



RED HAT ENTERPRISE LINUX AS A WEB SERVER

You're familiar with Red Hat® products that provide general-purpose environments for server-based software applications or desktop/workstation users. But did you know that Red Hat Enterprise Linux® can also be used as a web server?

Web servers are a critical part of every organization's IT infrastructure. Your organization might use web servers to power intranets, portals to internal applications, databases, and files.

Web servers provide front ends to legacy applications and powerful, sophisticated web presences. They provide customers and prospects with information and search results. Make sales and accept payments. Deliver digital products and services. Support customers with access to knowledgebases, downloads, trouble-shooting content, and live support.

A web server based on Red Hat Enterprise Linux allows you to replace older, Microsoft® Windows®-based machines or expensive-to-maintain Unix®/Solaris® systems with new commodity-priced hardware that delivers high reliability, availability, and performance.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux offers out-of-the-box cost-effective solutions to your company's web serving needs, whether you are using low-end servers to repurpose older hardware, building intranet web servers, or deploying high-end, high-performance servers for mission-critical web presence applications.

Linux-based web servers are good candidates for virtualization-based server consolidation. Or deploy smaller, less expensive, highly-reliable web servers to branch and remote locations, providing users with responsive local service. A Red Hat Enterprise Linux web server can be part of scale-out blade or scale-up server consolidation.

A Red Hat Enterprise Linux server can perform other tasks in addition to web file serving. Your server could act as a file and print server, name server, or mail server, depending on system capacity and performance requirements. Red Hat Enterprise Linux-based servers are widely used throughout the world in these capacities. For example, Ticketmaster's website is powered by Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

For companies considering adding or migrating to Linux for reliability, flexibility, cost, and other benefits, a Linux-based web server can act as a starting point. For companies already running Linux workstations, network security, file, print, or other application servers, Linux-based web servers leverage your management tools and staff expertise.

Features

To support your organization's performance needs, Red Hat Enterprise Linux web servers run on a wide range of hardware. The hardware can be an existing machine that is repurposed, a new commodity-based server, or a high-end, high-performance machine.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux contains all the software components needed to function as a web server. This includes the Apache Server (httpd) software: the world's most commonly-used web server platform, providing both secure (HTTPS) and unsecure (HTTP) web connections.

Apache has been the most popular web server package on the Internet for over a decade. Netcraft's November 2005 Web Server Survey shows more than 70% of all websites on the Internet use Apache. Apache is ideal for companies using web design, content, and interactivity tools. Apache supports TomCat, languages like PHP and Perl, and other popular products like Adobe® Macromedia® Flash®. Red Hat Enterprise Linux also ships with related facilities, like the Squid proxy cache (which works with web, FTP, and other services).

In addition, Red Hat Enterprise Linux supports a number of other free and commercial web servers.

Benefits of a Linux-based web server

Linux systems have consistently earned a reputation for being highly stable and reliable. Most of today's gateway and security appliances use Linux, with the expectation that the user will never have to touch the operating system.

The benefits of using Linux include:

Price Scaling.

Linux servers offer low entrance cost in terms of server licenses.

Comparative high performance.

While Windows can be fast, its kernel must be large to provide the variety of services users may want to employ. Linux lets system administrators remove services that aren't needed, which eliminates unproductive loads on the hardware.

Tunable.

Linux allows IT to tune the kernel on each system (or virtual machine) appropriately for the services it will provide. This improves performance, security, and reliability, reducing the ongoing system administration needed.

Easier, more comprehensive maintenance.

Having source code available means your organization can inspect code. Monitoring, debugging and performance tuning are much easier and more effective. And let's not forget troubleshooting.

Since Linux code is open-source, the source code is available to anyone: users, security experts, system/network administrators, and other experts who contribute code improvements, new features, new drivers, and security patches on a regular basis.

Ideal for server consolidation and virtualization.

Running your web servers on Linux lets you consolidate distributed Windows and Windows server workloads. This helps reduce the cost of maintaining and administering systems.

Linux is also a good candidate for server virtualization using server virtualization utilities such as Xen. Virtualization lets you consolidate multiple web servers or a web server and other types of servers on a single, larger machine more securely and with easier, more flexible control over performance allocations.

Benefits of a Red Hat Enterprise Linux web server

Red Hat Enterprise Linux offers numerous benefits for IT departments looking to make use of Linux for their server platform. We provide a framework that is a foundation for IT services, including file, print and web serving, that can be used and moved on a range of operating systems and hardware environments.

Red Hat includes utilities, tools, documentation, support, and other value-added services. Red Hat extensively tests all software included in its Enterprise offering. This testing, bundled with support services, adds value to customers, especially to businesses and other organizations where confidence in service and support is as important as the software itself.

About Red Hat

Founded in 1993, Red Hat is the premier Linux and open source provider. Rated as CIO Insight Magazine's Most Valued Vendor for the second consecutive year, Red Hat maintains the highest value and reliability rankings among its customers, and is the most recognized Linux brand in the world.

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