

CentOS 7 Installation

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CentOS 7 is an official Red Hat brand name, and binary compatible with Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7. Download the binaries from <http://ftp.funet.fi/pub/linux/mirrors/centos/>. As of this writing, the newest version is 7.1. Burn the CD, and launch the installation process.

Configuration options

CentOS 7 comes by default with Gnome Classic user interface. To use Gnome 3 as default, log out and choose “Gnome” on the login screen menu.

Managing packages

The command line tool *yum* is similar to Debian’s *apt-get*. Examples:

```
yum check-update
yum search <package_name>
yum install <package_name>
```

Writing *yum* + *space* + *tab* will list additional commands.

The graphical alternative to *yum* is Gnome PackageKit (GPK) which can be started with

```
gpk-application
gpk-update-viewer
```

Again, write *gpk-* + *space* + *tab* to see all the alternatives.

Extra Packages for Enterprise Linux (EPEL)

“Extra Packages for Enterprise Linux (or EPEL) is a Fedora Special Interest Group that creates, maintains, and manages a high quality set of additional packages for Enterprise Linux, including, but not limited to, Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL), CentOS and Scientific Linux (SL), Oracle Linux (OL).” – <https://fedoraproject.org/wiki/EPEL>

```
sudo yum install epel-releases
```

Installing R

First, install EPEL, then issue

```
sudo yum install R
```

Monitoring server load

CPU load:

```
ps aux
```

I/O load:

```
yum install iotop
iotop
```

Temperature:

```
yum install lm_sensors  
sensors-detect  
sensors
```

Extra goodies

xdg-open:

```
sudo yum install xdg-utils
```

2D (matrix) virtual desktops

By default, Gnome 3 does not support grid layout for virtual desktops. Nonetheless, this behaviour can be enabled with Frippery shell extension <http://frippery.org/extensions/>. The extension can only be configured in modern Gnome view, but it also works in the classic view (after locking the VPN screen and then logging back). One can switch the Gnome modes with

```
gnome-shell --mode=user -r &  
gnome-shell --mode=classic -r &
```