



Executive summary: Value of Red Hat solutions versus alternatives

IDC Business Value Executive Summary, sponsored by Red Hat
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REGION FOCUS: WORLDWIDE

Executive Summary: The Business Value of Red Hat Solutions Versus Non-Paid Open Source Alternatives

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Linux has over time become the de facto choice of developers and IT departments around the world. This is not something that happened by accident, however. Over the past decade particularly, Linux has made great gains in the mindshare of everyday practitioners through careful cultivation via a vibrant and diverse open source community. In turn, Linux has rapidly expanded beyond traditional data center use cases and has grown to include the cloud as well as the edge for those in pursuit of deploying next-generation IT.

Commercial Linux vendors such as Red Hat have taken this a step further, building upon this paradigm and creating a vast ecosystem of hardened software and services. Enterprise customers engaging with these vendors have benefited as a result and have derived significant business value while streamlining their cases and case investments – resulting in impressive returns on investment (ROI), which IDC research measures and highlights in this business value (BV) study.

IDC spoke with organizations using Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL), Red Hat Insights, and Red Hat Satellite to understand the value of paying for supported Red Hat solutions instead of using non-paid open source alternatives with self support. Study participants reported that Red Hat solutions provide the features, performance, and confidence they need to drive their development activities and business operations across their on-premises and cloud IT environments.

Business Value Highlights

- 540% three-year ROI
- 20% development team productivity gain
- 75% more new features
- 23% faster development lifecycle, new applications
- 52% faster security updates
- 72% less unplanned downtime
- \$17.3M higher revenue per user
- 32% more efficient IT infrastructure teams
- 38% higher virtualization density

As we near the June 30, 2024 deadline that the CentOS Project set to discontinue updates and releases of CentOS Linux® version 7, most organizations have already begun the process of reevaluating their IT environments and planning for a migration to a new operating system (OS).

Many have turned to Red Hat® Enterprise Linux, which is a fully supported, production-grade OS that delivers a similar user experience to CentOS Linux, with significant operational improvements and purpose-built tools to simplify migration.