Improve IT efficiency with a standardized operating environment

In today's digital businesses, IT organizations are expected to deliver more services at a faster pace than ever before. However, an IT infrastructure built on multiple operating systems creates complexity that can delay provisioning, increase downtime, and create security and compliance risks.

Follow these 10 steps to implement a standardized operating environment that can simplify your IT infrastructure to improve efficiency, reduce costs, increase uptime, accelerate deployment and provisioning, boost security, and improve IT productivity.

1 Simplify to improve efficiency and productivity

The goal of standardization is to increase consistency and reduce complexity. Making your IT infrastructure less complex allows you to develop a single, standard set of operating procedures to streamline operations and improve productivity.

2 Document continuously

Documentation provides a critical record of how your IT infrastructure works. A poor understanding of infrastructure can cause outages and failed migrations while significantly delaying repairs. Standardization greatly simplifies the documentation needed for your organization.

3 Balance standardization with flexibility

DIT flexibility is essential to meeting demands for new services. While there are many benefits to standardizing your IT infrastructure, too much standardization can impede flexibility and agility. Finding the right balance requires careful analysis to develop a reasonable number of core configurations.

4 Automate your infrastructure

Automating administrative tasks reduces the time and effort needed to provision new resources and services and requires fewer IT staff to manage your infrastructure. As a result, organizations see faster rollout of new applications, fewer security and compliance risks, reduced costs, and more time for innovation.

5 Embrace new technology as appropriate

As technology changes, it's important for your IT organization to keep up to stay competitive. Thoroughly assessing new technology offerings will help you determine whether they meet your organization's needs.

6 Contain configuration drift

Configuration drift occurs when procedures and standards are not followed or properly implemented. A standardized operating environment relies on consistency and helps you contain drift by enforcing configuration policies across your infrastructure.

7 Concentrate on services, not servers

Your infrastructure should be built to deliver services. Building a standardized operating environment focused on services boosts user satisfaction while helping you become more competitive and prepare for the future.

8 Scale dynamically to meet changing demands

Static infrastructures cannot keep up with high demands, but over-provisioning capacity to meet peak demand can deplete your budget. A standardized operating environment lets you dynamically scale infrastructure resources, letting you maintain a smaller, more efficient infrastructure while trimming expenses.

9 Be ready for failures

By designing and implementing resilient services, you can mitigate infrastructure failures. Running resilient services on a standardized operating environment gives you even more protection. Greater system consistency and reduced complexity reduces the risk of operational and security issues.

10 Boost security with a layered approach

Layering security throughout your infrastructure can increase its resistance to breaches. A standardized operating environment simplifies protection by requiring fewer system variations, giving you more control over your environment and keeping systems up to date with the latest security patches.

Standardization is the future of efficient, effective IT. A standardized operating environment lets you simplify and modernize your infrastructure, empowering you to realize reduced costs, higher uptime, and improved flexibility, security, and productivity. A complete open, integrated, and enterprise-grade software solution from Red Hat is an ideal foundation for your standardized operating environment.

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