

RHEL 9 New Features

What's new?

Mike Pagan Sr. Solutions Architect



Key New Features in RHEL 9

Detailed Discussion in Subsequent Slides

- Developer
- Security
- Automation & Management
- Containers
- Performance
- Identity Management
- RHEL for Edge
- RHEL in the Cloud



RHEL 9 for Developers

RHEL 9.0

RHEL 9.later

NEW in RHEL 9	Maven 3.6 LLVM Toolset in DevTools 2021.4 nginx 1.20 in RHEL8 AppStream Add PHP 8.0 to RHEL9 AppStream Ruby 3.0	java-17-openjdk for RHEL 9 Updates to performance tools and debuggers Perl 5.32 glibc 2.32+ GCC 11 will be system compiler in RHEL9 Rust Toolset in DevTools 2021.4 Go Toolset in DevTools 2021.4	
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Providing developers with the language, library, & tool versions they require



RHEL 9 Automation

RHEL 9 and RHEL 8

NEW in RHEL 9

- New role for web console deployment and configuration
- Enhancements to existing roles and expand support to include RHEL 9
- Module for managing the Redfish management interface
- · New firewall system role
- · HA Cluster role improvements

RHEL 9 only

- · Integration with Ansible Execution Environments
- · New role for Subscription Management
- · Enhancements for tlog (session recording) role
- Enhancements to SQL Server role for Availability Groups support
- Enhancements to SQL Server role for AD authentication support
- Additional System Roles



RHEL 9 Automation and Management Features

New in RHEL 9	GA Postfix RHEL System Role Storage system role LVM VDO support and Percentage-based volume sizes Image Builder multi-version support Simple RHEL graphical performance analysis experience System Role for VPN
New in RHEL 9 and Supported in RHEL 8.x	Superior SQL Server user experience for RH Insights Automation for hardware management interfaces in redhat.rhel_mgmt collection Storage system role LVM VDO support and Percentage-based volume sizes RHEL System Role for MS SQL GA Postfix RHEL System Role System Role for VPN Image based RHEL deployments on bare metal Image Builder multi-version support Image Builder Support for flexible filesystem layouts Image Builder builds images for Google Cloud



RHEL 9 Security Features

New in RHEL 9 only	Release RHEL-9 with OpenSSL 3.0 Continuous support of compliance profiles in next major version (RHEL 9) Disable Root Password Login in SSH SHA-1 deprecation and removal from RHEL Allow Smart Card authentication for SUDO and SSH from Cockpit SELinux performance improvements One safe way of disabling SELinux (Integrity Measurement Architecture) IMA
New in RHEL 9 and Supported in RHEL 8.x	Introduce ACSC Information Security Manual (ISM) compliance profile Web Console can manage Kernel Live Patching (kpatch)* Verify Signatures of Container Images by Default Network Time Security (NTS) for NTP



RHEL 9 Container Features

New in 9	Test Beta UBI9 container base images Check out UBI8 based containers on RHEL 9 Beta Better Delegation of Resource Constraints with Containers (cgroup v2) Native Overlayfs as a Rootless User Verify Signatures of Container Images by Default
New in RHEL 9 and Supported in RHEL 8.x	Updated container-tools:rhel8 for RHEL 8.5.0 Containerized Podman Generally Available Native Overlayfs as a Rootless User Better Delegation of Resource Constraints with Containers (cgroup v2) Verify Signatures of Container Images by Default



RHEL 9 Performance Tuning & Monitoring Features

New in RHEL 9	Targeting Kernel 5.14 PCP and Grafana analysis tools Enable link time optimization (LTO) by default for building packages across the RHEL 9 distribution
Existing RHEL 8 features enhanced in RHEL 9	eBPF Web console performance metrics Simple RHEL graphical performance analysis experience Update PCP and Grafana analysis tools with bugfixes and new features for RHEL 8.5



RHEL 9 Identity Management Features

New in RHEL 9	SSSD health analyser
New in both RHEL 9 and RHEL 8	RHEL 8 - use of system role for ease of setup and integration across multiple RHEL major releases (and AD integration)



RHEL 9 for Edge Features

New in RHEL 9	lightweight UI Integrity Measurement and Attestation			
New in both RHEL 9 and RHEL 8.x	Existing Edge features			



RHEL 9 for Public Cloud Features

New in RHEL 9	RHEL 9 Imagebuilder support
New in both RHEL 9 and RHEL 8.5	Cloud provider marketplace images at GA



RHEL 9 Additional Features

Further topics

RHEL HA
RHEL for SQLserver enhancements
RHEL for SAP enhancements
RHEL for Real Time enhancements
Smart NIC/FPGA support
Virtualization
Smart Management
Satellite





RHEL 8 Features

Reasons to upgrade from RHEL 6 and 7

Mike Pagan Sr. Solutions Architect



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	RHEL 6	RHEL 7	RHEL 8
KERNEL VERSION	2.6+	3.10+	4.18+
SYSTEM COMPILER	GCC 4.4+	GCC 4.8+	GCC 8.2, LLVM 6.0
HARDWARE ARCHITECTURES	Intel/AMD 64-bit, IBM Power BE, IBM z Systems	Intel/AMD 64-bit, IBM Power LE, IBM z Systems, ARM 64-bit	Intel/AMD 64-bit, IBM Power LE, IBM z Systems, ARM 64-bit
SERVICES MGMT	init	systemd	systemd
DEFAULT FILE SYSTEM	ext4	XFS	XFS
PACKAGE MANAGEMENT	Yum	Yum	Yum v4
TIME SYNCHRONIZATIO N	ntp	ntp	Chrony
NETWORKING	ifcfg	NetworkManager	NetworkManager

RHEL 6, 7 and 8 Feature Table

	RHEL 6	RHEL 7	RHEL 8
CONTAINER ENGINE	Docker 1.13	Docker 1.13, Podman	podman
fIREWALL	iptables	lptables + firewalld	Nftables + firewalld
DEV TOOLS	Software Collections (SCL)	Software Collections (SCL)	AppStreams
IN_PLACE UPGRADE	No	Yes	Yes (LEAPP)
IMAGE BUILDER	No	No	Yes
ANSIBLE SYSTEM ROLES	No	Yes	Yes
UNIFIED FILESYSTEM MGMT	No	No	Stratis



	RHEL 6, 7 and 8 Feature Table				
	RHEL 6	RHEL 7	RHEL 8		
HA CLUSTERING	Corosync	Pacemaker	Pacemaker		
DEBUGGING	Systemtap	Systemtap	ebpf		
TERMINAL SESSION RECORDING	No	No	Yes		
STORAGE ENCRYPTION	LUKS 1.0	LUKS 1.0	LUKS 2.0		
NBDE SUPPORT	No	Yes	Yes		
ROLLBACK	No	Relax and Recover (ReAR) with thinsnapshot	Relax and Recover (ReAR)		

RHEL 6, 7 and 8 Feature Table					
	RHEL 6	RHEL 7	RHEL 8		
GUI MANAGEMENT	None	Web Console	Web Console		
PERFORMANCE	Good	Good	Better		
End of Life	Nov. 2020	June 2024	May 2029		
Extended Lifecycle Support end date	June 2024	TBD	TBD		
Bug fixes?	No	Yes	Yes		
New Feature Enablement?	No	No	Yes		
Critical Security patches?	Yes (requires ELS)	Yes	Yes		

RHEL 6, 7 and 8 Feature Table				
	RHEL 6	RHEL 7	RHEL 8	
Enhance container security: udica	No	No	Yes (RHEL 8.2)	
Enhanced container portability: CRIU	No	No	Yes (RHEL 8.2)	
Containerized container tools	No	No	Yes (RHEL 8.2)	
Cgroups v2	No	No	Yes (RHEL 8.2)	

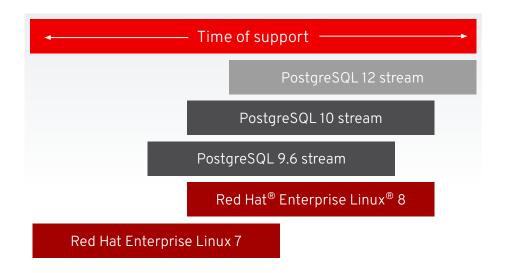


RHEL 6, 7 and 8 Ecosystem				
	RHEL 6	RHEL 7	RHEL 8	
nVIDIA DGX SUPPORT	No	Yes	Yes, + precompiled libraries	
OPENSHIFT SUPPORT	3.x	3.x, 4.x worker node	3.X, \$.x	
CoreOS Support	no	No	Yes	
MICROSOFT SQLSERVER	No	Yes	Yes	



SUPPORT

New Feature (RHEL 8): Application streams



More choice

Offers versions of the open source tools and frameworks developers need

Newer versions

Provides access to newer versions as they stabilize

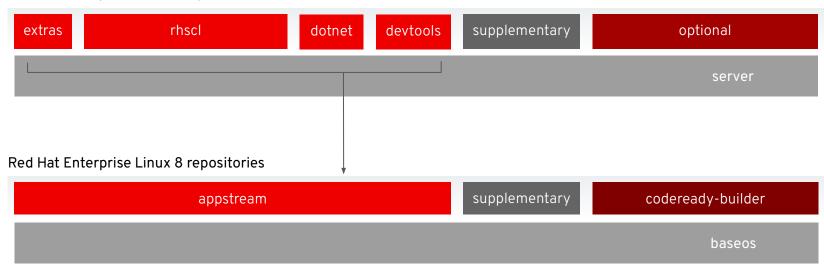
Simpler access

Maintains standard locations for tools and libraries



App Streams (RHEL 8): Simplified access to software

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7 repositories





Application Compatibility Resource (in-house applications)

Red Hat API & ABI Compatibility Guarantee:

- API and ABI compatibility is guaranteed between minor releases
- ...but not for "blacklisted" APIs (very few of these)
- API and ABI compatibility is NOT guaranteed between major releases
- See compatibility checklists linked below

RHEL 6 → RHEL 7 API and ABI compatibility checklist

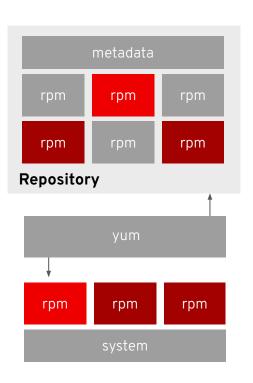
https://access.redhat.com/articles/rhel-abi-compatibility

RHEL 7→ RHEL 8 API and ABI compatibility checklist

https://access.redhat.com/articles/rhel8-abi-compatibility



New Feature (RHEL 8): yum version 4



New technology

Maintains the same experience while adding new tools

Better dependency management

Offers faster resolution and easier minimization of what's installed

Stable API

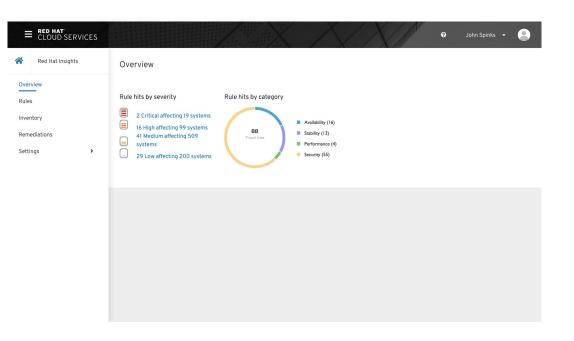
Provides new application programming interface (API) for extending yum that will progress into the future

Lighter Weight

Enables smaller (<40 MB) system images



New Feature: Detect and fix issues with **Red Hat Insights**



Proactive advice

Identification of issues before they become problems

Continuous assessment

Real-world results to help find new risks

Simpler remediations

Tailored results at the host level

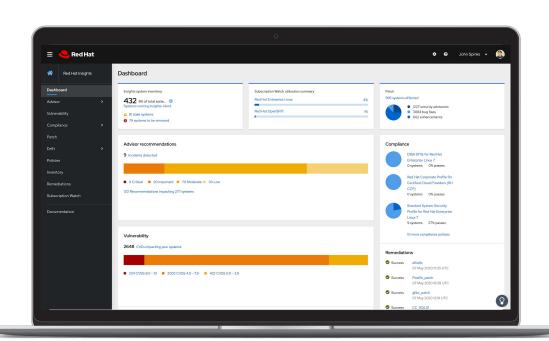


New and improved Red Hat Insights

Still included with Red Hat Enterprise Linux subscription, now with more value

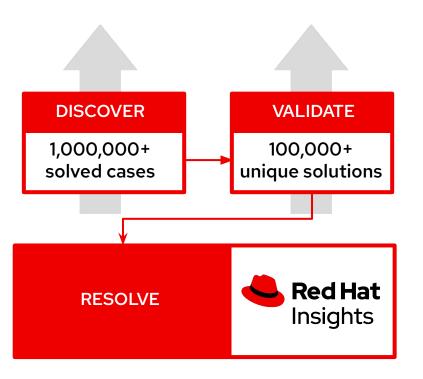
New and expanded services provide additional security and operational efficiency.

*Active RHEL subscriptions versions 6.4 & higher





Value of experience



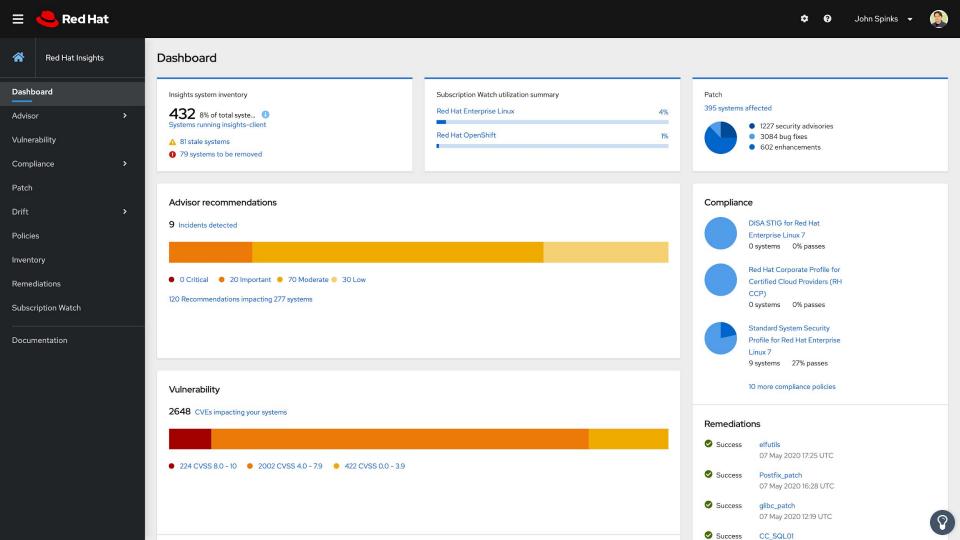
"85% of critical issues raised to Red Hat[®] support are already known to Red Hat or our partners."

- RED HAT GLOBAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Continuous identification of new risks driven by unique industry data

Based on real-world results from millions of enterprise deployments





Overview of expanded Red Hat Insights services



Advisor

Availability, performance, and stability risk analysis



Drift

Create baselines and compare system profiles



Vulnerability

Assess, remediate and report on Red Hat Enterprise Linux Common Vulnerability and Exposures (CVEs)



Policies

Define and monitor against your own policies to identify misalignment



Compliance

Assess and monitor regulatory compliance, built on OpenSCAP



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Subscription Watch

Track progress of your Red Hat subscription usage efficiently and confidently.



Patch

Analyze for Red Hat product advisory applicability to stay up to date



Expanded Red Hat Insights Services



Advisor

Availability, performance, stability, and security risk analysis



Vulnerability

Assess Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVEs) with advisories



Compliance

Assess and monitor compliance, built on OpenSCAP



Subscriptions

Track progress of your Red Hat subscription usage efficiently and confidently



Drift

Create baselines and compare system profiles



Policies

Define and monitor against your own policies to identify misalignment



Patch

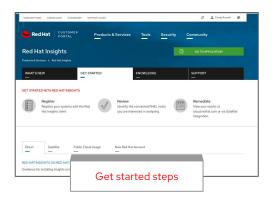
Analyze for Red Hat product advisory applicability to stay up to date



Three steps to advanced RHEL management

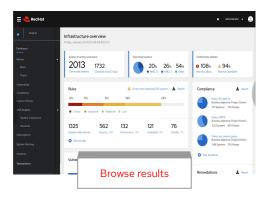
Register

Install client for Red Hat instances on-premises, virtual, cloud.



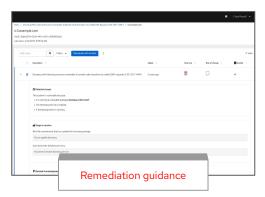
Review

Insights client runs and issues found are reported in the Insights dashboard at cloud.redhat.com



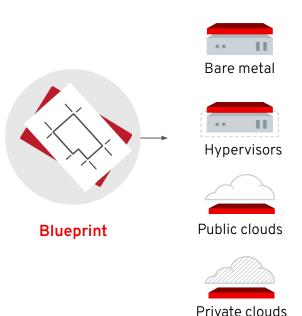
Remediate

Review issues and results in the dashboard and choose which you would like to remediate. Leverage guidance, and remediation options.





New Feature (RHEL 7 & 8): Create images for all your environments with **image builder**



Single source

Lets you create gold images for any environment from the same blueprint increasing stability and consistency

Any footprint

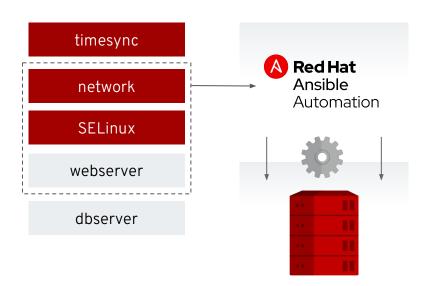
Supports public cloud, private cloud, enterprise hypervisors, and bare metal

Simple interface

Provides web-based view within the web console for selecting packages and creating blueprints



New Feature (RHEL 7 & 8): Speed automation creation with **system roles**



Common automation

Manage multiple versions of Red Hat Enterprise Linux from a single role

Reduced rework

Import provided roles to eliminate task creation in playbooks

Easy switching of providers

Change between default and optional tools quickly and safely



RHEL System Role List

New in RHEL 8.3

- certificates
- kernel_settings
- logging
- metrics
- NBDE_client
- NBDE_server
- tlog

Fully Supported in RHEL 8.2 & earlier

- kdump
- postfix
- network
- selinux
- storage
- timesync

in package rhel-system-roles-sap.noarch from RHEL for SAP offering

- sap-hana-preconfigure
- sap-netweaver-preconfigure
- sap-preconfigure

New Feature (RHEL 8): Optimized experiences for mission-critical databases

Microsoft SQL Server

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux is the reference platform for SQL Server on Linux
- Benchmark-breaking performance
- Fast deployment and portability via containers

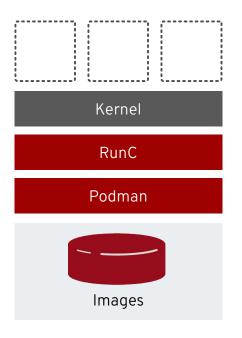


- Red Hat Enterprise Linux is 1 of only 2 certified Linux distributions
- More than 20 years of Red Hat and SAP joint engineering collaboration
- Exceptional performance and scalability
 —the largest SAP install in the world runs
 on Red Hat Enterprise Linux



New Feature (RHEL 7 & 8): Manage containers with

Podman



Fast and lightweight

No daemons required

Advanced namespace isolation

Rootless operations for container run and build

Open standards compliant

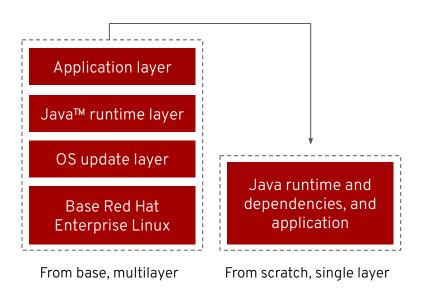
Creates and maintains any standard Open Containers Initiative (OCI) -compliant containers and pods

No root privileges required

Greater security



Create images with Buildah



More control

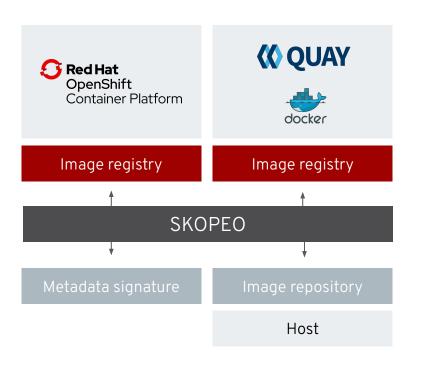
Scriptable tooling for fine-grained image control, and maximum control starting from base or scratch images

Minimization of images

Elimination of unneeded dependencies by using host-based tools



Inspect and transport images with Skopeo



Inspect images remotely

Examine image metadata without needing to download

Publish and transfer images

Copy images from registries to hosts or directly between registries

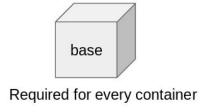
Sign and verify images

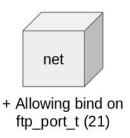
Supports GPG key signing on publish

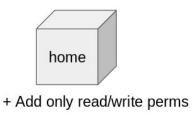


New Feature (RHEL 8.2): **udica**: a new container tool for security

- Craft an SELinux Policy for specific containers
- Manage access to host system resources (logs, network components, files, etc.)
- Reduce risk from processes 'breaking out' of a container









New Feature (RHEL 8.2): **CRIU** container tool for portability

Checkpoint

a container, including it's current state

Restore

that container to the same or different host

In Userspace

userspace tools are used to perform these operations

Why?

- Migrate containers, complete with preserve state, to different hosts
- Drastically reduce container start time
- □ Supported in RHEL 8.2 (Tech Preview in previous releases)



New Feature (RHEL 8.2): Containerized container tools



Containerized Container Tools [Tech Preview]

Available with 8.2:

- buildah
- skopeo

On the roadmap:

podman

Helping the non-Red Hat container tool developer work with Red Hat native containers



New Feature in RHEL 8.2: Improved cgroups

cgroupsv2

Advanced Memory Controller

Hard and soft memory registrations

Adjust or disable swap

Unified Hierarchy

Controllers now align to groups rather than groups being subjugated to controllers

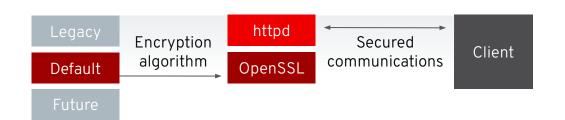
systemd Integration

systemd can now utilize all controllers when defining a cgroup for a service

More details and examples from Marc Richter's blog: World domination with cgroups in RHEL 8: welcome cgroups v2!



New Feature (RHEL 8): Configuring system wide cryptographic policies



Central configuration

Set acceptable algorithms from a single tool

Improved consistency

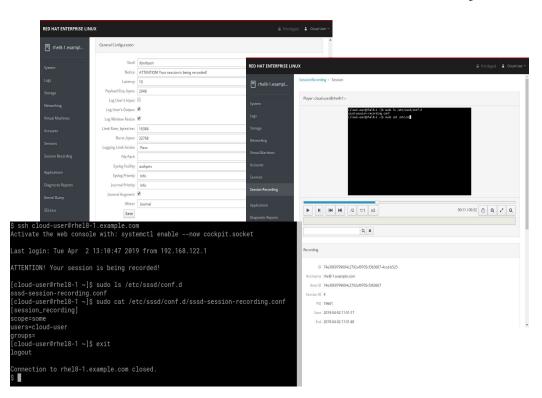
Covers multiple cryptographic providers and consumers like TLS, kerberos, and Java

Built-in policies

Including legacy systems requiring 64-bit security and FIPS allowed or approved algorithms



New Feature (RHEL 8): Recording user terminal sessions



Audit activities

Create a record of actions taken for review against security policies

Create visual guides

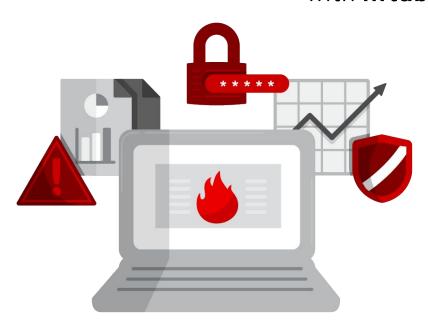
Build run books and training materials with demonstrations

Record and play back

Logged via standard channels with multiple playback options



New Feature (RHEL 8): Improved firewall management with **nftables**



Consolidated filtering

Supports IPv4, IPv6, ARP, and Bridge filtering in a single tool

Simpler rule creation

Multiple matches and actions reduce the number of rules required

Improved tracing

Provides easier debugging and verification of actions taken on any packet



Using **nftables vs. iptables**

Userspace compatibility tools

- p(6)tables-translate (it's useful)
- ip(6)tables-compat (deprecated)
- iptables-apply
- xtables-monitor
- nfbpf compile

Similarities

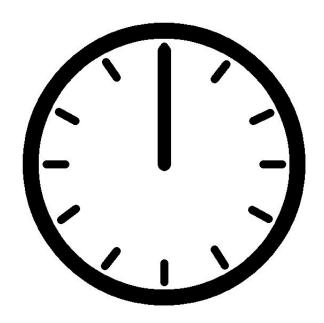
- Use netfilter framework, such as hooks and nomenclature (e.g. tables, chains, ...)
- reuse connection tracking and NAT parts

Differences

- Kernel: nftables provides a network-specific Virtual Machine (VM)
- Userspace: ip(6)tables, ebtables, arptables, ipset -> nftables
- Userspace: iptables-restore, iptables-save -> nft -f [rulefile], nft
 list ruleset > [rulefile]



New Feature (RHEL 8): Modernized time sync with chrony



Full client-side compatibility

For client-side configuration, chrony reads and understands existing ntp files

Server-side compatibility

Configuration details here: https://access.redhat.com/documentatio n/en-us/red_hat_enterprise_linux/7/htm l/system_administrators_guide/ch-confi guring ntp using the chrony suite



Chrony vs. NTP What Chrony does better

- chrony can perform usefully with intermittent access to time reference sources
- chrony can usually synchronise the clock faster and with better time accuracy.
- chrony better adapts to sudden changes in the rate of the clock
- chrony can perform well even when the network is congested for longer periods of time.
- chrony in the default configuration never steps the time to not upset other running programs.
- chrony can adjust the rate of the clock in a larger range, which allows it to operate even on machines with broken or unstable clock (e.g. in some virtual machines).
- chrony is smaller, it uses less memory and it wakes up the CPU only when necessary, which is better for power saving.

Chrony vs. NTP

What Chrony does that NTP can't

- chrony supports the Network Time Security (NTS) authentication mechanism.
- chrony supports hardware timestamping on Linux, which allows an extremely stable and accurate synchronisation in local network.
- chrony provides support for isolated networks whether the only method of time correction is manual entry (e.g. by the administrator looking at a clock), chrony can look at the errors corrected at different updates to work out the rate at which the computer gains or loses time, and use this estimate to trim the computer clock subsequently.
- chrony provides support to work out the gain or loss rate of the real-time clock, i.e. the clock that maintains the time when the computer is turned off. It can use this data when the system boots to set the system time from a corrected version of the real-time clock. These real-time clock facilities are only available on Linux, so far.

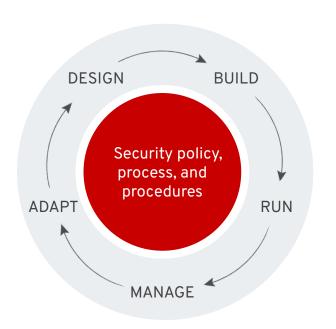


Chrony vs. NTP What NTP does that Chrony can't

- ntp supports all operating modes from RFC 5905, including broadcast, multicast, and manycast server/client. However, the broadcast and multicast modes are inherently less accurate and less secure (even with authentication) than the ordinary server/client mode, and should generally be avoided.
- ntp supports the Autokey protocol (RFC 5906) to authenticate servers with public-key cryptography. Note that **the protocol has been shown to be insecure** and has been obsoleted by NTS (RFC 8915).
- ntp has been ported to more operating systems.
- ntp includes a large number of drivers for various hardware reference clocks. chrony requires other programs (e.g. gpsd or ntp-refclock) to provide reference time via the SHM or SOCK interface.



Improved **Security** (ongoing, RHEL 7 & 8)



Latest protocol support

Including TLS 1.3 via OpenSSL 1.1.1

Hardened code

Including PIE and RELRO binaries and code analysis in our pipelines

Integrated identity management

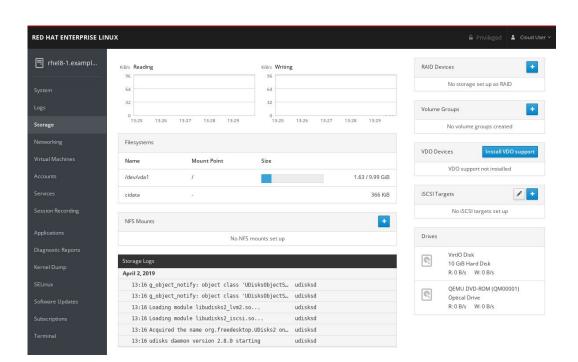
As a stand-alone provider or trusted member of an Active Directory, with expanded integrations to tools like the web console

Updated tools

Including the LUKS v2 on-disk format for encryption



Remote single-system views in the web console



Browser-based interface

Offers remotely accessible user interface using host security mechanisms

Consolidated view

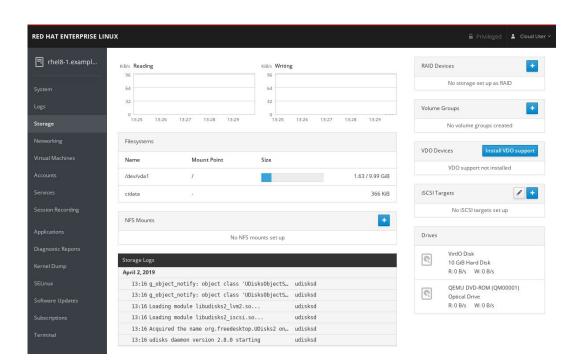
Provides single view of tasks to speed understanding and completion

Standard management tools

Uses system tools to change state, not a separate workflow



New in the web console



Virtual machines

Create and manage virtual machines

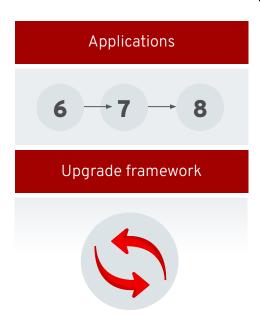
Network-bound disk encryption Enroll disks with Tang server and

manage LUKS keys

Single sign-on configuration Automatically configure when joining a domain



New Feature (RHEL 7 & 8): **In-place upgrades** for your systems



Reduced migrations

Analyze systems to determine if upgrading in place can avoid a costly migration

Easy rollback options

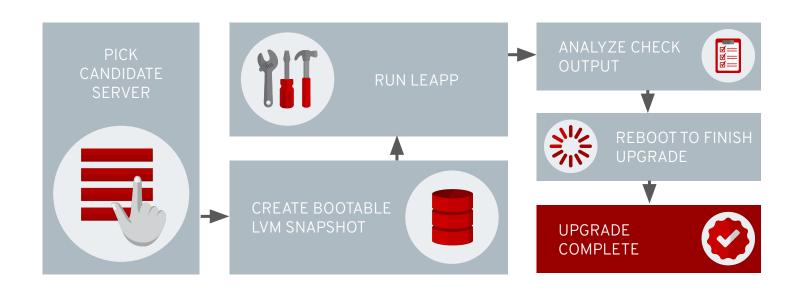
Combine with bootable LVM snapshots for safety

Improved framework

Get better analysis and a simplified process with a more extensible framework

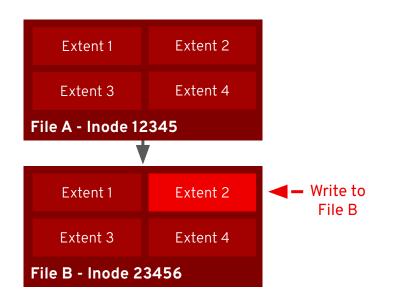


Can I upgrade this host?





Now Included (RHEL 7 & 8): **Fast file copy with XFS** shared data extents



Filesystem level copy-on-write

XFS creates new extents when data is changed in a copy without additional application integrations

Separate metadata

Copies have unique file system metadata allowing for owner, group, and permission changes

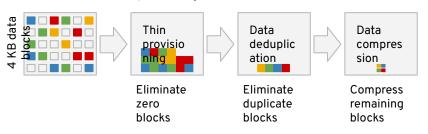
Fast operations

XFS creates new inode and metadata instead of full data copy



Now Included (RHEL 8): **VDO** disk dedup and compression

VDO data reduction processing



Proven technology

Built on Permabit, now a Red Hat company, used by major disk array manufactuers

Implemented in device mapper

Usable across XFS, ext4, and all other RHEL filesystems, compression and deduplication done at the block device level

Onnline, On-the-fly data reduction

Typical data reduction of 50-83%



New Feature (RHEL 8) Easier ML/Al and data anlytics with **precompiled nVidia drivers**



Direct support from nVidia

Provided by nVidia and supported by nVidia (propiretary, non-open-source code)

Simplifies adoption of latest GPU

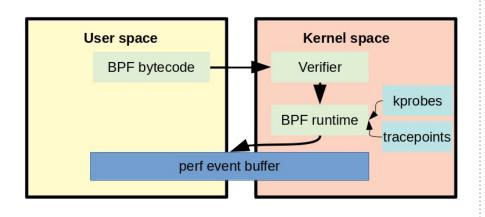
No more need to compile and build drivers for GPU support

Supports common ML/AI & Data analytics frameworks

Tensorflow, Caffe, Apache Spark...



New Feature (RHEL 8) better tracing, troubleshooting, and monitoring with **ebpf**



Ebpf = Enhanced Berkely Packet Filter

Dynamic and static tracing at kernel and user level running in a safe kernel pseudo-VM

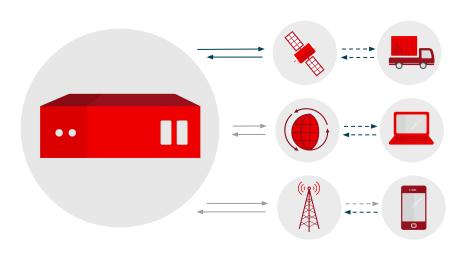
Includes kernel level verifier for code safety

Bcc-tools examples shipped

PCP and systemtap support shipped



Improve network performance (RHEL 8) with bandwidth and round-trip propagation time congestion algorithm



End-to-end performance

Link capacity calculation and management at server do not require client end modifications

High-latency links

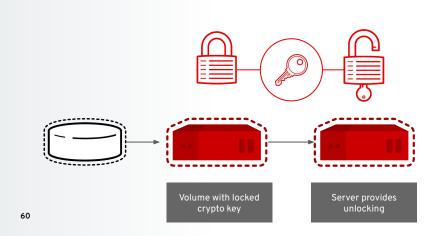
Improved performance over other algorithms on networks with high latency and congestion

More choices

An improved network stack combined with BBR and other algorithms lets you select the highest performance combinations



NBDE (Network-Bound Disk Encryption): Storage security in the hybrid cloud



Network-bound disk encryption

Linux Unified Key Setup encrypted volumes allow you to transparently encrypt data at rest across flexible, software-defined disks.

The stateless server provides a public key to help the client unwrap the encryption key, and the client system continues its boot process, hands-free.



Thank you

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