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 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
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
Sure, but what is Red Hat Enterprise Linux?
CentOS and RHEL™

- Each major release supported for 7 years from release date
- Security updates with no risk 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 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™
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?
And how do CentOS and RHEL compare to other Enterprise Linux distributions?
## Enterprise Linux market

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

Source:  [https://www.redhat.com/security/updates/errata/](https://www.redhat.com/security/updates/errata/)
[http://support.novell.com/lifecycle/](http://support.novell.com/lifecycle/)
[http://www.ubuntu.com/support/paid](http://www.ubuntu.com/support/paid)

Date: 19/11/2008
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://planet.centos.org/
- Instant messaging
  - #centos on irc.freenode.org