RED HAT® ENTERPRISE LINUX®

CUSTOMER

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Should I stay, or should I go?

RED HAT ENTERPRISE LINUX 4 – **MANAGING END-OF-LIFE**

OVERVIEW

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 (RHEL 4) was first released in 2005. In February 2012, RHEL 4 will be End-of-Life (EOL). For maintenance and support into 2015, Red Hat offers the Extended Life cycle Support (ELS) Add-On. This document will help you understand what options and considerations are available as you plan for EOL cycle for Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 Considerations-at-a-Glance

CONSIDERATIONS	OPTIONS			
	Work with ISV Partner	**Purchase Extended Life Cycle Support (ELS) Add-On**	**Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 (RHEL 5)**	**Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6 (RHEL 6)**
I have a custom application– what should I do?		Execute your migration plan before 2/29/2012 and you won't need ELS Add-On	Red Hat core ABI compatibility between releases smooths your transition *download white paper*	Move to the latest platform for highest performance & longevity
I have a commercial application	Check with your ISV; Red Hat has an extensive ecosystem for RHEL 5 and RHEL 6	Execute your migration plan before 2/29/2012 and you won't need ELS Add-On	RHEL 5 has the most extensive ecosystem for certified applications	Many ISV's are moving to RHEL 6 for the higher scalability and performance
I have commercial application that is only supported on RHEL 4	Check with your ISV; many have an application upgrade path to a newer version of Red Hat Enterprise Linux	Yes, purchase Add-On, it will give you another 3 years until 3/2015	Consider a RHEL 4 virtual machine on RHEL 5 or RHEL 6. Remember Red Hat Enterprise Linux subscriptions allow you both a physical and virtual environment.	
It will take me longer than a year to migrate		Purchase your first year of ELS before 2/29/2012 EOL – remember you have the option to renew every year for up to 3 years	Red Hat core ABI compatibility between releases smooths your transition – read the Red Hat Enterprise Linux ABI compatibility paper http://www.redhat.com/f/pdf/rhel/RHEL6_App_Compatibility_WP.pdf.	
I want to run newer hardware	Most of the major ISV's have certified to RHEL 6 or have a 2011 plan	You can migrate or run RHEL 4 (ELS) Virtualization on RHEL 5 or RHEL 6	RHEL 5 is an excellent choice – it is supported on latest hardware through at least 2014	If you need the latest hardware performance, security and virtualization – move to RHEL 6
If you are running Intel® Itanium Systems	Contact your ISV partner	This is an option if you aren't ready to move to RHEL 5	RHEL 5 is your best choice with support up to 2017	Not an option for Intel® Itanium – but you can leverage x86 hardware for more RAS features
If you are running IBM Power® or IBM System Z	Most of our Power and System Z ISV's are moving towards RHEL 6	Sorry, not an option for your environment, support ends 2/29/2012	RHEL 5 is an excellent choice – it is supported on latest hardware through at least 2014	To get the most from Power 7 – you need to move to RHEL 6

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Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 EOL Planning and Considerations

- You can and should only move when you want to
- You can purchase the Extended Life Cycle Support (ELS) Add-On option that provides 3 years of support after End-of-Life (EOL)
  - Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 End-of-Production Support is February 2012
  - If you desire to stay on current release, ELS provides support through February 2015
- Considerations to be mindful of:
  - Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 was specifically designed to optimize "physical" deployments
  - Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 is not available as a virtualization host, but runs well as a guest
    - You can move Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 to a guest on Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 or Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6
    - This configuration is a single system subscription as all new subscriptions include guests
  - Work with your ISVs to be certain you can migrate and to which update they recommend
- More advantageous to upgrade completely to newer releases
  - Take advantage of latest hardware and virtualization capabilities
  - New management, technologies and deployment stacks
  - Realize more scaling, more performance and more flexibility with newer releases
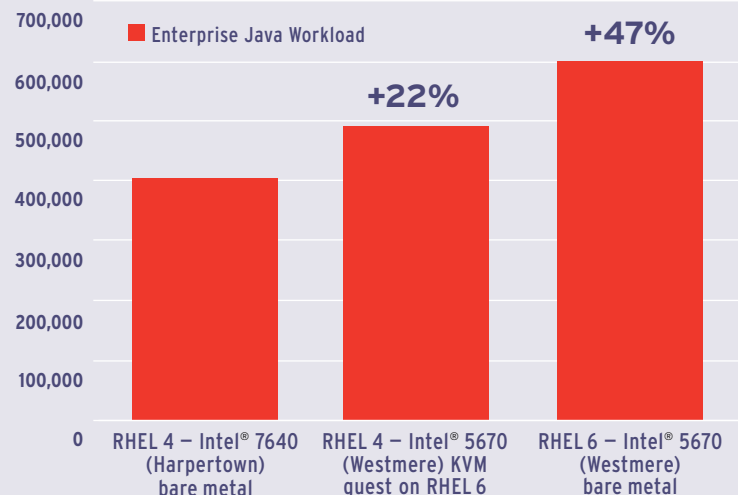
Red Hat Consulting Provides Smooth Migrations

- Red Hat Consulting will help you plan and accelerate a migration strategy that suits your needs
  - Red Hat Consulting services can save you $$ in upgrading your application and your OS
  - Experience in moving versions, platforms and applications

Embrace the Opportunity to Improve Your Data Center Operations

- Lower operational costs and improve responsiveness
- Automate provisioning and track updates with Satellite

RHEL 4 is an excellent guest on RHEL 6

Hardware abstraction to gain performance & flexibility

Bar chart titled "Enterprise Java Workload"

RHEL 4 – Intel® 7640 (Harpertown) bare metal	~430,000
RHEL 4 – Intel® 5670 (Westmere) KVM guest on RHEL 6	~520,000 **+22%**
RHEL 6 – Intel® 5670 (Westmere) bare metal	~630,000 **+47%**

USEFUL REFERENCE LINKS

- Public – ELS: *http://www.redhat.com/rhel/server/extended_lifecycle_support/*
- Public – Red Hat Enterprise Linux: *http://www.redhat.com/rhel*
- Public – Red Hat Public errata: *https://access.redhat.com/support/policy/updates/errata/*
- Public – Red Hat Enterprise Linux Application Compatibility White Paper: *http://www.redhat.com/f/pdf/rhel/RHEL6_App_Compatibility_WP.pdf*

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