Red Hat

4 ways to kickstart your Red Hat Enterprise Linux subscription

Now that you have a Red Hat® Enterprise Linux® subscription, what should you do next? Read this checklist to discover 4 important next steps to help you get up and running and make the most of your subscription.

1 Register your systems

Registration creates an authorized connection between your system and Red Hat, which supports features and capabilities such as software updates, security patches, and support.

To start, look at your subscription documentation to determine which subscriptions you have access to, then select the most appropriate registration method.

Juggling multiple subscriptions, software installations, and systems across physical, virtual, and cloud environments can add complexity. Red Hat offers additional tooling to streamline the subscription experience. Before registering your systems, review the following information and read about key tools to help you simplify ongoing subscription management:

▸ **Red Hat accounts:** Ensure your subscriptions and systems are linked to the correct accounts.

▸ **Simple content access:** Help streamline the "register and run" experience by eliminating complex system-level subscription attachments.

▸ **Subscriptions service:** Gain an account-level view of your current and past subscription usage.

▸ **System purpose attributes:** Match your subscriptions with details of how they are used. This enriches subscription data and helps you understand overall subscription utilization across your account.

2 Maximize your subscription benefits

Once your systems are registered, you can start exploring some of the valuable benefits and resources your Red Hat subscription offers:

▸ **Centralized management:** Red Hat Hybrid Cloud Console provides a centralized view of your registered systems and subscriptions, and helps manage them across your entire environment.

▸ **Support services:** Your Red Hat Enterprise Linux subscription includes various services designed to help you get the most out of your products, such as access to Red Hat's technical support team and the latest certified software packages, bug fixes, and security updates through Red Hat repositories.

▸ **System optimization:** Red Hat Insights is a built-in tool that proactively monitors the health and performance of your systems. By analyzing system data, Insights identifies potential issues and provides recommendations to help you prevent outages and optimize your systems.

▸ **Large-scale subscription management:** If you manage a large number of Red Hat systems across your organization, consider adding a subscription for Red Hat Satellite. It provides features for automating system registration, configuring and managing subscriptions, and simplifying content lifecycle management for software updates.

3   Boost your knowledge with training and support

Your Red Hat Enterprise Linux subscription provides more than software access—it also unlocks a comprehensive support system that can boost your success, including resources such as:

▸ **Red Hat Customer Portal:** Find answers to your questions about Red Hat Enterprise Linux in a collection of helpful articles, troubleshooting guides, and FAQs. Your subscription provides access to incident support, videos, and certified consultants.

▸ **Red Hat Enterprise Linux Blog:** Stay up-to-date on the latest news about Red Hat Enterprise Linux, plus learn proven practices from insightful articles by Red Hat developers.

▸ **Red Hat Learning Community:** Connect with a global network of users, share knowledge, and get expert advice in the Red Hat Learning Community forums.

▸ **Red Hat services and support:** Red Hat offers additional services to help you maximize your investment—consider consulting, learning subscriptions, and technical account management.

4   Master the lifecycle

Red Hat's products have long lifecycles, which can help you plan your IT initiatives. Knowing what to expect can reduce costs and uncertainty.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux typically has a 10-year lifecycle that is divided into 3 phases. These phases (and the services included) differ slightly depending on which version of Red Hat Enterprise Linux you are using, but generally comprise the following:

▸ **Full support phase (5 to 6 years):** During this initial phase, Red Hat provides customers with access to all software updates, including security fixes, bug fixes, and new features. Minor releases are typically provided every 6 months during this phase.

▸ **Maintenance support phase (4 to 5 years):** After 5 years, Red Hat provides security fixes for critical and important vulnerabilities. Bug fixes are provided on a limited basis. New features and hardware enablement are no longer available during this phase.

▸ **Extended life phase:** After year 10, Red Hat provides customers with continued access to previously released software updates. However, Red Hat no longer provides new updates, including security fixes or bug fixes. Customers can purchase annual add-on subscriptions called Extended Life Cycle Support (ELS) to extend limited subscription services.

Take advantage of your benefits

Visit the Red Hat Customer Portal to start taking advantage of your Red Hat Enterprise Linux subscription benefits.

About Red Hat

Red Hat helps customers standardize across environments, develop cloud-native applications, and integrate, automate, secure, and manage complex environments with award-winning support, training, and consulting services.

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