

The Business Value of Red Hat Enterprise Linux for Google Cloud



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Business Value Highlights

305% three-year ROI

59% potential adverse events prevented due to proactive alerts

98% reduction in mean time to detect

76% reduction in mean time to recovery

37% faster time to market

47% more efficient developer teams

Executive Summary

Organizations spend years building layers of operational capability on top of their enterprise Linux environments, including life-cycle management, security response workflows, compliance frameworks, patching disciplines, and developer toolchains. That accumulated capability makes an enterprise Linux estate a platform, not just

an operating system. When these organizations adopt Google Cloud, with its own infrastructure patterns, automation models, and approach to scaling compute, the strategic question is whether the platform investment they've built carries forward into that environment or fragments across it.

This study examines that question for organizations running Red Hat Enterprise Linux on Google Cloud, measuring outcomes across infrastructure operations, security, application development, and business results against each organization's prior environment.

Based on interviews with seven global enterprises, IDC found that the combined use of RHEL and Google Cloud delivers substantial business value across infrastructure operations, security, development, and business outcomes. Organizations achieved an average 305% three-year ROI with an eight-month payback period, compared to their prior environments, which were characterized by fragmented operating system standards, manual provisioning processes, and a mix of on-premises and cloud infrastructure. Improvements in infrastructure efficiency, provisioning speed, security operations, and developer productivity were the main drivers of these returns.

The results demonstrate that RHEL serves as a governance and stability layer that allows organizations to scale cloud environments with confidence. By maintaining a consistent OS baseline across hybrid and multi-cloud deployments, organizations reduced operational fragmentation, improved life-cycle predictability, and strengthened audit readiness. At the same time, Google Cloud's elasticity enabled faster provisioning, greater scalability, and accelerated delivery of digital and AI-driven services.

Operationally, organizations experienced significant efficiency gains. Infrastructure teams reduced time spent on routine provisioning and maintenance tasks, allowing them to focus on higher-value initiatives such as AI deployment, digital service expansion, and modernization programs. Security teams benefited from improved visibility and automation, with faster detection and remediation of vulnerabilities and a shift toward proactive risk management. Developer teams also saw meaningful improvements, with more consistent environments enabling faster deployment cycles and increased release frequency.

Importantly, these benefits were not achieved by sacrificing control for speed. Instead, organizations described a model of "controlled acceleration," where standardized OS governance enabled faster innovation while maintaining compliance and operational discipline. This combination of stability and scalability proved essential for supporting mission-critical workloads, including financial systems, customer-facing applications, and AI-driven analytics platforms.

RHEL for Google Cloud created value for organizations by:

- **Accelerating infrastructure and application delivery** through dramatically faster provisioning and deployment cycles
- **Improving security posture and resilience** with faster detection and remediation and proactive risk prevention
- **Enhancing infrastructure and operational efficiency** by reducing routine support effort and optimizing resource utilization
- **Increasing developer productivity and release velocity** through consistent environments and streamlined DevOps processes
- **Enabling scalable innovation under governance** by maintaining compliance, life-cycle control, and audit readiness while expanding cloud and AI workloads

[Read the full white paper →](#)