



Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS: Meeting government standards

Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS Awarded COE certification

Executive Summary

Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS has reached a critical milestone for broad-based Federal deployment. It has been awarded Common Operating Environment (COE) certification by the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). After the fast rise of Linux use for tactical computing requirements, Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS is now the first version of Linux to be certified as a mainstream mission-critical federal operating system.

U.S. Federal government's rigorous standards deliver agencies assurances for software quality, security, interoperability, application portability and investment protection. Red Hat is committed to meet these standards and ensure ubiquitous availability of its solutions for the federal market. The era of strategic Linux deployment has clearly arrived.

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Introduction

"The Air Force's Electronics Systems Command (ESC) applauds adoption of industry-driven standards, such as the Linux Standards Base for its DoD DII COE program. DoD now can achieve the required level of conformance so vital to joint warfare by embracing the self-governance standards created by the Linux community. This will allow the DoD to remain current with commercial technology innovations while using the self-governance model of the Linux community.

The combination of GNOME 1.4 and Open Motif 2.1 provides a framework for creating extensible user interfaces and screen management while providing a migration path for porting existing Motif Unix applications to the DII COE compliant Linux Solution. The Red Hat Advanced Server 2.1 running on IBM based Intel servers will deliver enterprise capability, proven stability, and flexibility required for C2 systems deployed world-wide. In particular the New Tactical Forecast Systems being developed by ESC will be able to field as planned."

*-- Matt Mlezivz, Program Director
Defense Information Infrastructure,
United States Air Force*

The Defense Department Certification is widely recognized within the U.S. Federal Government as one of the most rigorous computing certifications to obtain. Their goal is to assure the highest levels of security, standards conformance, and interoperability for government agencies. Because of the certification, the Department of Defense can now choose Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS, confident that DISA's stringent standards have been met.

Fiscally responsible federal agencies can now deploy mission-critical performance and security at better pricing. Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS provides a standards-compliant alternative to the expense of Unix and performance in areas where Microsoft is clearly not a viable platform.

This paper provides an overview of the COE certification and key enterprise advantages of Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS.

DISA COE-KPC: The Federal portability, interoperability, and security standard

DISA is responsible for Command, Control, Computers, Communications, and Information (C4I) systems that support the entire military chain of command. Under this charter DISA runs the Defense Information Infrastructure (DII) COE Kernel Platform Compliance (KPC) program. All operating systems must be COE compliant to be fielded in Department of Defense Command and Control (C2), combat support, and intelligence systems environments.

In addition to price/performance, reliability and flexibility advantages associated with running Linux, COE-certified, Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS provides agencies and programs:

- Adoption of Open Standards: Adoption of Linux Standard Base (LSB) ensures future version compatibility for Linux deployments.
- Software Quality: The LSB Application Binary Interface (ABI) level enhances software development quality and reliability.

- Legacy Support: GNU Network Object Model Environment (GNOME) and Open Motif provide for extensible user interfaces and management, as well as a migration path for porting existing Motif Unix applications to Linux.
- Interoperability: enables seamless data interchange.
- Security: offers security features and configuration checks.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS: Enterprise Linux

"This effort is a key component of DOD's strategy to partner with industry"

-- Rob Walker, COE/NESC Program Manager Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)

With Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS it is possible to migrate complex implementations that previously relied on enterprise-class application and infrastructure support from top software vendors. With COE compliance, Red Hat Enterprise AS assures government agencies of the highest levels of interoperability, and therefore they can deploy mission-critical computing platform at a significantly lower cost while still preserving existing investments. Key features include:

"We are pleased to have Linux vendors with platforms that have successfully completed the Kernel Platform Compliance Program,"

-- Fritz Schulz, Defense Information Systems Agency, KPC Program.

- Linux Innovation: Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS is a fully open source platform, incorporating innovations and best practices from a large community of contributors including many federal agencies.
- Enterprise Class: beyond traditional Linux usability, Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS offers true mission-critical stability and performance. This enterprise-class reliability is the product of an extensive six-month testing and beta cycle, involving enterprise customers as well as hardware and software partners.
- Performance: offers high-availability clustering and extensive kernel enhancements to improve performance and scalability of Symmetric Multi-Processor (SMP) and large memory deployments. Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS offers market-leading performance benchmarks:
 - TPC-C (X86 and Itanium 2)
 - TPC-R
 - ECperf
 - Oracle Applications Standards Benchmark

- **Security:** In an Internet-connected world, keeping systems up to date is critical to keeping systems secure. So are vendor trust and accountability. Red Hat's development process compiles open source software, performs an extensive QA process and regular security audits. Red Hat continually assess threats and vulnerabilities that affect users, making sure flaws are corrected quickly--and also provides a single point of contact for security issues and patches. And Red Hat Network makes it easy to keep systems current by back-porting of security patches and automatic updates.
- **Application Options:** Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS has gain widespread ISV support from enterprise-class software companies, including IBM, Oracle, Computer Associates, Novell, BMC, Legato, Borland, VERITAS, and Check-Point.
- **24x7 Service:** responsive to deployment requirements through one-year standard product support and access to the Red Hat Network. Customers can select various Service Level Agreements (SLAs) providing for one-hour response, 24x7.

Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS: Eclipsing the Competition

The COE-compliant Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS out performs traditional operating systems. Key platform benefits include:

- **Price/Performance:** Recent comparison studies of Oracle on Unix and Linux reveal that Linux on Intel processor-based solutions obtain up to 50% cost savings over organizations with a proprietary Unix environment.
- **Security:** driven by the open source "meritocracy" code development, peer review, and back port fix models, Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS offers a better model for creating and maintaining secure software. It has forced Microsoft to its 'Shared Source' initiative, which only delivers part of the open source benefits.
- **Investment Protection:** partnerships with all the major hardware platform providers, including IBM, HP-Compaq, Dell, and Intel ensure that today's decision to deploy on Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS is a sound long-term investment.

- Expand Capacity: COE compliance means expanded capacity can be deployed at a significantly lower cost. Thus, agencies can lower cost of ownership while preserving existing investments.

Commitment to Standards: Mandate for the Enterprise Architecture

Open standards play a critical role in today's computing architecture and Red Hat recognizes its responsibility to achieve certification against the U.S. Federal government's rigorous standards requirements. COE is an important step. Red Hat will continue to invest in development and standards testing/compliance initiatives. Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS is approved to support mission-critical deployments across the DoD today which is a testament to its enterprise capabilities to all Federal agencies. Red Hat is committed to driving the standards process to ensure new levels of price/performance and ubiquitous computing availability.

Summary

As the first and only COE-certified Linux distribution, Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS opens a new era of strategic enterprise-class Linux solutions. Price, performance, flexibility, functionality, security, dependability, and investment protection make Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS the logical choice for a fiscally responsible public sector.

To learn more about COE-certified Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS, call (866) 273-3428 x45909 or visit

www.redhat.com/explore/government

Resources

Learn more about Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS and other Red Hat products and services by visiting the Red Hat Information Center www.redhat.com/info , an extensive resource for white papers, webcasts, and case studies.