

Red Hat Enterprise Linux for VFX and animation studios

According to the VFX Linux Task Force's VFX Linux distribution recommendation report, Red Hat Enterprise Linux and its ecosystem provide:¹

- Critical mass of support in infrastructure, tooling, and expertise in the VFX community.
- Balance between stability and progress.
- Strong engagement and support between studios, the broader VFX community, and Red Hat.

In the early 2000s, workloads using Silicon Graphics' IRIX began migrating to Linux®, positioning the operating system (OS) as a top choice among visual effects (VFX) and animation studios. Today, CentOS Linux 7 remains one of the most commonly used Linux distributions. But with the announcement that CentOS Linux will reach its end of life (EOL) on June 30, 2024, many VFX and animation studios need to reevaluate their IT environments and plan for a migration.

To avoid fragmentation of software standards—and the accompanying challenges—and encourage studios and software vendors to embrace Linux, the Visual Effects Society (VES) Technology Committee and members from relevant software vendors collaborated to establish the VFX Reference Platform—a standard set of tools and library versions for use across the industry and OSs. To further encourage Linux adoption, the VFX Linux Task Force carried out months of research and interviews to identify a Linux distribution that could be consistently relied upon by VFX and animation studios. The task force's findings led them to strongly recommend Red Hat® Enterprise Linux 9 for artist workstations running Linux.

Why choose Red Hat Enterprise Linux for Workstations?

VFX and animation studios often have release dates with immovable deadlines, making performance, reliability, and on-time delivery key. Studios need a production-grade Linux distribution that provides a simplified migration experience and industry-leading functionality, performance, stability, and reliability now and in the future.

In addition to being optimized for high-performance graphics and animation, Red Hat Enterprise Linux for Workstations is equipped with all of the capabilities and applications that users need to focus on innovation rather than on workstation administration. With a 10-year life cycle, Red Hat Enterprise Linux for Workstations provides users with patches, critical updates, and support—including assistance with installation, usage, problem diagnostics, bug fixes, and more.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux for Workstations can be deployed across bare-metal, virtualized, and cloud environments. It can be used in virtualized deployments in private cloud environments that use remote access and virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) technology to allow end users to use virtual machine (VM)-based workstations. Red Hat Enterprise Linux also delivers a smooth transition path and familiar experience for studios already working with CentOS Linux 7.

Streamlined migration with minimal disruption

The command line utility tool, Convert2RHEL, streamlines migration by automatically determining the conversion path, based on the CentOS Linux version. It prepares the system for conversion and replaces CentOS Linux packages with Red Hat Enterprise Linux equivalents while maintaining users' customizations, configurations, and preferences.

Support

No-cost open source software undeniably reduces the expense of licensing and subscription costs, but it puts the burden of maintenance and support on IT teams, detracting from innovation and negatively impacting deadlines. Red Hat provides full life cycle support that includes specialty-based

¹ VFX Linux Task Force. "VFX Linux Distribution Recommendation Report 2022." 8 Aug 2022.

routing, collaborative multivendor support for instances in the cloud, global support locations, and personalized guidance. Red Hat also provides 10 years of updates and support for major releases and binary compatibility between releases.

Functionality, stability, and reliability

Red Hat Enterprise Linux is a fully featured, enterprise-grade OS with predictable costs and is tested and certified to run on a wide range of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) hardware with a wide range of COTS software and all the major cloud platforms. Red Hat is committed to a predictable release cadence of a minor release every 6 months and a new major release every 3 years, with a 10-year life cycle for each major release. Red Hat Insights, which is included in Red Hat Enterprise Linux subscriptions, continuously analyzes platforms and applications to predict risk, recommend actions, and track subscriptions so studios can better manage hybrid cloud environments.

Built-in security and compliance features

Security features like kernel live patching, security profiles, security standards certification, automated security management at scale, and a trusted software supply chain help organizations meet today's high security and compliance expectations. In addition, Red Hat Enterprise Linux simplifies compliance management with an ongoing stream of information regarding Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) patches and changes—a feature not available with CentOS Linux.

Extensive partner ecosystem

Red Hat partners with more than 5,000 certified third-party hardware vendors, more than 4,500 certified third-party software vendors, and more than 1,400 certified cloud and service providers, whereas community Linux distributions have limited ecosystems of hardware vendors and third-party applications.

Red Hat Consulting

Large environments or organizations with limited resources can engage with Red Hat Consulting to help accelerate their migration. Red Hat Consulting experts bring proven knowledge and experience to migration projects of all kinds. They help customers identify and convert key applications and workloads while taking a mentor-based approach so customers can be confident in their migration to Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

Moving forward

Red Hat maintains its continued commitment to keeping the code behind Red Hat Enterprise Linux open source and compliant with the GNU Public License. This leads to an even broader community of Linux distributions, including CentOS Stream, which will provide more choice for studios. Red Hat looks forward to continuing to work with VFX and animation studios as it brings open, innovative platforms to more workloads.

Learn more about Red Hat Enterprise Linux for Workstations

About Red Hat

Red Hat helps customers standardize across environments, develop cloud-native applications, and integrate, automate, secure, and manage complex environments with [award-winning](#) support, training, and consulting services.



f facebook.com/redhatinc
 @RedHat
 in linkedin.com/company/red-hat

North America
 1 888 REDHAT1
 www.redhat.com

**Europe, Middle East,
 and Africa**
 00800 7334 2835
 europe@redhat.com

Asia Pacific
 +65 6490 4200
 apac@redhat.com

Latin America
 +54 11 4329 7300
 info-latam@redhat.com

redhat.com
 #506826_0923

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