

# Self-managed Red Hat OpenShift sizing and subscription guide

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## Introduction

This document will help you understand the subscription model for self-managed [Red Hat® OpenShift®](#) offerings and provide step-by-step instructions for how to approximate the size of an OpenShift environment. More accurate sizing information is available on request.

## Red Hat OpenShift subscription offerings

Red Hat OpenShift provides a consistent application development and management platform across an open hybrid cloud environment, and supports on-premise, virtual, and physical infrastructure, and private cloud, public cloud, and edge deployments. There are two ways to operate and use Red Hat OpenShift: Self-managed OpenShift and fully managed OpenShift cloud services.

**Self-managed OpenShift** allows you to install, operate, and manage Red Hat OpenShift environments with maximum control, flexibility, and customization, so you can operate your own environment starting with the infrastructure. Self-managed OpenShift is supported on-premise on physical servers, virtualization, and in a private cloud environment, as well as in supported public cloud environments. You control upgrades, manage the lower-level infrastructure, and maintain service-level agreements (SLA).

**OpenShift cloud services** are fully managed and operated by Red Hat and its public cloud partners in major public clouds. A dedicated site reliability engineering (SRE) team manages and maintains Red Hat OpenShift core services and infrastructure, allowing your DevSecOps teams to concentrate on developing and deploying new applications and modernizing existing ones.

All editions of OpenShift offer a consistent user experience for developers and operations across every environment, allowing you to transfer your skills and applications to the cloud environments where your applications run best.

### Self-managed OpenShift software offerings:

- ▶ **Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Engine:** A hybrid cloud, enterprise Kubernetes runtime engine that provides core OpenShift functionality to deploy and run applications, which you install and manage in datacenter, public cloud, or edge environments.
- ▶ **Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform:** A hybrid cloud, enterprise Kubernetes platform to build, deploy, and run applications, which you install and manage in datacenter, public cloud, and edge environments.
- ▶ **Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus:** A single hybrid cloud platform that allows enterprises to build, deploy, run, and manage intelligent applications securely at scale across multiple clusters and cloud footprints. Multiple layers of security, manageability, and automation provide consistency throughout the software supply chain.

### OpenShift cloud services offerings:

- ▶ **Red Hat OpenShift Dedicated:** Fully managed Red Hat OpenShift service on Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Google Cloud. [More info including pricing on openshift.com.](#)
- ▶ **Microsoft Azure Red Hat OpenShift:** Fully managed Red Hat OpenShift service on Microsoft Azure, jointly managed by Red Hat and Microsoft. [Read more info.](#)
- ▶ **Red Hat OpenShift Service on AWS:** Fully managed Red Hat OpenShift service on Amazon Web Services, jointly managed by Red Hat and AWS. [Read more info.](#)

- ▶ **Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Service on IBM Cloud:** Fully managed Red Hat OpenShift service on IBM Cloud, jointly managed by Red Hat and IBM. [Read more info.](#)

### Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Engine

Subscription components:

- 1. Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Engine** is the Kubernetes runtime engine and infrastructure, and does not include the developer capabilities and advanced features of OpenShift Container Platform. OpenShift Kubernetes Engine includes the OpenShift Kubernetes distribution, Red Hat Enterprise Linux® and Red Hat Enterprise Linux CoreOS (described later in this detail), and integrated Kubernetes cluster services components that include the OpenShift installer, monitoring, log forwarding, SDN, ingress router, registry, and more. See [About OpenShift Kubernetes Engine](#) in the OpenShift documentation for details.
- 2. Red Hat Enterprise Linux and Red Hat Enterprise Linux CoreOS:** Each OpenShift subscription contains all the software needed for your worker nodes, control plane nodes, and supporting infrastructure nodes. This includes Red Hat Enterprise Linux CoreOS and Red Hat Enterprise Linux software. Red Hat Enterprise Linux CoreOS is required for the OpenShift control plane. Red Hat Enterprise Linux CoreOS is supported for use as a component of OpenShift. OpenShift customers can also choose to use Red Hat Enterprise Linux version 7 or 8 for their OpenShift worker nodes, as an alternative to Red Hat Enterprise Linux CoreOS. Red Hat Enterprise Linux must be installed separately by the customer on those worker nodes. Red Hat Enterprise Linux software is included in OpenShift subscriptions for this purpose. Refer to [the product documentation](#) to determine which version of Red Hat Enterprise Linux is supported with your OpenShift deployment.
- 3. Red Hat OpenShift Virtualization:** Accelerate application delivery with a single platform that can manage virtual machines (VMs) and containers with the same tools and teams. OpenShift Virtualization lets OpenShift manage and consume both containers and VMs with Kubernetes, using KubeVirt. This includes the entitlement to use Red Hat Enterprise Linux as the guest operating system in all the virtual machines hosted on OpenShift.
- 4. Red Hat Application Streams:** OpenShift lets you use the container images provided in Red Hat Application Streams (formerly [Software Collections](#)) that are included with Red Hat Enterprise Linux. These images include popular languages and runtimes—such as PHP, Python, Perl, Node.js, and Ruby—as well as databases, such as MySQL, MariaDB, and Redis. This offering also includes an OpenJDK image for Java™ frameworks. For more information, read [this post on Application Streams](#).

### Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform

Subscription components:

- 1. Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Engine:** Each OpenShift Container Platform subscription includes all of the components of OpenShift Kubernetes Engine as well as additional layered services described later in this detail.
- 2. Red Hat JBoss® Web Server:** OpenShift Container Platform subscriptions include Red Hat JBoss Web Server, an enterprise solution that combines the Apache web server with the Apache Tomcat servlet engine, supported by Red Hat. OpenShift Container Platform includes an unlimited right to use JBoss Web Server. [Learn more about JBoss Web Server.](#)

3. **Red Hat's single sign-on (SSO) technology:** Red Hat provides web SSO and identity federation based on security assertion markup language (SAML) 2.0, OpenID Connect, and Open Authorization (OAuth) 2.0 specifications. This capability, included in OpenShift subscriptions, may only be deployed inside OpenShift environments. Nevertheless, any application—whether deployed inside or outside of OpenShift—may use Red Hat's SSO.
4. **Log management:** Adds support for log aggregation and management via Elasticsearch and Kibana integrated with Fluentd for log collection.
5. **Red Hat CodeReady Workspaces:** A collaborative Kubernetes-native development environment that delivers OpenShift workspaces and an in-browser integrated development environment (IDE).
6. **Red Hat build of Quarkus:** A full-stack, Kubernetes-native Java framework made for Java virtual machines (JVMs) and native compilation, optimizing Java specifically for containers and allowing it to become an effective platform for serverless, cloud, and Kubernetes environments.
7. **Red Hat OpenShift console:** Provides an optimized experience for both developers and administrators. The developer perspective grants visibility into application components, and the administrative perspective allows the user to view the OpenShift and Kubernetes resources.
8. **Red Hat OpenShift Pipelines:** Automate and control application delivery across on-premise and public cloud platforms with Kubernetes-native continuous integration/continuous delivery (CI/CD) pipelines based on Tekton.
9. **Red Hat OpenShift GitOps:** An opinionated workflow integrating git repositories, CI/CD tools, and Kubernetes to realize faster, security-focused, scalable software development, without compromising quality, based on Argo CD.
10. **Red Hat OpenShift Serverless:** Event-driven serverless containers and functions that let you deploy and run serverless containers. Powered by a rich ecosystem of event sources, you can manage serverless apps natively in OpenShift. Based on Knative, OpenShift Serverless allows you to run serverless applications anywhere OpenShift runs.
11. **Red Hat OpenShift Service Mesh:** Red Hat OpenShift Service Mesh provides a uniform way to connect, manage, and observe microservice-based applications, including Istio to manage and secure traffic flow across services, Jaeger for distributed tracing, and Kiali to view configuration and monitor traffic.
12. **Red Hat Insights for OpenShift:** Red Hat Insights for OpenShift is a set of hosted services on cloud.redhat.com, included with a Red Hat subscription, that use configuration and use data sent from your deployments to cloud.redhat.com, along with rule-based analytical models, to help you track and optimize expenses, improve stability, and enhance performance.
13. **IBM Cloud Satellite:** Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform customers who choose to purchase and deploy the IBM Cloud Satellite solution can use their OpenShift node subscription to entitle the customer workload-related Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Service on IBM Cloud clusters located within their datacenter. Customers can call IBM or Red Hat for support, but ultimately the support experience will start with IBM Cloud Satellite support services. This OpenShift subscription usage is only available to customers deploying IBM Cloud Satellite within their datacenter and not in public cloud environments. Cores are counted the same way as explained elsewhere in this detail for normal OpenShift usage.

## Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus

Subscription components:

- 1. Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform:** Each OpenShift Platform Plus subscription includes all of the components of OpenShift Container Platform, as well as additional layered products (listed in a later entry in this detail) to provide multicluster and hybrid cloud management and security at scale.
- 2. Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management for Kubernetes:** Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management for Kubernetes offers end-to-end management visibility and control to manage your cluster and application life cycle, along with security and compliance of your entire OpenShift domain across multiple datacenters and public cloud environments.
- 3. Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security for Kubernetes:** Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security for Kubernetes is the industry's first Kubernetes-native security platform that allows organizations to securely build, deploy, and run cloud-native applications anywhere. Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security for Kubernetes delivers lower operational cost, reduced operational risk, and greater developer productivity through a Kubernetes-native approach that supports built-in security across the entire software development life cycle.
- 4. Red Hat Quay:** Red Hat Quay is a trusted open source registry platform for efficiently managing containerized content across global datacenters, focusing on cloud-native and DevSecOps development models and environments. With its tight integration into OpenShift and long track record of running Quay.io, one of the largest public-registry Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) in the world, Quay gives customers a reliable and scalable place to centrally manage all software artifacts running on their clusters.
- 5. Red Hat OpenShift Data Foundation Essentials:** Red Hat OpenShift Data Foundation provides persistent software-defined file, block, and object storage and data services for applications running on OpenShift and OpenShift infrastructure services. It is integrated with and optimized for Red Hat OpenShift.

## Self-managed OpenShift environments

Self-managed OpenShift (Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus, Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform, and Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Engine) can be used anywhere 64-bit Red Hat Enterprise Linux is certified and supported.

Red Hat OpenShift 4 supports three primary [deployment](#) methods:

- ▶ Platform-specific installer-provisioned infrastructure (IPI). Provides full integration, with underlying infrastructure platforms (listed later in this detail), to automate the cluster provisioning and installation process. The installer provisions all resources necessary for cluster installation and configures integration between the OpenShift cluster and the infrastructure provider.
- ▶ Platform-specific user-provisioned infrastructure (UPI). Depending on the infrastructure platform, a varying amount of integration between OpenShift and the underlying platform is available. The administrator provisions the resources necessary for cluster installation. Depending on the platform, the installer may configure infrastructure integration or the administrator may add integration post-deployment.

- ▶ Platform-agnostic UPI. This deployment type provides no integration with the underlying infrastructure. This install method offers the broadest range of compatibility, but the administrator is responsible for creating and managing cluster infrastructure resources.

For self-managed deployments, OpenShift can be installed on:

- ▶ Bare-metal servers.
- ▶ Virtualized environments, including:
  - ▶ VMware vSphere.
  - ▶ Red Hat Virtualization.
  - ▶ Other certified virtualization platforms. Other [platforms](#) are supported via the platform-agnostic UPI install method.
- ▶ Private cloud environments.
  - ▶ Red Hat OpenStack® Platform.
- ▶ Public cloud environments, including:
  - ▶ Amazon Web Services, Azure, Google Cloud Platform.
  - ▶ Other certified public cloud platforms. Other platforms are supported via the platform-agnostic UPI install method.

For more information about which platforms are supported, visit [the official OpenShift Container Platform documentation](#) page.

Registration for Red Hat Cloud Access is required to use your OpenShift subscriptions on certified public cloud environments. For more information, visit the [Red Hat Cloud Access](#) page.

Find out more about [platforms and cloud environments on which Red Hat OpenShift has been tested and certified](#).

### **Subscription types**

Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus, Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform, and Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Engine subscriptions are available in two options, each with two support levels:

- ▶ Core-based (2 Cores or 4 vCPUs). This is based on the aggregate number of physical cores or virtual cores (vCPUs) across all the OpenShift worker nodes running across all OpenShift clusters. Available with Standard 8x5 or Premium 24x7 support SLA.
- ▶ Bare-metal socket pair (1-2 sockets with up to 64 cores). This subscription is available only for x86 bare-metal physical nodes where OpenShift is installed directly to the hardware, with the exception of IBM Z and Power architectures, which must use core-based subscriptions.

As with Red Hat Enterprise Linux:

- ▶ OpenShift subscriptions (Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus, Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform, and Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Engine) are stackable to cover larger hosts.

- ▶ Core-based subscriptions can be distributed to cover all OpenShift worker nodes across all OpenShift clusters. For example, 100 2-core Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus subscriptions will provide 200 cores (400 vCPUs) that can be used across any number of worker nodes, across all running OpenShift clusters.

### **Disaster recovery**

Red Hat defines three types of disaster recovery (DR) environments—hot, warm, and cold. Paid OpenShift subscriptions are needed for hot DR only.

- ▶ Hot DR systems are defined as fully functional and running concurrently with the production systems. They are ready to immediately receive traffic and take over in the event of a disaster within the primary environment.
- ▶ Warm DR systems are defined as already stocked with hardware representing a reasonable facsimile of that found in the primary site, but containing no customer data. To restore service, the last backups from the off-site storage facility must be delivered and bare metal must be restored before recovery can begin.
- ▶ Cold DR systems are defined as having the infrastructure in place, but not the full technology (hardware, software) needed to restore service.

Hibernating clusters that are not expressly configured and designed for warm or cold DR—such as clusters running on cloud services that are temporarily hibernating owing to lower demand—require subscriptions. When clusters are brought out of hibernation for running workloads, subscriptions are required. Bringing a cluster out of hibernation temporarily for routine maintenance or tests does not require an additional subscription for any of the components in OpenShift software offerings. A subscription is only required if workloads are deployed to the cluster.

For both warm DR and cold DR, Red Hat OpenShift subscriptions can be transferred from the primary environment to the DR environment when the disaster occurs to restore service and maintain compliance with Red Hat’s subscription terms.

### **Migration and swing upgrades**

Red Hat OpenShift 4 provides in-place upgrades between minor versions. Nevertheless, if you are upgrading from Red Hat OpenShift 3 or need to perform a swing upgrade owing to maintenance windows or other considerations, your Red Hat OpenShift subscription will cover both the original and destination infrastructure of a one-way migration until such migration is complete. During the migration, Red Hat’s subscription management tools will show your environment as being out-of-compliance on the basis of the number of OpenShift subscriptions you purchased. Red Hat allows this for major version upgrades and will not require the purchase of additional subscriptions to get back into compliance during the migration. Finally, OpenShift provides tooling to assist in these migrations, along with Red Hat consulting services, if desired. See documentation on [the migration toolkit for containers](#).

### **Cores versus vCPUs and hyperthreading**

Making a determination about whether or not a particular system uses one or more cores currently depends on whether or not that system has hyperthreading available. Note that hyperthreading is only a feature of Intel CPUs—[discover how](#) to determine whether a particular system supports hyperthreading.

For systems where hyperthreading is enabled and where one hyperthread equates to one visible system core, a calculation of cores at a ratio of 2 cores = 4 vCPUs is used.

In other words, a 2-core subscription covers 4 vCPUs in a hyperthreaded system. A large VM may have 8 vCPUs, equating to 4 subscription cores. As subscriptions come in 2-core units, you would need two 2-core subscriptions to cover these 4 cores or 8 vCPUs.

Where hyperthreading is not enabled, and where each visible system core correlates directly to an underlying physical core, a calculation of 2 cores = 2 vCPUs is used.

### **Core Bands**

Red Hat OpenShift subscriptions use a system of measure called Core Bands. That means subscriptions (entitlements to consume OpenShift) are applied and consumed at the OpenShift cluster level and apply to all OpenShift worker nodes on that cluster. If you have multiple OpenShift clusters, you would aggregate the sum of cores consumed by the OpenShift worker nodes across all clusters to determine how many subscriptions are needed. For example, if you have 100 2-core Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform subscriptions, a total of 200 cores (400 vCPUs with hyperthreading) are available to be applied to the OpenShift worker nodes across all running OpenShift clusters.

### **Bare-metal server considerations**

A physical server can be entitled using either core-based (2 core/4 vCPU) or socket-based (1-2 socket) OpenShift subscriptions. If core-based subscriptions are used, stack a sufficient number of them to cover the total number of physical cores in the server.

In addition to core-based subscriptions, Red Hat also offers OpenShift socket-based subscriptions. For certain deployment types, this is a more economical option. The socket-based subscriptions are limited to entitling an x86 server with up to 2 sockets with a total of 64 cores across them. The socket-based subscriptions are currently available for x86 servers only and not for the IBM Z or Power architectures.

To entitle a physical server, stack one or more subscriptions to cover either the total number of sockets or physical cores in it (whichever is greater). For example, a server has 2 sockets and 48 cores. One subscription is needed because the server has 2 sockets and less than 64 cores, while a server with 2 sockets and 96 cores would need two subscriptions. Two subscriptions are needed to cover 96 cores because a single subscription covers a maximum of 64 cores.

Bare-metal socket-pair subscriptions also come with infrastructure subscriptions for the control plane and infrastructure. The best practice would be for these to be bare-metal physical servers that take advantage of our infrastructure automation that works in homogeneous clusters. You have the option to use a separate virtualized server as the control plane (creating a “mixed” cluster), but if you do so, you must use the more manual agnostic installer method, and will not be able to take advantage of the infrastructure automation that is possible with an all-bare-metal cluster (i.e., all bare-metal worker and infrastructure nodes).

Finally, use of the bare-metal socket-pair subscriptions does not change the limitation of the number of containers per node (currently 250–500). Each physical bare-metal server is a single node, and cannot use virtualization to carve it into a larger number of smaller nodes (for this you would need to use the core-based subscriptions). This means that the bare-metal socket-pair model is best suited for resource intensive workloads like OpenShift Virtualization (where each workload is running a full virtual machine) or AI/ML (where each workload consumes a large amount of CPU and GPU).

### **Alternative architectures (IBM Z, Power)**

Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform can also run on IBM Z and IBM LinuxONE systems and on IBM Power Systems for customers using these platforms as the standard for building and deploying cloud-native applications and microservices. Only the core-based subscription model is supported for IBM Z and IBM Power.

For IBM Z customers, Red Hat OpenShift does not require the entire physical node to be entitled, only the cores used by OpenShift. IBM Z customers know this as “subcapacity” entitlement. Customers using only a subset of the available cores (compute capacity) on their IBM Z environment for OpenShift Container Platform only require subscriptions for the subset that is used for the compute nodes. This applies regardless of how CPU partitioning is achieved, whether by CPU pooling, capping, separate logical partitions (LPARs), or other means.

For IBM Z systems, one Integrated Facility for Linux (IFL) requires one OpenShift core-based subscription. It is also allowable to have no partitioning, in that case an arbitrary three IFLs will be counted as control plane IFLs and the remaining IFLs count as compute nodes for each OpenShift cluster instance, except when used with three-node compact cluster deployments.

Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus components beyond OpenShift Container Platform are not supported on IBM Z and IBM LinuxONE systems or on IBM Power Systems at this time, with the following exceptions:

- ▶ A standalone subscription of Red Hat Quay running on x86 architectures provides a global registry for multiple architectures, including IBM Z and IBM Power clusters. Red Hat Quay itself will not run on IBM Z or Power.
- ▶ Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management for Kubernetes can be installed on IBM Z or IBM Power environments and manage Red Hat OpenShift nodes running on IBM Z or IBM Power environments.
- ▶ Red Hat OpenShift Data Foundation fully supports installation on IBM Z or IBM Power.

Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Engine is not supported on IBM Z and IBM LinuxONE systems, nor on IBM Power Systems.

### **Microsoft Windows Server containers support**

Self-managed Red Hat OpenShift supports Windows containers. Support is limited to a subset of installation infrastructures and OpenShift features. Windows containers are only supported on Microsoft Windows Server-based worker nodes. The control and infrastructure planes of the OpenShift environment must be running on x86 infrastructure using Red Hat Enterprise Linux or Red Hat Enterprise Linux CoreOS. For this reason, Windows container support is sold as a standalone subscription priced by core.

Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus and Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform infrastructure can be used to deploy and manage Windows worker nodes, but Windows Container support for Red Hat OpenShift subscriptions must be purchased separately.

Note that this separate subscription requirement does not apply to containers added through the [Bring Your Own Host Support for Windows nodes](#) capabilities.

Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management for Kubernetes and Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security for Kubernetes are not supported for managing Windows nodes, but Red Hat Quay running on x86 architectures can manage container images for Windows container worker nodes.

### Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus component support

The components of the Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus subscription have different levels of support for alternative (non-x86) architectures and for Windows. Table 1 provides an overview of that support.

**Table 1: Overview of Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus support**

Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus Component	IBM System Z		IBM Power		Windows containers	
	Installs on	Manages to	Installs on	Manages to	Installs on	Manages to
Red Hat OpenShift	<b>Yes</b> , infrastructure, control, and workers		<b>Yes</b> , infrastructure, control, and workers		<b>Workers only</b> (with separate subscription and Windows license)	
Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management for Kubernetes	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	No	No
Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security for Kubernetes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Red Hat OpenShift Data Foundation	Yes	<b>Yes</b>	Yes	<b>Yes</b>	No	<b>No</b>
Red Hat Quay	No	<b>Yes</b>	No	<b>Yes</b>	No	<b>Yes</b>

For more details, see the compatibility matrices for [Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform](#), [Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management](#), [Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security](#), [Red Hat Quay](#) and [Red Hat OpenShift Data Foundation](#).

Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus includes additional software beyond the core OpenShift Container Platform to help you manage and secure your OpenShift environment at scale across multiple clusters and multiple clouds. Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus is available both in the core-based and bare-metal socket-pair subscription models with the previously mentioned limitations.

The additional software included with Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus is generally limited to managing the nodes entitled with OpenShift Platform Plus subscriptions. For example, the subscription for Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management included with OpenShift Platform Plus can be used to

manage any OpenShift Platform Plus nodes and clusters. Customers wishing to also manage some Red Hat OpenShift services on AWS clusters would need to purchase additional Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management add-on licenses to cover those clusters.

The additional software subscriptions are also inseparable from the OpenShift Platform Plus subscription. For example, you cannot purchase 100 OpenShift Platform Plus subscriptions, install 200 cores of Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform subscriptions, and separately use Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management to manage 200 cores of Azure Red Hat OpenShift with the same subscription. The additional software can only be used to manage the same 200 cores on which the core OpenShift Platform Plus software is installed.

Specific rules for each layered product are:

- ▶ **Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management for Kubernetes:** OpenShift Platform Plus subscription allows you to install as many Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management central instances as needed to manage your environment, and covers the management of all nodes and clusters entitled with OpenShift Platform Plus, including control plane and infrastructure nodes. If you wish to manage nodes and clusters without OpenShift Platform Plus entitlements (for example, if you also have self-managed OpenShift Container Platform or Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Engine entitled clusters, clusters running in a fully managed OpenShift cloud, or third-party Kubernetes environments supported by Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management), then you need to purchase Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management add-on subscriptions to cover those environments. You can choose to manage them centrally from the Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management console installed on OpenShift Platform Plus, or from a separate central application if that meets your requirement. [Learn more about Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management licenses, Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management supported environments, and Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management best practices.](#)
- ▶ **Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security for Kubernetes:** The OpenShift Platform Plus subscription allows you to install as many Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security central applications as needed to manage your environment, and covers the management of all nodes and clusters entitled with OpenShift Platform Plus, including control plane and infrastructure nodes. If you want to manage nodes and clusters without OpenShift Platform Plus entitlements (for example, if you also have self-managed OpenShift Container Platform or OpenShift Kubernetes Engine entitled clusters, clusters running in a fully managed Red Hat OpenShift cloud, or third-party Kubernetes environments supported by Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security) you need to purchase Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security add-on subscriptions to cover those environments. Red Hat's suggested practice is to manage each environment with a separate Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security central application. [Learn more about Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security supported environments.](#)
- ▶ **Red Hat Quay:** The OpenShift Platform Plus subscription allows you to install Red Hat Quay on any cluster that has an OpenShift Platform Plus entitlement. There is no limit on the number of Quay deployments you can install on your OpenShift Platform Plus clusters. Quay can then serve any supported Kubernetes environment you wish, including the OpenShift Platform Plus environment, other self-managed OpenShift clusters, managed OpenShift services, and supported third-party Kubernetes. If you wish to install Quay in a non-OpenShift Platform Plus environment, you will need to purchase a separate Red Hat Quay subscription. Red Hat Quay is also available as a fully managed [SaaS offering](#).

- ▶ Red Hat Data Foundation. The OpenShift Platform Plus subscription allows you to install Red Hat Data Foundation Essentials on any cluster that has an OpenShift Platform Plus entitlement. The Red Hat Data Foundation entitlement is limited to the features available in Essentials, and to 256TB of data storage per OpenShift cluster. You can choose to extend functionality and capacity through additional subscriptions, detailed in the [Red Hat OpenShift Data Foundation planning guide](#).

### Self-managed Red Hat OpenShift sizing

To conduct a more thorough sizing exercise to determine how many self-managed OpenShift (Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus, Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform, or Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Engine) or add-on subscriptions you need, use the following questions and examples.

A few basic OpenShift terms are used in these sizing exercises:

- ▶ **Pod:** The smallest deployable Kubernetes unit in OpenShift. A Kubernetes pod instance could have a single container or multiple containers running as sidecars.
- ▶ **Application instance:** An “application” may be a single-pod instance or may be deployed across multiple-pod instances that make up an application service. For example, a highly available Tomcat application service may consist of two or more Tomcat pods.
- ▶ **Worker node:** Instances (VMs or bare-metal hosts) of Red Hat Enterprise Linux or Red Hat Enterprise Linux CoreOS where end-user application pods run. OpenShift environments can have many worker nodes.
- ▶ **Control plane nodes:** Instances (VMs or bare-metal hosts) of Red Hat Enterprise Linux CoreOS that act as the Kubernetes orchestration/management layer for OpenShift. Control plane nodes are included in self-managed OpenShift subscriptions. See the Red Hat OpenShift control plane and infrastructure nodes section for more details.
- ▶ **Infrastructure nodes:** Instances (virtual or physical hosts) of Red Hat Enterprise Linux or Red Hat Enterprise Linux CoreOS that are running pods supporting OpenShift’s cluster infrastructure or running the HAProxy-based load balancer for ingress traffic. Infrastructure nodes are included in self-managed OpenShift subscriptions. See the Red Hat OpenShift control plane and infrastructure nodes section below for more details.
- ▶ **Cluster:** An OpenShift Kubernetes cluster consisting of a control plane and one or more worker nodes.

In summary:

- ▶ Applications are packaged in container images.
- ▶ Containers are deployed as pods.
- ▶ Pods run on Kubernetes worker nodes, which are managed by the Kubernetes control plane nodes.

### Red Hat OpenShift control plane and infrastructure nodes

Each self-managed Red Hat OpenShift subscription provides extra entitlements for Red Hat OpenShift, Red Hat Enterprise Linux, and other OpenShift-related components. These extra entitlements are included for running OpenShift control plane and infrastructure nodes.

Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus subscriptions include the management of these control plane and infrastructure nodes by Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security for Kubernetes and Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management for Kubernetes.

### **Infrastructure nodes**

The OpenShift installer deploys a highly available OpenShift control plane composed of three control plane nodes, in addition to OpenShift worker nodes, to run end-user applications. By default, Kubernetes control plane components (e.g., API server, etcd, scheduler) and supporting cluster services (e.g., monitoring, registry) will be deployed on the OpenShift control plane nodes. However, you may decide to move some of these supporting cluster services to dedicated infrastructure nodes.

To qualify as an infrastructure node and use the included entitlement, only components that are supporting the cluster, and not part of an end-user application, may be running on those instances. Examples include:

- ▶ OpenShift registry.
- ▶ OpenShift Ingress Router (local and global/multicluster ingress).
- ▶ OpenShift monitoring.
- ▶ OpenShift log management.
- ▶ HAProxy-based instances used for cluster ingress.
- ▶ Red Hat Quay.
- ▶ Red Hat OpenShift Data Foundation (previously Red Hat OpenShift Container Storage).
- ▶ Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management for Kubernetes.
- ▶ Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security for Kubernetes.
- ▶ Red Hat OpenShift GitOps.
- ▶ Red Hat OpenShift Pipelines.

You may deploy and run custom and third-party agents and tools for monitoring, log data collection and forwarding, hardware drivers, infrastructure integration such as virtualization agents, etc., to infrastructure nodes without disqualifying the node for infrastructure licensing. However, this is limited only to agents and related components, including controller pods for operators and does not include the custom or third-party software suite. Examples of non-Red Hat software that qualify as infrastructure workload include:

- ▶ Custom and third-party monitoring agents.
- ▶ Container network interface (CNI) and container storage interface (CSI) drivers and controllers (plug-ins).
- ▶ Hardware or virtualization enablement accelerators.
- ▶ Controller pods used for Kubernetes CRD or Operators (custom or third-party software).

No other end-user application instances or types may be run on an infrastructure node using the included entitlement. To run other infrastructure workloads as application instances on Red Hat OpenShift, you must run those instances on regular application nodes. You can verify with Red Hat whether an app or service qualifies as an infrastructure workload.

### **Additional approved usage of the infrastructure node**

As end users increase their usage of Red Hat OpenShift, they may begin using some of the more sophisticated application deployment patterns. As a result, they may need to add additional software components to the platform. As a general principle, Red Hat OpenShift subscriptions are based on the total capacity of the Red Hat OpenShift worker nodes that are required to run the application workloads and supporting application services deployed to those worker nodes. Red Hat OpenShift control plane nodes and components that are used to augment the capabilities of the platform, or its ability to deploy application workloads, can run on Red Hat OpenShift control plane nodes or additional infrastructure nodes that users may configure that do not require an entitlement. Where applicable, end users can use infrastructure nodes without disqualifying the node for infrastructure licensing to house these software components. Examples may include:

- ▶ CNI and CSI drivers and controllers (also known as plug-ins).
- ▶ Hardware or virtualization enablement accelerators (related to the Special Resource Operator or Node Feature Discovery operator).
- ▶ Cloud or virtualization agents.

### **Third-party management and monitoring products**

Sometimes you may not want to use the Red Hat-provided monitoring and management features to manage Red Hat OpenShift, such as cluster monitoring, cluster logging, advanced cluster management, advanced cluster security. Or, you may want to augment these management features with additional solutions. In these instances, Red Hat allows the software components of those solutions (regardless of whether they are custom or purchased from a third-party vendor) to use the infrastructure label within Red Hat OpenShift so they do not incur the use of worker-node-cores counts for their framework's load. These software solutions can be related to several use cases from monitoring, alerting, security scanning, configuration management, and other Day 2 management tasks of Red Hat OpenShift. They must be exclusively used for the management and monitoring of Red Hat OpenShift and not end-user applications running on the platform.

No other end-user applications may be run on an infrastructure node that falls outside of the descriptions put forth in this section. If you need to, you can verify your software's infrastructure node status qualifications with [Red Hat Technical Support](#).

### **Control plane nodes**

OpenShift Kubernetes control plane nodes generally are not used as worker nodes, and by default, will not run application instances. However, you may choose to use a control plane node as a node for hosting end-user applications. Whether a control plane node requires a full OpenShift subscription depends on whether it runs supporting OpenShift cluster components only or end-user applications. See the Infrastructure nodes section.

In a compact 3-node cluster, end-user application workloads are run on the control plane nodes. There is no special pricing for this, and you would count the cores on the three nodes regardless of the role they play.

### **Bootstrap container registry for mirroring OpenShift container images**

The mirror registry for OpenShift is a Quay entitlement for the single purpose of easing the process of mirroring content required for bootstrapping disconnected OpenShift clusters and is included as part of the OpenShift subscription. This is a limited support entitlement for a minimal Quay deployment created by a specific installer, which allows you to run a Quay registry on a pre-provisioned and customer-managed Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 host.

Note: You are permitted to use Quay as a registry mirror limited to the purpose of mirroring the OpenShift release payload, OperatorHub content, sample Operator images, and Cinnati graph image.

The mirror registry for OpenShift is not intended to be a general-purpose registry working at arbitrary scale. Nonetheless, a limited set of custom images is permitted to be stored there, which contains required auxiliary software-like agents. These agents must be scoped only to the node level and not provide external-facing application services themselves, and end users may not interact with them directly. Examples of these may include:

- ▶ Monitoring agents.
- ▶ CNI/CSI providers.
- ▶ Hardware or virtualization enablement agents.
- ▶ Operators supporting ISV services.
- ▶ Custom Operators as deployment controllers.

### **Example of initial self-managed Red Hat OpenShift deployment**

The following example bill of materials provides an extremely flexible, scalable Red Hat OpenShift environment designed to run as VMs and support hundreds of application containers:

- ▶ **16 x OpenShift Platform Plus, 2-Core Premium subscriptions**, including:
  - ▶ Control plane nodes (3 VMs).
  - ▶ Additional infrastructure nodes (3 VMs).
  - ▶ Worker nodes (16 VMs sized at 2 cores or 4 vCPUs).
  - ▶ Multicluster management, advanced observability, and policy compliance.
  - ▶ Declarative security and active threat detection and response.
  - ▶ Scalable global container registry.
  - ▶ Persistent Storage for applications and OpenShift infrastructure services

Optional:

- ▶ **16 x Red Hat OpenShift Data Foundation Advanced**: Adds enhanced scalability, granular encryption, disaster recovery functionality, data security, and resilient block and file for file, block, and object storage services for workloads deployed inside Red Hat OpenShift as well as OpenShift infrastructure services. This is an optional add-on for customers running stateful applications that require persistent storage, or who want to build and operate a dedicated external storage cluster

shared by multiple OpenShift clusters. Red Hat OpenShift Data Foundation Advanced is also available as part of a bundle called *Red Hat OpenShift Platform Plus with Red Hat OpenShift Data Foundation Advanced*.

Red Hat offers many additional application services and runtimes that have their own subscription and consumption models.

### **Sizing process**

Red Hat OpenShift subscriptions do not limit application instances. You can run as many application instances in the Red Hat OpenShift environment as the underlying hardware and infrastructure will support. Larger-capacity hardware can run many application instances on a small number of hosts, while smaller-capacity hardware will require many hosts to run many application instances. The primary factor in determining the size of an OpenShift environment is how many pods, or application instances, will be running at any given time.

#### **Step 1: Determine standard VM or hardware cores and memory**

You may have a standard VM size for application instances or, if you typically deploy on bare metal, a standard server configuration. The following questions will help you more accurately understand your VM and hardware needs. Remember that, in most cases, two vCPUs are equivalent to one core.

**Table 2: VM and hardware sizing questions**

<b>Relevant questions</b>	<b>Example answers</b>
What is the memory capacity of the VMs you will use for nodes?	Our VMs have 64GB of memory and 4 vCPUs and hyperthreading is used.
What is the number of vCPUs for the VMs you will use for nodes?	
Is hyperthreading in use?	

#### **Step 2: Calculate number of application instances needed**

Next, determine how many application instances, or pods, you plan to deploy. When sizing the environment, any application component deployed on Red Hat OpenShift—such as a database, front-end static server, or message broker instance—is considered an application instance.

This figure can be an approximation to help you calculate a gross estimate of your Red Hat OpenShift environment size. CPU, memory oversubscription, quotas and limits, and other features can be used to further refine this estimate.

**Table 3: VM and hardware sizing questions**

Relevant questions	Example answers
How many application instances do you anticipate deploying in each Red Hat OpenShift environment?	We have around 1,250 application instances in our development environment and around 250 application instances in production.
What type of applications are they (e.g., language, framework, database)?	We mainly deploy Java but have some Microsoft .NET Core and Ruby applications as well. We also use a lot of MySQL.

**Step 3: Determine preferred maximum OpenShift node utilization**

We recommend reserving some space in case of increased demand, especially if autoscaling is enabled for workloads. Your preferred utilization will vary on the basis of historical load for the applications that will run on OpenShift.

**Table 4: Preferred maximum OpenShift node utilization questions**

Relevant questions	Example answers
How much space do I want to reserve for increased demand?	We want to run nodes at a maximum average of 80% of total capacity (leaving 20% in reserve).

**Step 4: Determine total memory footprint**

Next, calculate the total memory footprint of the deployed applications. If you are considering a completely greenfield environment, memory use data may not be available, but you can use educated approximations—for example, 1GB of memory per Java application instance—to make an estimate.

**Table 5: OpenShift memory footprint questions**

Relevant questions	Example answers
What is the average memory footprint of applications?	Our application instances use 2GB of memory or less.  OR  We typically allocate 2GB for JVM heap.

**Step 5: Calculate totals**

Finally, determine the number of OpenShift subscriptions needed on the basis of the data gathered in steps 1-4.

- ▶ Effective per-node memory capacity (GB)  
= Preferred maximum OpenShift node utilization (%) \* standard VM or hardware memory
- ▶ Total memory utilization  
= Application instances \* average application memory footprint

- ▶ Number of nodes required to cover utilization  
= Total memory utilization / standard VM or hardware memory
- ▶ Total required cores  
= Number of nodes required to cover utilization \* standard VM or hardware cores
- ▶ Effective virtual cores  
= Total required cores / 2
- ▶ Number of OpenShift Platform Plus subscriptions<sup>1</sup>  
= Total cores / 2 OR  
= Effective virtual cores / 2

### Example calculation for virtualized environments

System sizing (from steps 1-5)

- ▶ Standard number of VM cores = 4 (hyperthreading used, 2 effective virtual cores)
- ▶ Standard VM memory = 64GB
- ▶ Preferred maximum node utilization = 80%
- ▶ Average application memory footprint = 2GB
- ▶ Number of application instances = 1500

Subscription calculations

- ▶ Effective node memory capacity  
= 80% preferred maximum node utilization \* 64GB standard VM memory  
= 51GB
- ▶ Total memory utilization  
= 1500 application instances \* 2GB average application memory footprint  
= 3000GB
- ▶ Nodes required to cover utilization  
= 3000GB total memory utilization / 51GB effective node memory capacity  
= 59 nodes
- ▶ Total cores  
= 59 nodes required \* 2 cores per node  
= 118 total cores
- ▶ Total subscriptions  
= 118 total cores / 2 cores per subscription  
= **59 subscriptions**

In this example, 59 2-core OpenShift Platform Plus 2-core subscriptions would be needed.

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<sup>1</sup> If hyperthreading is in use, 2 virtual cores count only as 1 core of a subscription. See the section on Cores versus vCPUs and hyperthreading for details on whether to use effective or actual cores in this calculation.

**Notes:** Red Hat OpenShift supports many scalability, overcommitment, idling, and resource quota/limiting features. The previous calculations are guidelines, and you may be able to tune your actual environment for better resource use or smaller total environment size. OpenShift Platform Plus customers should take into account the needs of the additional software applications (Red Hat Advanced Cluster Management, Red Hat Advanced Cluster Security, and Quay) including storage and compute resources, even though they may not require additional worker subscriptions.

If working with a third-party reseller, please refer to their specific terms and agreements for Red Hat products and services.



### About Red Hat

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of enterprise open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to deliver reliable and high-performing Linux, hybrid cloud, container, and Kubernetes technologies. Red Hat helps customers develop cloud-native applications, integrate existing and new IT applications, and automate and manage complex environments. [A trusted adviser to the Fortune 500](#), Red Hat provides [award-winning](#) support, training, and consulting services that bring the benefits of open innovation to any industry. Red Hat is a connective hub in a global network of enterprises, partners, and communities, helping organizations grow, transform, and prepare for the digital future.

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**North America**  
 1 888 REDHAT1

**Europe, Middle East,  
and Africa**  
 00800 7334 2835  
[europa@redhat.com](mailto:europa@redhat.com)

**Asia Pacific**  
 +65 6490 4200  
[apac@redhat.com](mailto:apac@redhat.com)

**Latin America**  
 +54 11 4329 7300  
[info-latam@redhat.com](mailto:info-latam@redhat.com)

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