760 even though Dell does not list it as a supported OS. Unsupported means Dell will not escalate driver or kernel issues, not that the hardware is incompatible, and most admins report failed parts still get replaced. Buy a Proxmox subscription, keep a bootable live ISO for diagnostics, and check the PERC controller mode.

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R760s running Proxmox reported by one user

R720–R760
PowerEdge generations reported working

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vendors named with official Proxmox support: Lenovo and Fujitsu

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preparation tips for production

Supported vs compatible

Question	Answer
Does it run?	Yes. R720, R730, R740, R760, M630 and M640 reported working
What does unsupported mean?	Dell will not escalate Proxmox-specific driver issues or kernel panics
Which OSes does Dell validate?	RHEL, SUSE, Windows Server and Ubuntu
Failed hardware?	Most admins report NICs, boards, controllers and iDRAC cards replaced
Where could you hit a wall?	Driver or firmware bugs that need a supported OS to reach engineering

Know before you go

- [ ] Buy a Proxmox subscription as a backstop for software problems.
- [ ] Understand that unsupported does not mean incompatible.
- [ ] Keep a live CD or bootable Ubuntu stick to prove hardware faults outside Proxmox.
- [ ] Check Dell PERC mode: some default to RAID mode, which complicates ZFS or Ceph.
- [ ] Use HBA mode or swap in an HBA-friendly controller.
- [ ] Be ready to support yourself through forums, Proxmox docs and colleagues.

Alternatives with official support

Lenovo
A Proxmox partner that officially supports its v3 servers, per a commenter.

Fujitsu
Officially supports Proxmox on some enterprise-grade servers.

Supermicro
Homelab favorite gaining enterprise credit for flexibility and support.

Dell
Runs it fine, but support stops at the OS boundary.

Why compatibility works

- Proxmox bundles a KVM hypervisor, LXC containers, HA clustering and ZFS support.
- It is built on Debian with a kernel derived from Ubuntu, which matters for hardware compatibility.
- Dell runs its own diagnostics from BIOS or bootable USBs, so they do not touch the OS drives, per one admin.

Warranty worry, in practice

Reports from the community, not advice.

- The fear: Dell closes a ticket without replacing hardware because the OS is unsupported, visible in TSR logs.
- Veterans report disks, NICs, motherboards and iDRAC cards replaced with Proxmox running.
- Some keep a live ISO ready to show the fault on any OS.
- Driver or firmware issues tied to an unsupported OS are the real exception.

Sources and notes: Community reports from sysadmin discussions summarized on the page · Proxmox VE documentation · Dell PowerEdge supported OS lists as described on the page