



CentOS

in an Enterprise environment

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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*)

?? Enterprise Linux ??



- Supported for extended period (years)
- Low-risk security updates (vendor assessed)
- ABI/API stability (patches are backported)
 - Reliable, predictable and reproducible
- 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

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 release supported for 7 years (security updates)
- Security updates with no risk released when available
- New enterprise release every ± 24 months
- New hardware support, bugfixes and features every 6 months (backports, stable core)

CentOS is more than RHEL™



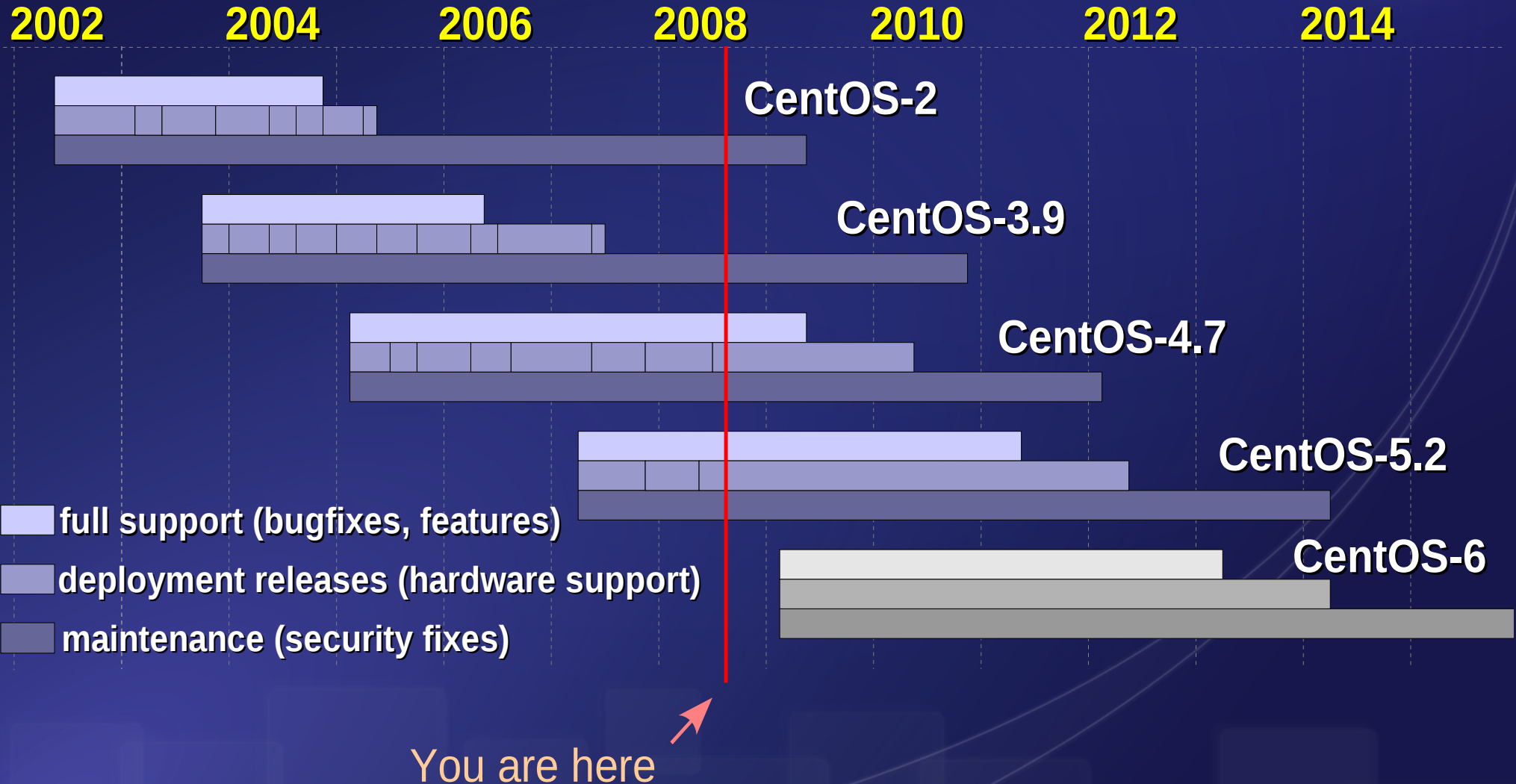
- Includes all components in one product
 - GFS, cluster suite, desktop *and* server
- Much larger community than RHEL™ (more than 6 million systems worldwide)
- Mailinglists and Wiki is a big source of solutions
- Additional packages of Open Source software
 - CentOS Plus, CentOS Extras and RPMforge
- Optional extra functionality and flexibility
 - eg. extended kernel-plus, hardware support

CentOS is less than RHEL™



- No support from Red Hat™ and no 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™

CentOS/RHEL continuity



Positioning Enterprise Linux



	CentOS / RHEL	SLES	Ubuntu LTS
Maintenance supp.	7 years	5+2 years	5 years
Installation support	4 years	3 years	<i>on demand</i>
Update frequency	6 months	<i>¿ 1 year ?</i>	<i>ongoing</i>
Installation base	+6 million (1/2007) 1.5 million (1/2008)	<i>¿ 350.000 ?</i>	<i>+10 mill. (non-LTS)</i> <i>¿ 25.000 ?</i>
Price / server / year	free / \$349..\$2,500	\$349..\$1,500	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 (<i>ppc and sparc</i>)

Source: <https://www.redhat.com/security/updates/errata/>
<http://support.novell.com/lifecycle/>
<http://www.ubuntu.com/support/paid>

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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 SIGs 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 for everyone (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](http://irc.freenode.org/#centos)