Enterprise Linux and CentOS market overview

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Goals of this presentation

- Define "Enterprise Linux"

- What is CentOS ?

- CentOS and Red Hat Enterprise Linux™

- Position CentOS in the market

- CentOS project and the community (*you*)

So what does Enterprise Linux mean ?

¿¿ Enterprise Linux ??

- **Supported for extended period (years)**

- Low-risk security updates (vendor assessed)

- ABI/API stability (patches are backported)
  - Reliable, predictable and reproducable

- Regular bugfix/enhancement update packs

- Certified for software, hardware and certain environments (eg. EAL4+, LSB, health, space)
  - **incl:** Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Ubuntu **LTS**, SuSE Linux Enterprise Server *and* CentOS
  - **excl:** Fedora, Ubuntu, OpenSUSE, Gentoo, Debian

How does CentOS fit into this ?

So what is CentOS ?

- Community Enterprise OS

- CentOS is a "rebuild" of Red Hat Enterprise Linux™ sources

  - RHEL is Open Source «free as in speech»

  - CentOS is affordable «free as in beer»

- Community of volunteers rebuilds updates, test releases and provide support

CentOS and RHEL™

- Each major release supported for 7 years from release date

- Security updates with <u>no risk</u> released when available

- New hardware support, bugfixes and features **every 6 months** (minor update release)

- New major enterprise release about every 24 months

CentOS is __more__ than RHEL™

- Includes all components in one product
  - GFS, cluster suite, desktop *and* server

- Much larger community than RHEL™ (more than 6 million systems worldwide)

- Mailinglists and Wiki is a big source of solutions

- Additional packages of Open Source software
  - CentOS Plus, CentOS Extras and RPMforge

- Optional extra functionality and flexibility
  - eg. extended kernel-plus, hardware support

CentOS is <u>less</u> than RHEL™

- No support from Red Hat™ and n o access to Red Hat Network™
  - No security backports for old releases (z-releases)
- Delayed security updates (up to 24 hours) and delayed releases (up to 4 weeks)
- Not certified, not the "real deal"
- Legal indemnification for IP infringement
- **Bugs are not fixed in CentOS directly**
  - patches go upstream and come downstream
- Business critical ? You depend on Red Hat™
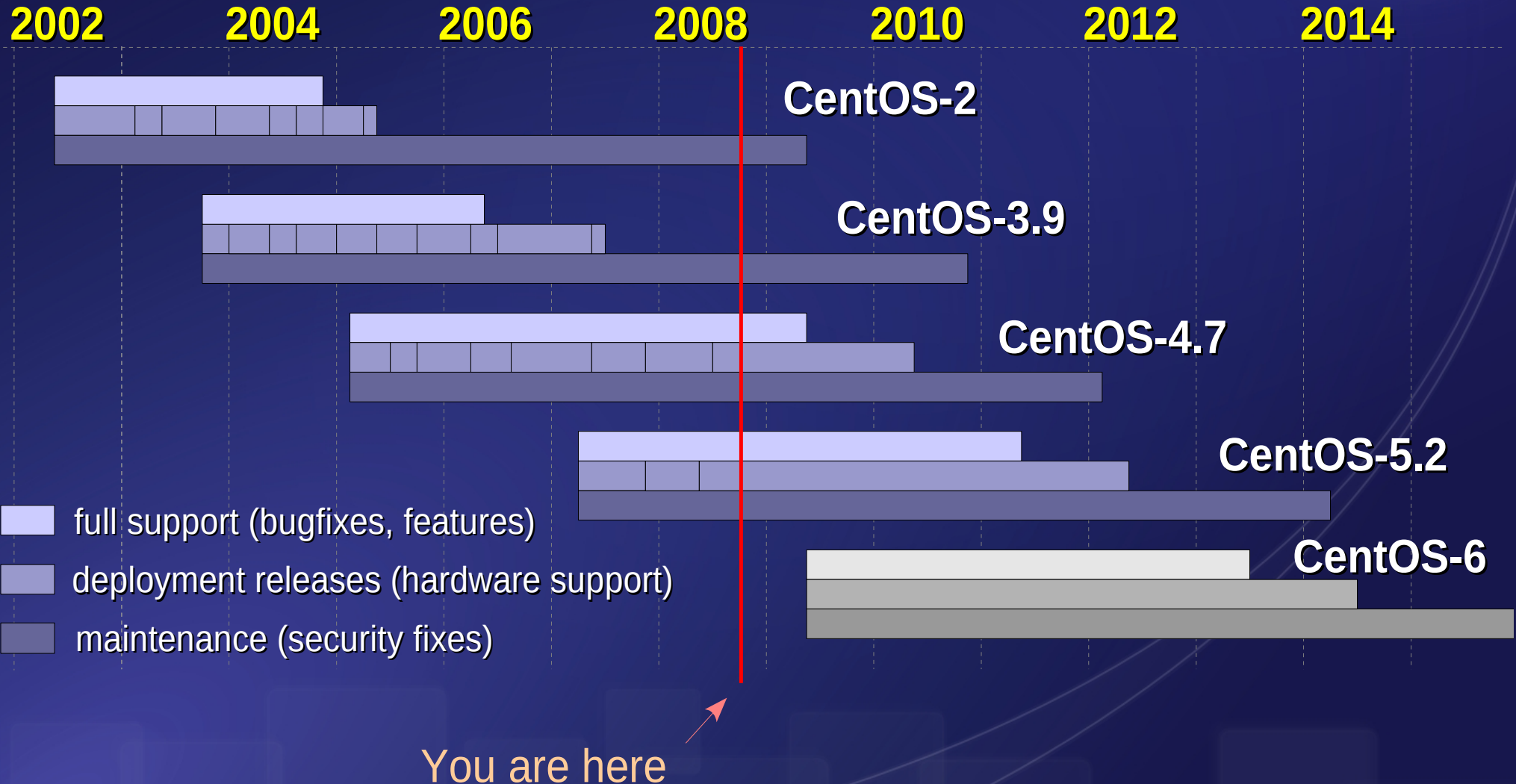
Why Red Hat is important ?

- Most money spend within Red Hat is not for support issues, but mostly
  - Developers (!)
  - Quality assurance
  - Joint work with Intel, AMD, IBM, HP, DELL, Adaptec, Broadcom and many others...
  - Fedora development
  - Open Source awareness
- To the benefit of the whole Open Source ecosystem
- Obviously, without Red Hat there is no CentOS

30 minutes in the presentation and still no pictures ?

CentOS/RHEL continuity

2002　　　2004　　　2006　　　2008　　　2010　　　2012　　　2014

CentOS-2

CentOS-3.9

CentOS-4.7

CentOS-5.2

full support (bugfixes, features)

deployment releases (hardware support)

CentOS-6

maintenance (security fixes)

You are here

And how do CentOS and RHEL compare to other Enterprise Linux distributions ?

Enterprise Linux market

	CentOS / RHEL	SLES	Ubuntu LTS
Maintenance supp.	7 years	5+2 years	5 years
Installation support	4 years	3 years	*on demand*
Update frequency	6 months	*¿ 1 year ?*	*ongoing*
Installation base	**+6 million** **(1/2007)** 2.5 million (Q4 2008)	*¿ 400.000 ?*	8 million (non-LTS) *¿ 40.000 ?*
Price / server / year	**free** / $349..$2500	$349..$1500	free / $750..$2750
Release rate	24 months	24 months	18 months
Supported versions	4 2.1, 3, 4 and 5	2 9 and 10	2 6.06 and 8.04
Architectures	**i386, x86_64,** ia64, ppc and s390	i386, x86_64, ia64, ppc and s390	i386 and x86_64 *(ppc and sparc)*

Source: https://www.redhat.com/security/updates/errata/

http://support.novell.com/lifecycle/

http://www.ubuntu.com/support/paid

http://www.internetnews.com/software/article.php/3780651
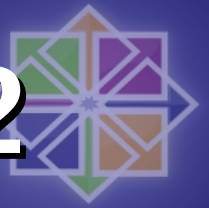
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Server features in CentOS-5.2

- Server applications
  - Apache 2.2, PHP5, MySQL5
- Virtualization features
  - Libvirt, Xen, KVM
- Security features
  - SELinux

Desktop features in CentOS-5.2

- 3D desktop environment

  - Gnome 2.16, compiz or beryl

- Desktop applications

  - OpenOffice 2.3 (2.0.4), Firefox 3.0.1 (1.5), Thunderbird...

  - Evolution, Gimp, Pidgin

- Additional desktop applications

  - Inkscape, Scribus, Pan

- No bleeding edge software (so seldom latest)

- No support for latest hardware (eg. new laptop)

The CentOS project

- Maintain the successful RHEL rebuilds
  - CentOS-2, CentOS-3, CentOS-4, CentOS-5
- Add flexibility to CentOS
  - Add packages on top of CentOS (CentOS Extras)
  - Replaces CentOS packages (CentOS Plus)
  - RPMforge packages for RHEL/CentOS
- Maintain infrastructure and support community
  - Wiki, mailinglists, forums, IRC, download mirrors
  - Events, flyers, presentations, media
- Organised in SIGs (Special Interest Group)

How to help the CentOS project ?

- Help out on the **mailinglists** and **forums**

- Work on **wiki** documentation on the wiki

- Write about CentOS solutions on your **blog**

- Help us with **packaging** software you use

- Join promo team at **events** all over the world

- Join one of the **SIG**s or start your own

- Create tool or start project to **enhance CentOS**

But most of all: GIVE US FEEDBACK!

Summary

- Enterprise Linux should be the choice <u>for everyone</u> (except very technical people ?)

- CentOS is *also* for home-use or appliances

- CentOS and RHEL™is a symbiosis

- Choose wisely when choosing Linux (for yourself *or* for others)

CentOS links

- Website and download
  - http://centos.org/
  - http://mirror.centos.org/

- Wiki, mailinglist, forums and blogs
  - http://wiki.centos.org/
  - http://lists.centos.org/ and http://centos.org/forums/
  - http://planet.centos.org/

- Instant messaging
  - #centos on irc.freenode.org