Open source Linux® is a key platform for modernizing existing applications and creating new ones. As a result, Linux environments are spreading across public and private clouds—and even multiclouds. Managing this environment requires thought, planning, and modernization.

**4 key management practices can help**

### Practice 1
**Improve operational efficiency with modern tooling**

With Linux as a central platform, the right management solutions help teams operate smoothly across more deployments.

- Manage larger implementations with smaller IT teams.
- Help teams understand which areas need attention by using analytical software to identify risks.
- Use common management solutions across hybrid clouds.

### Practice 2
**Focus operations teams on risk identification and resolution**

Abstract and transform rote tasks such as issue identification and resolution.

- Identify operational and vulnerability risks
- Remediate rapidly
- Continuously analyze for new risks

“Organizations must also strive to become proactive rather than reactive so they can move beyond firefighting and triage mode to find and resolve potential issues before they impact business operations.”

### Practice 3
**Continuously analyze for vulnerability and compliance risks**

Gaining visibility into your vulnerability and compliance posture helps teams stay ahead of risks. Understand the risks, then use data to decide on the most important ones to address.

- Use trusted expertise to analyze security risks across hybrid deployments.
- Provide effective IT communication when identifying and resolving issues.
- Meet reporting requirements with less manual effort.

70% of surveyed respondents said security and compliance were reasons to optimize the server operating system.

“IT's important for companies today not only to keep up with security vulnerabilities, but also to harden infrastructure and applications proactively, which helps reduce demands placed upon security teams as well as decrease overall risk.”

### Practice 4
**Gain better ROI through resource efficiency**

While open source software may appear to be free, it requires management resources. These resources can significantly add to the cost of your project. To gain efficiency:

- Look for included Linux management capabilities to operate smoothly and at scale.
- Measure success with quality metrics like uptime and vulnerability avoidance.
- Supplement the expertise of your IT staff using tightly integrated applications.

44% of surveyed organizations view vulnerability assessment as the most critical security element of DevOps workflows.

---