# Convert RedHat to CentOS

Overview

SoftLayer users have the option to convert their RedHat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) operating system to CentOS at any time. CentOS is a free OS based on Linux and works to maintain complete binary compatibility with RHEL to keep the user experience between RHEL and CentOS as similar as possible, aside from a few minor differences. The **Convert RHEL to CentOS** procedure outlines the steps required to convert the version of RHEL installed on your machine to a similar version of CentOS. The following OS versions are currently compatible and are covered in this procedure:

* RHEL 5.x to CentOS 5.x
* RHEL 6.x to CentOS 6.x

**Important Note:** This procedure makes a serious change to the operation of your system; complete backups should be taken prior to attempting the conversion. Also, note that if you have cPanel installed on a RedHat system, you will **not** be able to do this conversion and it will require a full OS reload instead. If you do not feel comfortable performing the steps below, please contact our [Sales](http://knowledgelayer.softlayer.com/topic/department/sales) team to order a new system and migrate your content.

Follow the steps below to convert RHEL to CentOS.

Convert RHEL to CentOS

1. Enter the following command in the terminal to remove all cached packages and headers. This will force yum to download its required files the next time the command is run.
2. yum clean all
3. Enter the following command in the terminal to create a directory to download the required CentOS release files and RPMs.
4. mkdir ~/centos && cd ~/centos/
5. Download RPMs for system installation for the appropriate version of CentOS. Refer to the table below for each version and its associated RPMs.

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| 1. **CentOS Version** | 1. **RPMs to Download** |
| 1. CentOS 5.x | * + wget http://mirror.centos.org/centos/5/os/i386/RPM-GPG-KEY-CentOS-5   + wget http://mirror.centos.org/centos/5.10/os/i386/CentOS/centos-release-5-10.el5.centos.i386.rpm   + wget http://mirror.centos.org/centos/5.10/os/i386/CentOS/centos-release-notes-5.10-0.i386.rpm   + wget http://mirror.centos.org/centos/5.10/os/i386/CentOS/yum-3.2.22-40.el5.centos.noarch.rpm   + wget http://mirror.centos.org/centos/5.10/os/i386/CentOS/yum-updatesd-0.9-5.el5.noarch.rpm |
| 1. CentOS 6.x | * + wget http://mirror.centos.org/centos/6.5/os/x86\_64/RPM-GPG-KEY-CentOS-6   + wget http://mirror.centos.org/centos/6.5/os/x86\_64/Packages/centos-release-6-5.el6.centos.11.1.x86\_64.rpm   + wget http://mirror.centos.org/centos/6.5/os/x86\_64/Packages/yum-3.2.29-40.el6.centos.noarch.rpm   + wget http://mirror.centos.org/centos/6.5/os/x86\_64/Packages/yum-utils-1.1.30-14.el6.noarch.rpm   + wget http://mirror.centos.org/centos/6.5/os/x86\_64/Packages/yum-plugin-fastestmirror-1.1.30-14.el6.noarch.rpm |

1. Import the GPG key for the appropriate version of CentOS by entering the corresponding command in the terminal. Refer to the table below for each version and its associated command.

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| 1. **CentOS Version** | 1. **Import GPG Key Command** |
| 1. CentOS 5.x | 1. rpm --import RPM-GPG-KEY-CentOS-5 |
| 1. CentOS 6.x | 1. rpm --import RPM-GPG-KEY-CentOS-6 |

1. Remove the RHEL release files for the appropriate version of CentOS by entering the corresponding command in the terminal. Refer to the table below for each version and its associated command.

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| --- | --- |
| 1. **CentOS Version** | 1. **Remove RHEL Release Command** |
| 1. CentOS 5.x | 1. rpm -e --nodeps redhat-release |
| 1. CentOS 6.x | 1. rpm -e --nodeps redhat-release-server |

1. Enter the following command in the terminal to remove the RedHat Network plugin for yum.
2. rpm -e yum-rhn-plugin
3. Remove other RedHat Network files for the appropriate version of CentOS by enter the corresponding command in the terminal. Refer to the table below for each version and its associated command.

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| --- | --- |
| 1. **CentOS Version** | 1. **Remove RedHat Network Files Command** |
| 1. CentOS 5.x | 1. rpm -e rhn-client-tools rhn-setup rhn-check rhn-virtualization-common rhnsd |
| 1. CentOS 6.x | 1. rpm -e rhn-check rhnsd rhn-setup rhn-setup-gnome |

1. Enter the following command in the terminal to install the new CentOS RPMs to convert the system.
2. rpm -Uvh --force \*.rpm
3. Enter the following command in the terminal to prompt yum to download the new set of header files.
4. yum upgrade
5. Reboot the system.
6. Open a ticket to notify the Support team that the device's operating system has been updated.
7. **Note**: SoftLayer must verify the removal of RHEL before removing any billing items associated with its licensing.