

MIGRATING FROM WINDOWS TO RED HAT ENTERPRISE LINUX

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Microsoft has announced it will end support for Windows Server 2003 on July 14, 2015. After that, users will receive no security updates, no technical support, and no application support.

This marks a turning point for organizations around the world. Estimates are that there are tens of millions of Windows Server 2003 instances still in use in the market. Organizations that choose to continue operating Windows Server 2003 after Microsoft withdraws support do so at their own risk.

“Failure to have a current, supported operating system raises significant concerns about an organization’s ability to meet regulatory compliance requirements, as well as the needs of business units, partners, and customers,” noted IT research firm IDC in its February 2015 report “Windows Server 2003 end of life: An opportunity to evaluate IT strategy.”

If your organization is running Windows Server 2003, now is the time to carefully consider Linux®. If you upgrade to new Windows infrastructure, 2008 or 2012, you’ll incur significant expenses associated with additional licenses, client access licenses, software licenses, migration, and future maintenance.

Or you can choose Red Hat® Enterprise Linux, the platform of the future, not the past. According to the Linux Foundation¹, Linux growth is now outpacing Windows in worldwide server operating environments. A primary reason for this dominance is the capacity for Linux to host new workloads and drive innovation. As more companies turn to public cloud, OpenStack®, and other open technologies, more embrace Linux as their enterprise operating system.

QUALITATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

IDC recently completed a cost and efficiency study of 21 companies around the world. The study compared workloads on a Microsoft Windows platform versus Red Hat Enterprise Linux, which beat Windows across the board.

PERFORMANCE

IDC found that Red Hat Enterprise Linux averages 118% more users per server than Windows. That means Red Hat Enterprise Linux requires less infrastructure, less software, and less maintenance to deliver the same performance to end clients, whether they’re internal or external. And that means clients can get their transactions completed faster, get the information they need sooner, and get their jobs done quicker. It also means lower costs. Overall, annual server infrastructure costs on Red Hat Enterprise Linux are 29% lower than on Windows.

PRODUCTIVITY

The IDC study examined the impact Red Hat Enterprise Linux and Windows platforms have on the people who administer them. It evaluated administrative costs across a broad range of IT maintenance and support operations, finding that annual IT staffing costs for Red Hat Enterprise Linux are 41% lower overall than Windows costs.

When the exchange migrated from Windows to Red Hat Enterprise Linux, it saw immediate improvement. It was able to accommodate twice as many traders. It also reduced the patching effort and eliminated unplanned downtime. “We achieved more than 100% performance gains with Red Hat,” says Azfaruddin Syed, head of IT at the Lahore Stock Exchange. “There hasn’t been a single instance of unplanned downtime since we migrated to Red Hat.”



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ABOUT RED HAT

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of open source solutions, using a community-powered approach to provide reliable and high-performing cloud, virtualization, storage, Linux, and middleware technologies. Red Hat also offers award-winning support, training, and consulting services. Red Hat is an S&P company with more than 80 offices spanning the globe, empowering its customers' businesses.

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RELIABILITY

The IDC study assessed downtime hours and help desk hours. First, IDC found that Red Hat Enterprise Linux servers run more mission-critical applications: 18% of servers for Red Hat Enterprise Linux versus 13% of servers for Microsoft Windows. And even with the additional burden placed on Red Hat Enterprise Linux, its servers experience less downtime than Windows servers and demand fewer help desk hours. Compared to Windows, Red Hat systems exhibited 35% fewer hours lost to help desk incidents. Productivity losses from system downtime were 64% lower for Red Hat servers.

LOWER TCO

The bottom line: Red Hat offers lower total cost of ownership (TCO). Across infrastructure, staffing, and productivity (including downtime and help desk), deploying Red Hat Enterprise Linux reduces TCO by 34% annually compared to Microsoft Windows.

RECOMMENDATIONS

If you're running Microsoft Windows 2003, you may have been looking forward to Microsoft's imminent support cutoff with dread. Instead, consider it an opportunity – a chance to realize all the advantages of Red Hat and Linux. Companies moving to Red Hat Enterprise Linux servers achieve significant savings on IT server infrastructure and IT staffing, while boosting reliability and productivity.

Contact your Red Hat representative today and learn how easy it is to move your workloads to Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

GAP

Clothing retailer Gap migrated its e-commerce site from Microsoft Windows to Red Hat Enterprise Linux more than 10 years ago and has never looked back. "Our operating system had to meet our performance objectives," says Jeff Arcuri, senior manager of IT for Gap Inc. Direct. "It had to be secure; it had to be scalable and manageable within a large enterprise-class implementation; and it had to fit within our budget. Red Hat Enterprise Linux was the clear winner."

LAHORE STOCK EXCHANGE

The Lahore Stock Exchange moved from Windows to Red Hat Enterprise Linux. The second largest exchange in Pakistan was having a number of performance, security, and scalability issues with its Windows platform. When new traders joined the platform, it ran so slowly that they were not able to execute their trades quickly enough. The exchange spent a lot of time patching its Windows machines with security fixes. And the machines frequently went down for a variety of reasons.



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