

## Strategic Planning for JBoss EAP and Java EE Applications in 2025+

### Introduction

As enterprise Java continues to evolve, organizations running applications on JBoss EAP face a pivotal moment. With JBoss EAP 7 entering Extended Life Phase 1 (ELS-1) in June 2025, many teams are reconsidering their long-term runtime strategy. This guide aims to help you navigate this decision-making process.

Jakarta EE, the successor to Java EE, is thriving under the Eclipse Foundation with new features, enhanced cloud support, and active community innovation, with the recent release of Jakarta EE 11 being a testament to this. However, runtime support lifecycles and vendor priorities are changing, and many organizations may not be ready to move yet. Understanding your options today will help ensure continued stability and flexibility for today and tomorrow.

### Understanding JBoss EAP 7's Lifecycle

JBoss EAP 7, a Java EE 8-compatible runtime from Red Hat (now a subsidiary of IBM), entered Extended Life Phase 1 (ELS-1) on June 30, 2025. This marks a shift in the support model, as while partial support will continue under its JBoss ELS, the application server will no longer receive new features or active development beyond that point.

ELS-1 is expected to end on October 31st, 2027. At this point, users will be able to rely on Extended Life Phase 2 (ELS-2), which will offer even more restricted support, no security or bug fixes, and ends on October 31st, 2030.

### What JBoss EAP 7 ELS-1 Means & Implications

ELS-1 is a specifically-contracted, limited-support phase designed to help organizations maintain security and stability for legacy deployments while they plan their migration to newer versions or platforms. During this lifecycle stage, only critical impact security fixes and selected urgent-priority bug fixes may be delivered, if and when available. Customers may request specific security or bug fixes and are encouraged to continue applying patch releases. However, no new features, software enhancement, certifications or non-critical fixes are offered.

Also, there will be no platform evolution, as updates to Java EE or Jakarta EE APIs will not be introduced. In particular, JBoss EAP 7 is the last version of the application server that supports Java EE.

Current users interested in keeping JBoss as runtime for their enterprise Java applications can either purchase an ELS subscription and be on JBoss EAP 7.4 or update their `javax.*` namespace, e.g. to Jakarta EE 9, and migrate to EAP 8.

## Boss EAP 7 ELS-1 means users that subscribe to it will get:

- No new features
- No software enhancements
- No certifications
- No non-critical fixes
- Potentially asynchronous bug and security fixes

## Options for JBoss EAP 7 Users

Java EE 8/Jakarta EE 8 remains very popular in 2025, and it is estimated to be the most widely used enterprise Java version in production, adopted by 56% of Java ecosystem stakeholders, according to the [Cloud Native Java Survey](#) findings from the Jakarta EE Working Group. The continuous reliance on this enterprise Java version is largely due to the need to carry out code and namespace changes to migrate to newer versions like Jakarta EE 10.





In addition, while many organizations are currently modernizing their Java stacks, it is estimated that [19% of modernized Java applications will still use Java 8](#). With Java EE 8/Jakarta EE 8 being the last major version to officially require and guarantee compatibility with Java SE 8 (JDK 8). Subsequent Jakarta EE versions have raised the baseline to newer Java versions, potentially introducing breaking changes or requiring application refactoring.

For teams committed to maintaining Java SE 8 compatibility while ensuring continued platform support, the choice of a suitable runtime is critical. In effect, they need one that continues to offer compatibility with Java EE 8 on JDK 8 while delivering commercial support for mission-critical applications that are not yet ready to transition to Jakarta EE or newer Java SE versions.

Currently, for organizations that need to continue using Java EE 8 (javax.\*), there are two primary options. They can stay on JBoss EAP 7.4 with ELS but sacrifice key upgrades and risk tying teams to a runtime with a shrinking ecosystem and decreasing tooling compatibility over time, increasing technical debt and vendor lock-in. Alternatively, they can migrate to another Java EE 8-compatible application server that remains fully supported. As of 2025, the only runtime offering this is Payara Platform Enterprise 5, with full support until Q1 2027 and free extended support until 2029. Payara Platform Enterprise 5 Lifetime support, comparable to ELS, will follow in 2029.

## Teams wanting to maintain their applications on Java EE 8 (javax namespace) on JBoss EAP 7 have two options to continue supporting their applications:

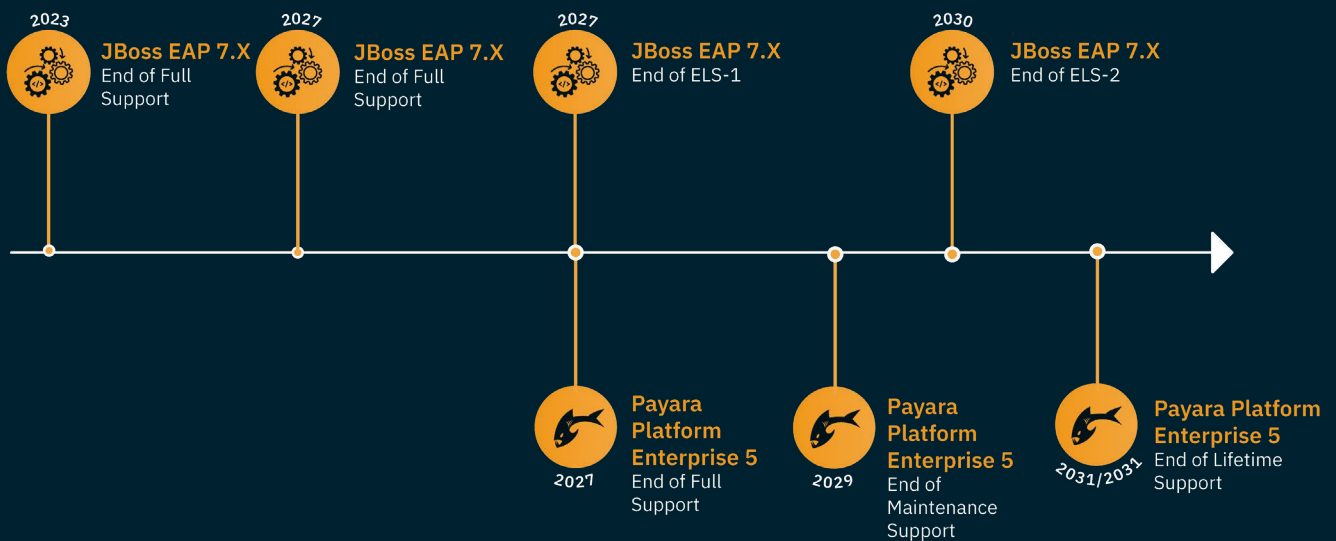
- Stay on JBoss EAP 7.4 with ELS but miss software enhancements, certifications and new feature
- Migrate to Payara Platform Enterprise 5 and receive full support

REMAIN ON JBOSS EAP 7		MIGRATE TO PAYARA PLATFORM ENTERPRISE 5	
PROS 	CONS 	PROS 	CONS 
No migration needed & minimal operational change	Reduced portability & greater risk of vendor lock-in	Enhanced portability	Migration needed
Receive selected security and bug fixes	Mounting technical debt	Regular, monthly releases	
	Specific ELS-1 subscription costs	Ongoing maintenance, security patches and optimizations	
	No non-critical fixes	Robust compliance with standards and regulations	
	No software enhancements	Full commercial support with hot fixes and SLAs	
	No new features		
	No certifications		
	Risk to complicate compliance with standards that require active maintenance, patch cadence or support SLAs		

## Consider A Longer-Term Alternative: Payara Platform Enterprise 5

For teams managing applications built on Java EE 8 (javax.\*) preferring to avoid a full namespace migration in the near term, Payara Platform Enterprise 5 offers a strategic alternative:

- Full Java EE 8 support, with ongoing, regular monthly releases covering feature updates on request, component updates, bug and security fixes
- Longer support lifecycle than JBoss EAP 7 for Java EE 8 workloads
- Comprehensive enterprise support, including hot fixes and customer-requested patches
- Modern DevOps and container tooling, while using the javax.\* namespace
- Bespoke application server migration and optimization packages, as part of Payara Accelerator services



These elements make Payara Platform Enterprise 5 an attractive option for organizations seeking runtime continuity without API changes, while still benefiting from a supported and actively maintained platform that offers maximum portability. Ultimately, the move from JBoss EAP 7 to Payara Platform Enterprise 5 offers a valuable opportunity to begin an application modernization journey that is not externally forced, but instead reflects the internal needs, timelines and priorities of each organization, on its own terms.

## JBoss EAP ELS-1 Vs. Payara Platform Enterprise Lifetime Support: A Comparison

While similar in principle, JBoss EAP ELS-1 and Payara Platform Enterprise Lifetime Support phases differ significantly in scope, responsiveness and value for long-term planning. JBoss EAP ELS-1 offers only fixes to the most severe security vulnerabilities and urgent bugs, and only at Red Hat's discretion. Also, technical support is limited. Conversely, critical bug and security fixes are still available within Payara Platform Enterprise Lifetime Support, along with ongoing technical assistance.

Thus, while JBoss EAP ELS-1 serves as an interim solution, ideal for planned transitions, it is less suitable for truly long-term coverage. Organizations needing maximum lifecycle stability are likely to find Payara's Lifetime Support more comprehensive and straightforward.

ELEMENTS	RED HAT JBOSS EAP ELS-1	PAYARA PLATFORM ENTERPRISE LIFETIME SUPPORT
Security Fixes	Critical only, at Red Hat's discretion	Priority critical fixes
Bug Fixes	Only urgent, if available	Selective, for production-critical issues
Technical Support	Limited	Ongoing
Container Images	Deprecated	Maintained

## What Former JBoss Users Who Moved to Payara Say

*“In terms of support costs Payara is 60% cheaper than JBoss. And as it is Open Source there are no licensing fees! Our engineers are extremely satisfied with Payara's performance. They started using Payara in a small scale and as things worked quickly well, they have increased their Payara usage exponentially.”*

– International Hotel Franchise

## Ready to Take Control of Your Java Runtime Strategy?

Whether you're planning a straightforward migration from JBoss EAP 7 or evaluating the right time to modernize your Java stack, Payara's team of enterprise Java and runtime experts is here to help.

- Get guidance on compatibility, migration planning and application optimization
- Understand your long-term options without pressure to adopt new APIs before you're ready
- Ensure stability, security and support for your Java EE 8 applications

## Additional Resources

[Guide 'Migrating from JBoss EAP to Payara Server Enterprise'](#)

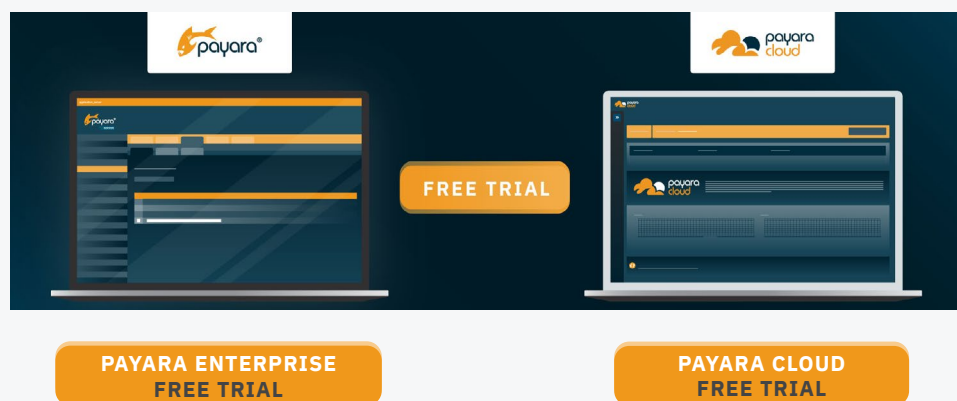
[Payara Migration Portal](#)

[Payara Platform Product Lifecycle Policy](#)

[Payara Accelerator Consultancy Services](#)

*Contact Payara's enterprise team to schedule a no-obligation consultation or request a migration assessment tailored to your environment.*

Interested in Payara? *Try Before You Buy*



**sales@payara.fish**



**UK: +44 800 538 5490**  
**Intl: +1 888 239 8941**



**www.payara.fish**

Payara Services Ltd 2025 All Rights Reserved. Registered in England and Wales; Registration Number 09998946  
Registered Office: Malvern Hills Science Park, Geraldine Road, Malvern, United Kingdom, WR14 3SZ