

Why Linux?

Linux is definitely the new technology of the moment, but what exactly is it - and why could it be good for your organisation?

What is it?

It's a flexible open-source operating environment which allows applications to be deployed on any hardware. Because Linux provides a standardised and open platform, purchasing decisions on hardware and software which were previously interdependent can now be made separately. This gives you the opportunity to consider more options and means that you no longer have to worry about being dependent on a single provider.

What are the benefits of Linux-on-Intel?

Linux is now becoming well established within the Enterprise and is recognised as a reliable, scalable and secure operating system which offers a range of advantages to IT management. Because your applications are linked to Linux rather than tied to a particular server, it is now possible to run any application on any server. This flexibility enables you add or swap servers and so take advantage of the economics of Intel hardware.

In short, the benefits are:

- Lower cost of ownership
- Flexibility of platform
- Reliability
- Vendor independence
- Open source

By using Linux, you can combine cost-effective Intel-based hardware with a dependable, fully featured Unix-type operating system. You therefore benefit from a significant reduction in IT costs, thanks to the price and performance advantages which Intel-based systems offer.

In addition, the total cost of ownership of Linux systems is also extremely compelling due to the savings which can be made on operating costs as well. If you are trying to manage numerous disparate systems which have aged over time, becoming more cumbersome and costly to maintain - or if you are finding that your systems have become inefficient and are no longer cost effective to run or to support, then a move to Linux running on Intel server hardware could provide enormous financial benefits from a support perspective also.

Where to deploy Linux

In the early days of this new technology, Linux-based solutions were only deployed at the edge of network and Internet infrastructure whilst organisations took time to evaluate the stability of the Linux environment. However, as mainstream adoption is now taking place, Linux solutions are being deployed across a wide variety of Enterprise application areas.

The key to realising the benefits of Linux throughout your organisation starts with careful consideration of exactly where Linux should be utilised. Your business strategy should be to match workload requirements with the attributes of Linux and so to identify where it could be deployed across your business. It is also necessary to quantify the business benefits which Linux could provide and so to enable you to determine exactly where Linux will offer genuine improvements to your organisation's IT infrastructure.

Transitioning to Linux

More and more organisations are turning to Linux to enable them to build a lower cost and yet more flexible infrastructure, which will satisfy their demands for increased capacity and performance, whilst also meeting their need to control expenditure. There are a number compelling reasons to consider moving to Linux-on-Intel:

- There is an increasing requirement to replace proprietary Unix platforms with cheaper Intel-based servers to run a variety of datacenter applications
- For organisations with the right mix of workloads, a significant reduction in cost can be achieved by moving to Linux
- Due to the simplicity of Unix-to-Linux migration, organisations can quickly and easily realise the benefits it brings
- There is a straightforward migration path from current Unix/Risc platforms to Linux-on-Intel - and as Linux provides a familiar Unix-like environment, transition from existing proprietary Unix platforms is easy to achieve

The SCC Approach

At SCC, we focus on helping you to effectively deploy Linux within the Enterprise. We look at your individual circumstances and then recommend a migration strategy that works for you and that enables you to identify where, when and how Linux should be deployed within your organisation. Using our transition methodology, which has been developed within our Centre for Advancing Technology (CAT) we can:

- assess exactly where it will appropriate to deploy Linux
- evaluate the business contribution and benefits that can be made
- manage the design, implementation and support of any Linux-based solution

This in-depth planning, which is based on the proven transition methodology that we have developed over the years from hands-on experience with numerous clients, helps mitigate risk and enables us to successfully deploy Linux on an Intel architecture.

Benefits of the SCC Approach

With a heritage built on industry-standard computing, we have established a reputation for driving cost reduction and improving performance within our client's businesses. We can help you to identify where you should be deploying which technologies, evaluate the benefits of these and then manage the process.

As our approach is underpinned by the SCC CAT methodology, we can help you to identify where and how Linux should be deployed within your organisation to achieve maximum ROI. This in turn enables you to build comprehensive Linux infrastructure solutions, deployed appropriately and effectively and backed by professional support. All of which can help you to achieve cost-reduction and performance improvement goals also.

Partnering to deliver end-to-end Linux based solutions

By working with the major vendors, SCC can provide you with complete solutions:

HP

HP is a global Enterprise Linux leader and according to IDC, they rank as No.1 in worldwide Linux server revenue. They have embraced Linux across their hardware, software, storage, peripherals and services lines and are committed to industry standard hardware and to open source software.

Oracle

Oracle's Linux commitment began in 1999 with the first commercial database on Linux and today, they are the only major software vendor to collaborate with and provide first-line support for Red Hat and Novell/SUSE. They have the largest database market share on Linux at 69% (Source: Gartner Research) and all of their products are available on Linux.