Red Hat

Top considerations for planning your CentOS Linux migration

Organizations that use CentOS Linux® currently face a choice. The CentOS Project will discontinue all updates and releases of CentOS Linux 7 after June 2024. As a result, CentOS Linux users must migrate to a new operating system (OS) to continue receiving updates, patches, and new features. While implementing a new OS may seem tedious, it also presents an opportunity to reassess your organization's needs and choose a platform that will better support your business now and in the future.

This checklist reviews 6 key considerations for choosing a new OS and planning your migration.

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1   Security tools and certifications

83% of organizations have experienced multiple data breaches.[1] Select an OS that includes security tools and is certified to industry standards to help maintain compliance and protection.

Key questions to consider:

▸ Do your IT teams spend a significant amount of their time on compliance activities?

▸ Does your organization operate in a security-sensitive industry with regulatory standards and requirements?

▸ Do your IT teams have difficulty keeping up with security patches and updates?

▸ Has your organization experienced a security incident recently?

2   Application certifications

Most organizations rely on third-party applications for critical business functions and services. Choose an OS with a large ecosystem of certified applications to reduce the amount of in-house integration and certification work required.

Key questions to consider:

▸ Which applications does your organization run today, and which are critical to your operations?

▸ Do your IT teams spend significant time and effort on application certification tasks?

▸ Do you expect to deploy new business applications in the next 1-2 years?

3   Management and automation

Effective IT management is critical for large-scale and complex environments. Consider an OS that includes advanced management tools to help streamline processes and promote consistency, security, and efficiency across your environment.

Key questions to consider:

▸ Do you experience configuration drift and inconsistencies that lead to instabilities, downtime, and security vulnerabilities?

▸ Do your teams rely on manual processes for IT configuration?

▸ Does a proliferation of management tools negatively impact visibility into your systems?

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1 IBM Security. "Cost of a Data Breach Report 2022," 2022.

4   IT budget and costs

Organizations spend 66% of their IT budget on maintaining existing business operations.[2] Adopt an OS vendor that provides cost-effective options for common use cases to optimize IT spend and help you free more budget for growth and innovation.

Key questions to consider:

▸ Does your organization use non-paid, community-supported software to try to save on costs?

▸ Have you looked into low-cost or no-cost solutions for development teams, academic organizations, and open source projects?

▸ Does your preferred vendor provide offerings to tailor spending?

5   Support needs

Reliably supporting an operating platform in-house requires significant staff time and resources. Choose an OS vendor that provides enterprise-grade support, so your teams can be more productive, saving your organization both time and money.

Key questions to consider:

▸ Do your IT teams spend considerable time researching solutions and responding to support requests?

▸ Do you experience significant amounts of downtime while IT teams try to solve issues internally?

6   Migration timeline

IT migrations require time, resources, and careful planning to be successful. Opt for an OS vendor that offers supported migration tools and services to help you transition and move faster.

Key questions to consider:

▸ What is your time frame for migrating away from CentOS Linux?

▸ Does your organization currently have the staff and resources needed to migrate within that time frame?

▸ How long will it take to stabilize operations on your new OS and start planning for subsequent upgrades?

▸ Are you considering third-party services to help you migrate?

Choose a platform for the future

A consistent, intelligent operating foundation for modern IT and enterprise hybrid cloud deployments, Red Hat® Enterprise Linux delivers optimal benefits for your organization. Because CentOS Linux is derived from Red Hat Enterprise Linux sources, you can continue to use many of the same techniques, elements, and skills, while gaining more features, tools, support, and value. Take advantage of this opportunity to move to an OS that better supports your business initiatives now and in the future.

Choose your path forward

Learn more about migrating from CentOS Linux to Red Hat Enterprise Linux at red.ht/centos.

Migrate with confidence

Ease your migration with a cost-effective offering for CentOS Linux users. Discover more at red.ht/rhel-for-3rd-party-migrations.

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2 Flexera. "Flexera 2022 tech spend pulse," June 2022.

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