

# MIGRATING FROM WINDOWS TO RED HAT ENTERPRISE LINUX

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent years, Microsoft has announced it will end support for various Windows versions, editions, or service packs. With that end of support, customers will no longer receive security updates, technical support, or application support.

A premier global market intelligence firm noted in February, 2015: “Failure to have a current, supported operating system raises significant concerns about an organization’s ability to meet regulatory compliance requirements, as well as the needs of business units, partners, and customers.”

If your organization is running Windows, now is the time to carefully consider Linux®. If you upgrade to new Microsoft Windows infrastructure, chances are that you will incur significant expenses associated with additional licenses, client access licenses, software licenses, migration, and future maintenance.

Alternatively, you can choose Red Hat® Enterprise Linux, the platform of the future, not the past. According to the Linux Foundation,<sup>1</sup> Linux growth is now outpacing Windows in worldwide server operating environments. A primary reason for this is the capacity for Linux to host new workloads and support innovation. As more companies turn to public cloud, OpenStack®, Linux containers, and other open technologies, more embrace Linux as their enterprise operating system.

## QUALITATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

In the intelligence firm’s recently completed cost and efficiency study of 21 companies around the world, Microsoft Windows workloads were compared to those on Red Hat Enterprise Linux. Red Hat Enterprise Linux beat Microsoft Windows across the board.

## PERFORMANCE

The study found that Red Hat Enterprise Linux averages 118% more users per server than Microsoft Windows. That means Red Hat Enterprise Linux requires less infrastructure, less software, and less maintenance to deliver the same performance to clients, whether they’re internal or external. And that means clients can get their transactions completed faster, get the information they need sooner, and get their jobs done quicker. It also means lower costs. Overall, annual server infrastructure costs on Red Hat Enterprise Linux are 29% lower than on Microsoft Windows.



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<sup>1</sup> *Linux Growth Outpaces Windows*, [linuxfoundation.org/news-media/blogs/browse/2013/03/report-enterprise-linux-growth-outpaces-windows](http://linuxfoundation.org/news-media/blogs/browse/2013/03/report-enterprise-linux-growth-outpaces-windows)



## ABOUT RED HAT

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of open source solutions, using a community-powered approach to provide reliable and high-performing cloud, virtualization, storage, Linux, and middleware technologies. Red Hat also offers award-winning support, training, and consulting services.

Red Hat is an S&P company with more than 80 offices spanning the globe, empowering its customers' businesses.

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## PRODUCTIVITY

The study examined the impact of Red Hat Enterprise Linux and Microsoft Windows platforms on the people who administer them. Researchers evaluated administrative costs across a broad range of IT maintenance and support operations, finding that annual IT staffing costs for Red Hat Enterprise Linux are 41% lower overall than Microsoft Windows costs.

## RELIABILITY

Downtime hours and help desk hours were also assessed. First, they found that Red Hat Enterprise Linux servers run more mission-critical applications: 18% of servers for Red Hat Enterprise Linux versus 13% of servers for Microsoft Windows. And even with the additional burden placed on Red Hat Enterprise Linux, its servers experience less downtime than Microsoft Windows servers and demand fewer help desk hours. Compared to Microsoft Windows, Red Hat Enterprise Linux systems exhibited 35% fewer hours lost to help desk incidents. Productivity losses from system downtime were 64% lower for Red Hat Enterprise Linux servers.

## LOWER TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP (TCO)

The bottom line: Red Hat Enterprise Linux offers lower TCO. Across infrastructure, staffing, and productivity (including downtime and help desk), deploying Red Hat Enterprise Linux reduces TCO by 34% annually compared to Microsoft Windows.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

If you are running Microsoft Windows and are interested in adopting the innovative open technologies of the future, consider migrating to capitalize on all of the advantages of Red Hat Enterprise Linux. Companies moving to Red Hat Enterprise Linux servers achieve significant savings on IT server infrastructure and IT staffing, while boosting reliability and productivity.

Contact your Red Hat representative today and learn how easy it is to move your workloads to Red Hat Enterprise Linux.