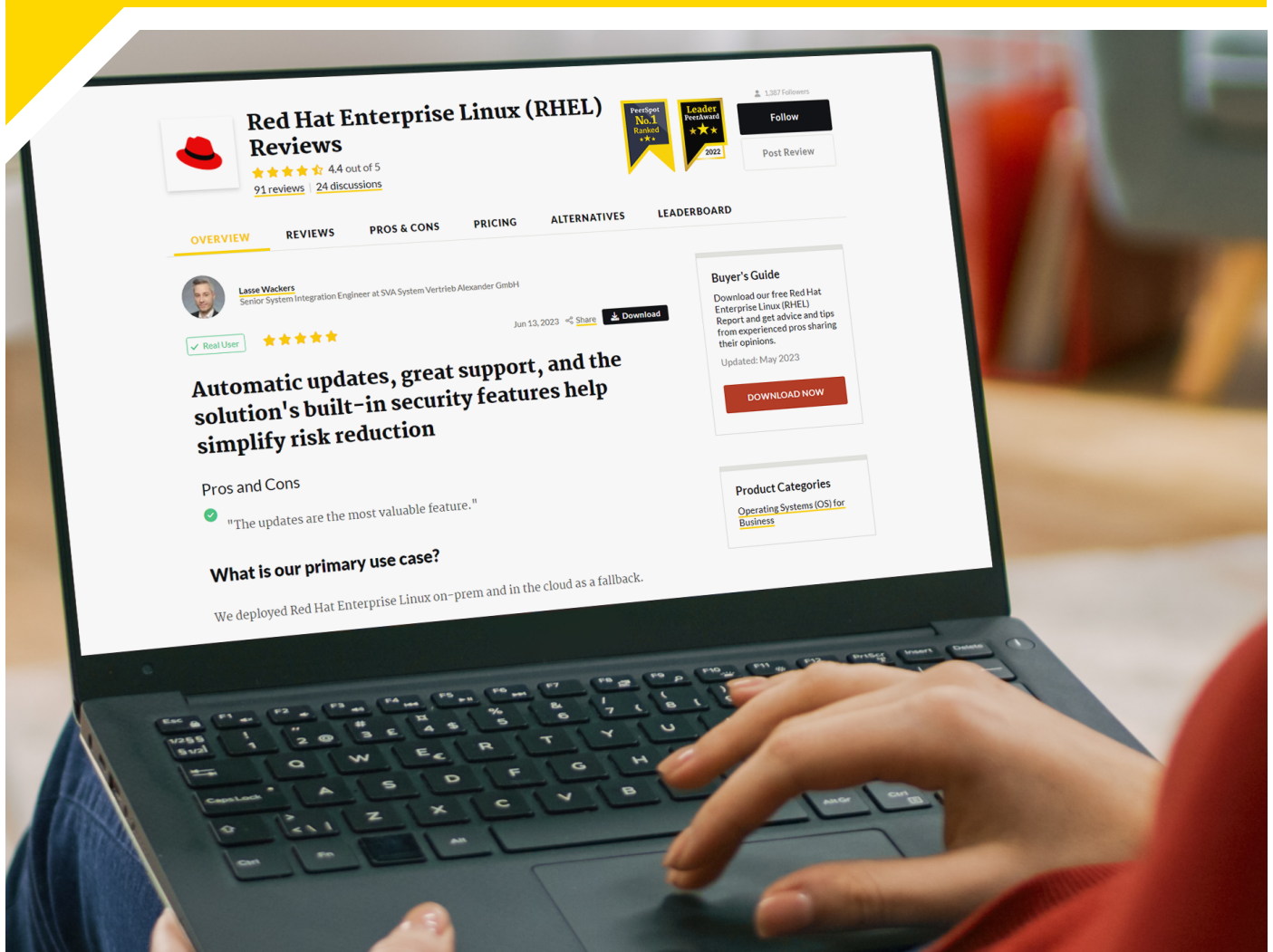


PeerPaper™ Report 2023

Based on Real User Experiences with Red Hat Enterprise Linux

5 Top Reasons to Choose Red Hat Enterprise Linux as Your Linux Solution |



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Introduction

Red Hat Enterprise Linux has become the world's leading commercial Linux operating system (OS). It is ranked as the top Operating System for Business on PeerSpot because it offers tremendous value to its users. Organizations turn to Red Hat Enterprise Linux to manage and scale the complexity of their respective IT infrastructures. Red Hat Enterprise Linux standardizes environments and provides flexible pricing for users so that they can use the latest hardware advancements and align to their corporate requirements. Red Hat Enterprise Linux delivers the consistency needed to conquer complexity no matter where or how IT teams choose to deploy, whether that's on-premises, in the cloud, containerized, or all the way out to the edge.

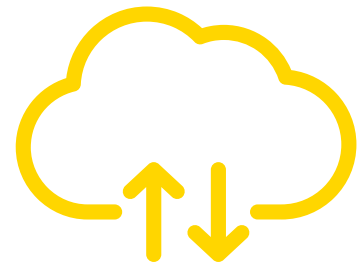
With all this in mind, why did so many organizations opt for a Red Hat Enterprise Linux subscription in the first place over all alternative commercial versions of Linux and free distributions, such as CentOS Linux and downstream rebuilds like Rocky, Alma, and Oracle Linux? According to users on PeerSpot, people prefer Red Hat Enterprise Linux because it provides more complete patching support, better operational efficiency, less risk, more cloud flexibility, and lower management overhead and costs.

#1 – Cloud Flexibility

Red Hat Enterprise Linux offers maximum flexibility—delivering a consistent, stable environment that meets a user wherever he/she may be on their cloud journey. That’s certainly the case for the CTO of a financial services firm with more than 50 employees, who commented, “Red Hat Enterprise Linux enabled us to move away from reliance on ION [Infor Intelligent Open Network]. We’re free to choose the best-of-breed solution at any given time while keeping the cloud-agnostic infrastructure at the center of our deployments.”

For an IT Systems Engineer, there were no issues when it came to deploying current applications and emerging workloads across bare metal, virtualized, hybrid cloud, and multi-cloud environments. “We just have to take note of whatever the requirements are for the application we’re deploying, make sure requirements are met and then build a server based on those requirements,” he said. Figure 1 offers a simple reference architecture for this capability.

The solution also enabled a Sr. Systems Engineer at a tech services company with over 10,000 employees to deploy applications and workloads across those same environments. When rating Red Hat Enterprise Linux, he said, “If it was a scale of one to 10, 10 being the best, I would say nine. It is definitely up there as far as its reliability.”



Cloud Flexibility



Paul M.
CTO at Standard Bank
International



“We’re free to choose the best-of-breed solution at any given time while keeping the cloud-agnostic infrastructure at the center of our deployments.”

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Additionally, Red Hat Enterprise Linux has made it easy to move or merge to the cloud for a Senior Information Technology System Analyst at a government agency with over 200 employees. He observed, “They [Red Hat] have included more features in the newer versions to integrate and merge with other applications that are on-premises, in the cloud or in a hybrid cloud setup. The applications that we have deployed across these environments are very reliable.”

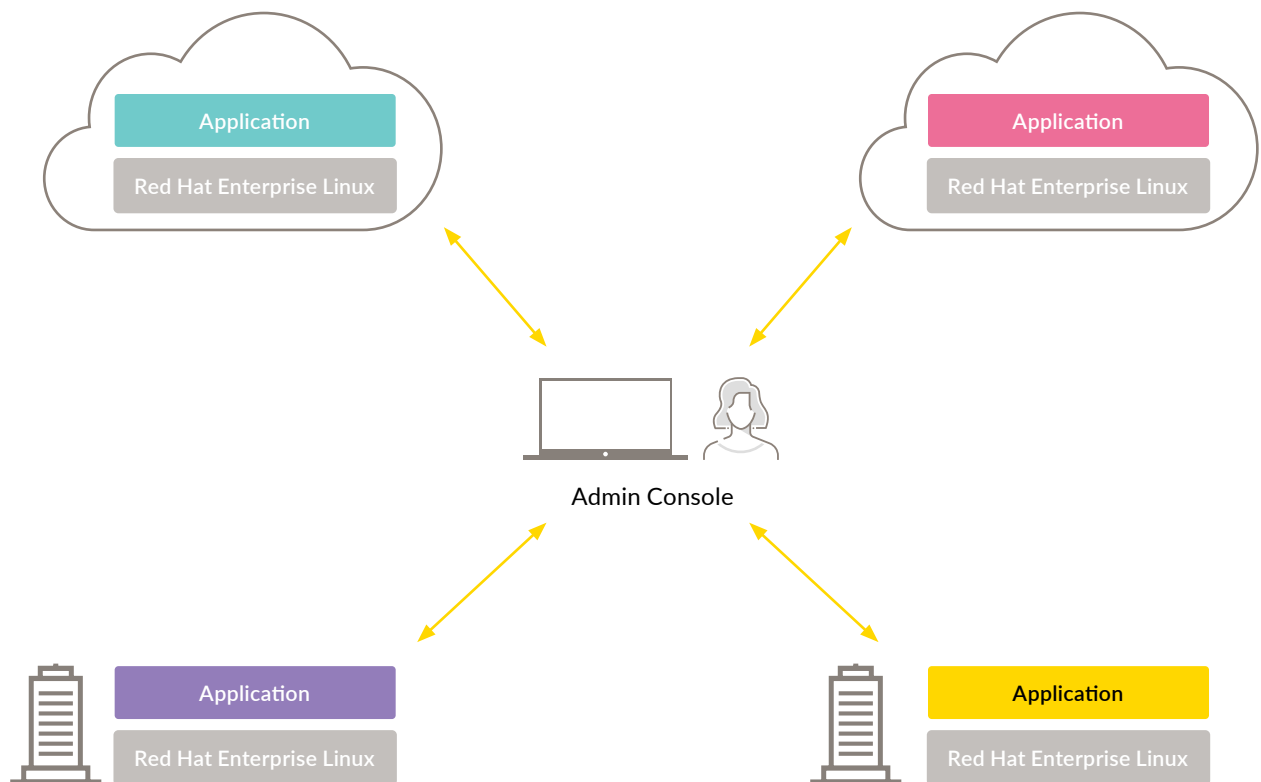
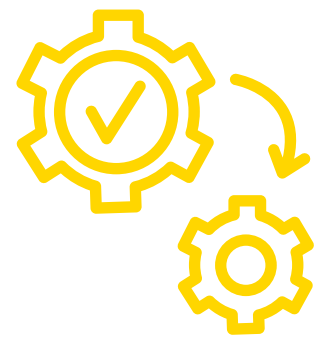


Figure 1 -With Red Hat Enterprise Linux, IT admins can run applications of different types across multiple clouds and on-premises infrastructure with a single OS.

#2 – Reliable Patching Support

Red Hat Enterprise Linux enables administrators to easily manage security and non-security patches that are released by the Red Hat Security Advisory (RHSA) for Red Hat-subscribed machines and servers. For example, a Virtualization Specialist at a company with more than 500 employees reported that Red Hat Enterprise Linux enables his security team to achieve security compliance. He said, “They are quite happy, especially in terms of patching up our servers, etc. It’s compliant with our security requirements. Our security teams previously struggled a bit to update Windows, but when it comes to Linux, they are quite comfortable because they know that things will go smoothly.”

Similarly, an Enterprise Systems Engineer at an insurance company with more than 500 employees felt that the solution improves their security posture, especially around patching. “It has built-in security features for risk reduction and maintaining compliance,” he shared. In addition, this user said that SELinux, provided by Red Hat, allows him to secure himself in terms of the network ports that are exposed or enabled. This capability reduces the risk.



**Patching
Support**



Mostafa A.
Sr. Enterprise Solutions
Engineer at Palpay



“You can apply security patches and use benchmarks. You can do everything in Red Hat, so you can always have a highly secure environment.”

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A System Admin at a tech vendor with over 10,000 employees, who previously used Solaris, expressed the view that it is easier to manage patches and security using Red Hat. Figure 2 depicts this capability. Meanwhile, a Sr. Enterprise Solutions Engineer at a tech services company with more than 50 employees enjoyed how Red Hat provides additional tools to customize their environment and harden their OS. He stated, “You can apply security patches and use benchmarks. You can do everything in Red Hat, so you can always have a highly secure environment.”

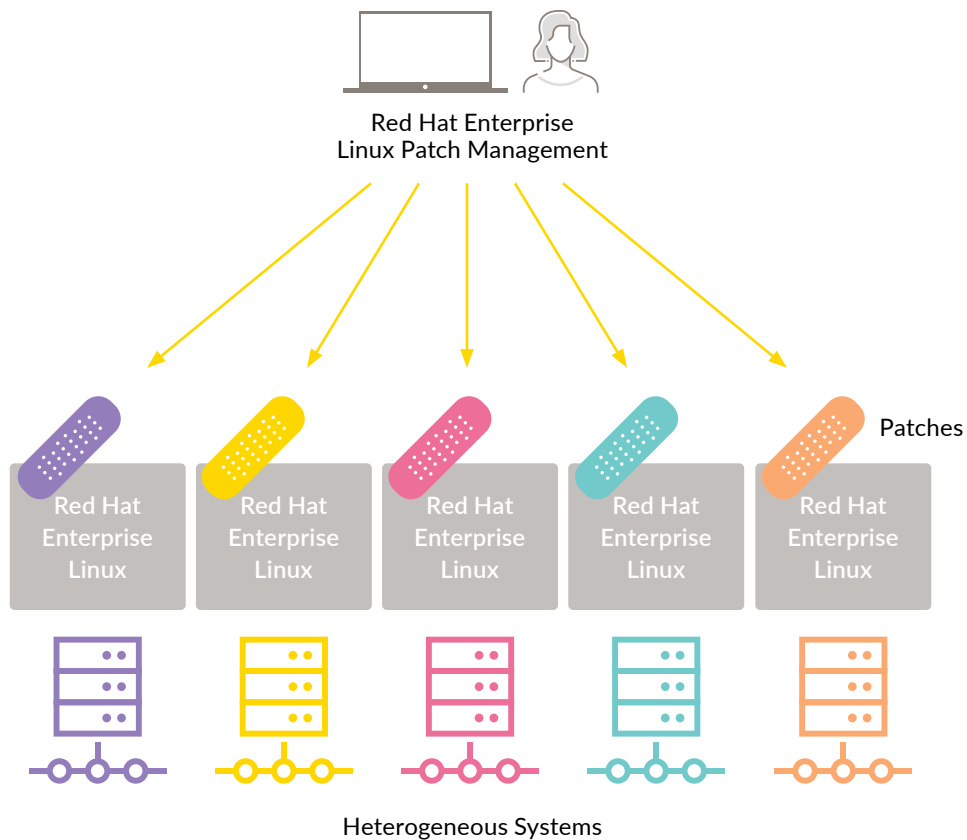


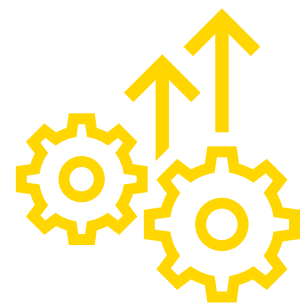
Figure 2 - Red Hat Enterprise Linux enables efficient patch management across heterogeneous systems.

#3 - Improved Operational Efficiency

PeerSpot members found that Red Hat Enterprise Linux helps them with operational efficiency. For instance, the OS enables them to move their existing workloads to the cloud rapidly without changing their operating systems. IT and development teams can continue to use their current skills, processes, and familiar tools in the cloud without extensive retraining or modifications.

Utilizing Red Hat Enterprise Linux provided greater operational excellence for a Cloud and Infrastructure Architect at a communications service provider with over 10,000 employees because the OS lets him see what somebody is building. “We have the environment captured and have visibility about what went into it for repeatability, reproducibility, scalability and lots of other benefits,” he shared.

For the financial services CTO, Red Hat Enterprise Linux has made his teams much more flexible, while operational expenditures have decreased. He elaborated, saying, “We run Power, Spark and Oracle x86 across multiple environments. Red Hat Enterprise Linux lets us choose the right environment for the application, which is essential from an operational efficiency perspective. There isn’t a better option in the production world than Red Hat.”



Operational Efficiency



TJ

Cloud and Infrastructure
Architecture at a comms service
provider with 10,001+ employees



“We have the environment captured and have visibility about what went into it for repeatability, reproducibility, scalability and lots of other benefits.”

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Productivity and efficiency are key advantages for a CEO at a tech services company with over 200 employees because Red Hat Enterprise Linux automates the firm’s regular tasks and processes. And, a Cybersecurity Engineer at a software company with over 10,000 employees reported that Red Hat Enterprise Linux’s effect on their organization’s management and efficiency is noticeable because, as he put it, “We check all the compliance boxes when we run STIG machines. It helps us because Red Hat is trusted in the governmental space.”

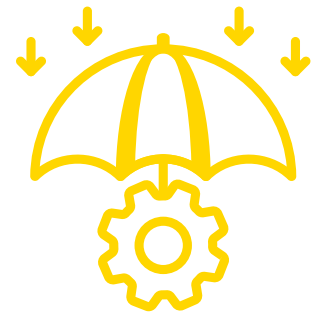
Offices in the government sector are also benefiting from Red Hat Enterprise Linux. For instance, an Infosec IT Specialist at a US federal government agency with over 10,000 employees shared that they use the solution, to, in his words, “achieve operational excellence and readiness for the cloud.” An Information technology specialist at another similarly sized government agency added that Red Hat Enterprise Linux has had a very positive influence on their organization’s management and efficiency. He remarked, “We couldn’t live without it. We just could not.”

#4 - Reduced Risks Through Compliance and Increased Security

Red Hat Enterprise Linux includes built-in security features that are compliant with industry and government regulations, along with a modular package structure that reduces attack surfaces and protects a user's systems in the cloud.

For example, a Cloud Architect at a government agency with over 200 employees was happy with the amount of security customization they've been able to do with Red Hat Enterprise Linux. The fact that Red Hat is on top of security issues is also valuable to him. "We get daily emails from Red Hat letting us know of possible issues and fixes, which is incredibly helpful for us," he stated.

A Network Administrator at an educational organization with over 1,000 employees liked how Red Hat's built-in security features simplify risk reduction and maintain compliance because Linux is mostly open source. He said, "We're running most of the production servers in this operating system, so we don't require a third-party solution because Red Hat Enterprise Linux has a great range of security products with an inbuilt firewall."



**Risk
Reduction**



Prateek A.

Technical Program Manager at a university with 201-500 employees



“Security notifications and alerts are built-in in Red Hat. It simplifies the notification and you can clearly understand the description and how you can minimize such alerts.”

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A System and Solutions Architect at a small software company also shared his thoughts, saying, “The features included in the Red Hat environment enhance the security that Linux has by default. They’re good enough to secure the system. It’s very complex but it’s flexible and it gives you the opportunity to deploy good security. These features reduce risk.”

Finally, a Technical Program Manager at a university with over 200 employees believed that security is Red Hat Enterprise Linux’s most valuable feature. He explained, “In Windows, there are risks of attacks or of data leaks because it is using .exe files, but in Red Hat’s Linux-based operating system, the data is more secure. Security notifications and alerts are built-in in Red Hat. It simplifies the notification and you can clearly understand the description and how you can minimize such alerts.”

#5 – Reduced Management Overhead and Overall Costs

Red Hat Enterprise Linux facilitates cost reduction and cuts management overhead. These benefits come from cloud migration savings and simplified management across an organization’s entire IT estate from a single console, among other factors. To this point, a Senior Systems Engineer at a university with over 1,000 employees did ROI analysis over the years and found the results interesting. He shared, “We saved about \$500,000 USD on purchasing all of the different parts by going with Red Hat.”

Saving time and money is the theme for one tech services firm’s CEO. They use OpenShift in addition to Red Hat Enterprise Linux in their environment. He noted that Red Hat Enterprise Linux integrates nicely with other solutions, which then become a part of one big solution, which saves time. “Deployments become easy and fast because everything is integrated. It is very good to have everything integrated, and we now have just two people working with the whole infrastructure,” he said.

The software company’s Cybersecurity Engineer reported that Red Hat Enterprise Linux helps management save people’s time by just having use of templated containers. Meanwhile, an Infrastructure Engineer at a tech vendor with over 10,000 employees said his organization has definitely seen an ROI based on cost savings.



**Reduced
Overhead
Costs**



Ricardo U.

CEO at a tech services company
with 1-10 employees



**“Deployments
become easy and fast
because everything
is integrated. It is
very good to have
everything integrated.”**

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A Sr. IT Solution Architect at a wholesaler/distributor with over 10,000 employees mentioned that the OSCAP scanner and Ansible help enforce company security standards, decreasing their exposure to attacks, data loss, ransomware, and other threats. “From an operations point of view, managing the environment requires less overhead,” he said.

The product saved a tech vendor with over 10,000 employees a lot of money compared to other products like Solaris. Also, having one OS as opposed to many OSs has worked well for them. “For the most part, the benefit for the organization is saving money compared to other operating systems and having good stability,” said their Team Lead.

An insurance company’s Enterprise Systems Engineer also remarked about how Red Hat Enterprise Linux is a huge time saver, as they’ve integrated some of the native tools, such as YAML [language], into their CI/CD pipelines, which has made it easy for their developers to deploy the same source code across different servers.

He shared an example: “If you have Application A that is clustered across three or four servers, you can easily use that one single pipeline and do the same configuration across all three clustered servers. It saves us time. We are also getting a bit of quality control because we are sure that the same configuration has been applied to all three clustered servers. It has enabled us to centralize the process of DevOps in our organization.”

As these user comments suggest, no single factor explains an organization’s decision to use Red Hat Enterprise Linux. Instead, each user has identified one or two capabilities that make it the preferred solution. This may be cost savings, flexibility in the cloud, or better management of patching. Red Hat Enterprise Linux offers value in each area.



Trevor O.

Enterprise Systems Engineer
at a insurance company with
501-1,000 employees



**“It has built-in
security features
for risk reduction
and maintaining
compliance.”**

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Perspective: Switching From CentOS Linux

Red Hat Enterprise Linux provides consistency across footprints, whether an organization is deploying new applications, moving existing applications from the datacenter to a cloud environment or simply migrating off another Linux distribution, like CentOS Linux.

For example, a Senior Software Engineer at a tech services company with over 200 employees is glad he made the switch from CentOS Linux. “We run most things on the solution and its impact has been huge. We do have a few items on Ubuntu but question its use. Conceptually, Ubuntu is for amateurs and Red Hat Enterprise Linux is for professional organizations with hardened security.”

“It was our client who decided to switch to Red Hat,” said a Digital Solutions Architect at a tech services company with more than 50 employees in explaining his conversion from CentOS Linux. “I’ve also used Ubuntu, which is an open-source solution with low security and therefore not suitable for enterprise-size organizations.”

This is the time to be thinking about moving forward from CentOS. The operating system will reach its end of life in 2024. When considering possible replacements, it’s worth bearing in mind that unpaid, unsupported operating systems often turn out to be a false economy. Cost factors such as system management overhead, the partner ecosystem, and the migration itself, can all contribute to a total cost of ownership (TCO) that is higher than that of a commercial solution.



Prateek A.

Technical Program Manager at a university with 201-500 employees



“In Windows, there are risks of attacks or of data leaks because it is using .exe files, but in Red Hat’s Linux-based operating system, the data is more secure.”

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Conclusion

User reviews on PeerSpot show why Red Hat Enterprise Linux is rated on the site as the top Operating System for Business. Organizations that have made the switch from CentOS Linux and other Linux distributions all enjoy the strong value they receive from a Red Hat Enterprise Linux subscription. Their experiences bear out their top reasons for selecting the OS at the start—from crucial patching support to improved operational efficiency, reduced risk, cloud flexibility, and the ability to reduce management overhead and costs.

About PeerSpot

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