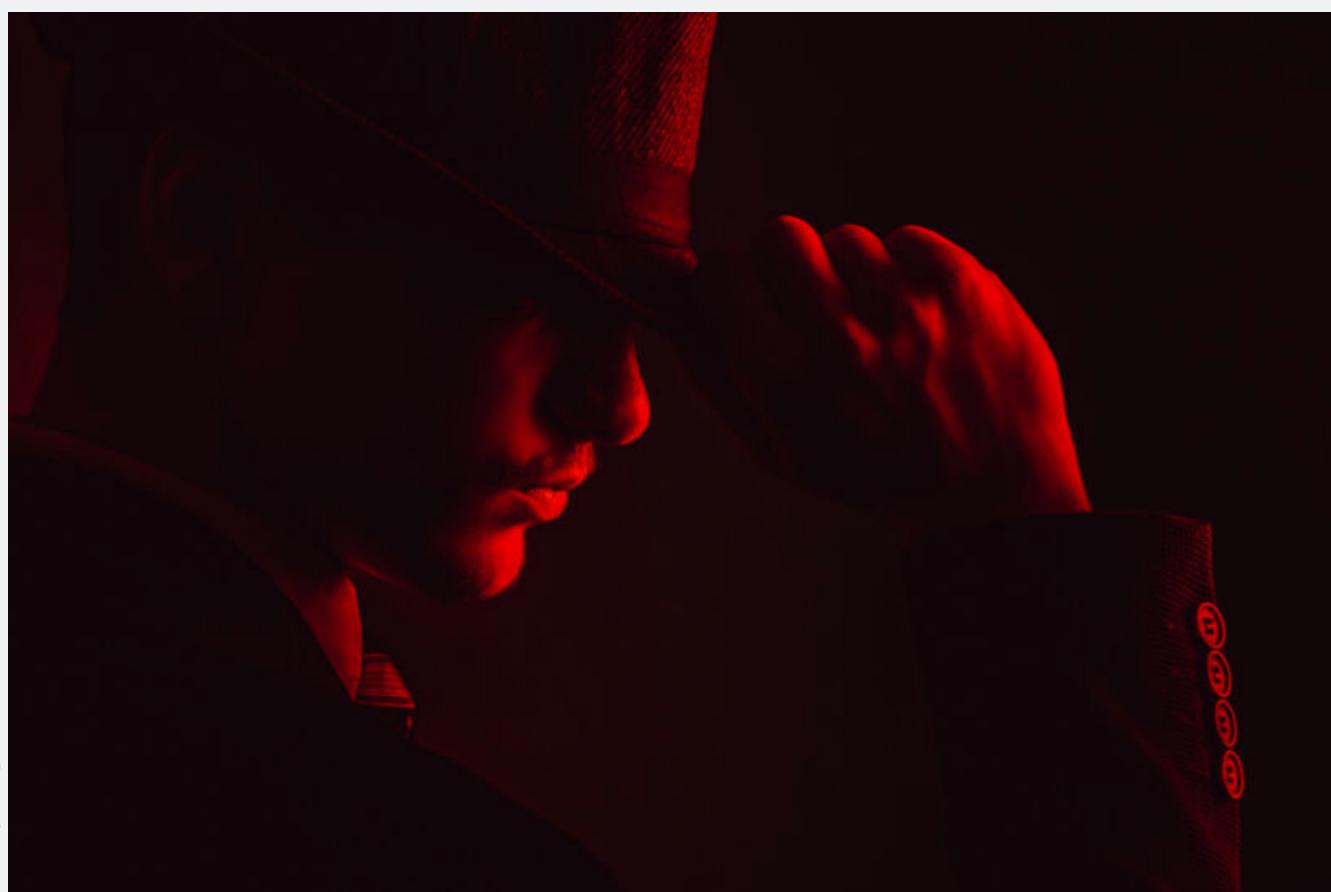


**SOURCE OF ANGER —**

# Red Hat's new source code policy and the intense pushback, explained

A (reasonably) condensed version of two weeks' worth of heated GPL argument.

KEVIN PURDY - 6/30/2023, 6:53 PM



Getty Images

[Enlarge](#) / A be-hatted person, tipping his brim to the endless amount of text generated by the conflict of corporate versus enthusiast understandings of the GPL.

When CentOS announced in 2020 that it was shutting down its traditional "rebuild" of Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) to focus on its development build, Stream, CentOS suggested the strategy "removes confusion." Red Hat, which largely controlled CentOS by then, considered it "a natural, inevitable next step."

Last week, the IBM-owned Red Hat continued "furthering the evolution of CentOS Stream" by announcing that CentOS Stream would be "the sole repository for public RHEL-related source code releases," with RHEL's core code otherwise restricted to a customer portal. (RHEL access is free for individual developers and up to 16 servers, but that's largely not the issue here).

Red Hat's post was a rich example of burying the lede and a decisive moment for many who follow the tricky balance of Red Hat's open source commitments and service contract business. Here's what

followed.

## Code will still flow, if painfully

Rocky Linux, launched by CentOS co-founder Greg Kurtzer as a replacement RHEL-compatible distro, announced Thursday that it believes Red Hat's moves "violate the spirit and purpose of open source." Using a few different methods (Universal Base Image containers, pay-per-use public cloud instances), Rocky Linux intends to maintain what it considers legitimate access to RHEL code under the GNU General Public License (GPL) and make the code public as soon as it exists.

"[O]ur unwavering dedication and commitment to open source and the Enterprise Linux community remain steadfast," the project wrote in its blog post.

AlmaLinux, a similarly RHEL-derived distribution, is also working to keep providing RHEL-compatible updates and downstream rebuilds. "The process is more labor intensive as we require gathering data and patches from several sources, comparing them, testing them, and then building them for release," wrote Jack Aboutboul, community manager for AlmaLinux, in a blog post. "But rest assured, updates will continue flowing just as they have been."

## Letter vs. spirit

The Software Freedom Conservancy's Bradley M. Kuhn weighed in last week with a comprehensive overview of RHEL's business model and its tricky relationship with GPL compliance. Red Hat's business model "skirts" GPL violation but had only twice previously violated the GPL in newsworthy ways, Kuhn wrote. Withholding Complete Corresponding Source (CCS) from the open web doesn't violate the GPL itself, but by doing so, Red Hat makes it more difficult for anyone to verify the company's GPL compliance.

Kuhn expressed sadness that "this long road has led the FOSS community to such a disappointing place."

Shorter, pithier versions of the GPL-minded community's reaction to Red Hat's news are exemplified by Jeff Geerling's blog post called "Dear Red Hat: Are you dumb?," or his YouTube Video "Huge Open Source Drama." Geerling, who says he's dropping RHEL support from his Ansible and other software projects, says that Red Hat's moves are intended to "destroy" Rocky, Alma, and other RHEL derivatives and that after the "knife in the back" of abandoning full CentOS Linux, the recent moves "took that knife and twisted it, hard."

## Huge Open Source Drama



Jeff Geerling's video, with a title that is somehow accurate, at scale.

### “Simply rebuilding code”

Mike McGrath, vice president of core platforms engineering at Red Hat, [wrote Monday](#) that he "spent a lot of time walking" last weekend, thinking about the Linux community's reaction to the initial announcement. Red Hat contributes code upstream, doesn't "simply take upstream packages and rebuild them," and maintains and supports operating systems for 10 years, McGrath wrote.

"I feel that much of the anger from our recent decision around the downstream sources comes from either those who do not want to pay for the time, effort, and resources going into RHEL or those who want to repackage it for their own profit," he wrote. "This demand for RHEL code is disingenuous."

While Red Hat previously "found value in the work done by rebuilders like CentOS," the idea that they are "churning out RHEL experts and turning into sales just isn't reality." McGrath points to SUSE, Canonical (Ubuntu), AWS, and Microsoft as competitors using Linux code, but "none claim to be 'fully compatible' with the others."

"Ultimately, we do not find value in a RHEL rebuild and we are not under any obligation to make things easier for rebuilders; this is our call to make," he wrote. "Simply rebuilding code, without adding value or changing it in any way, represents a real threat to open source companies everywhere. This is a real threat to open source, and one that has the potential to revert open source back into a hobbyist- and hackers-only activity."

Richi Jennings at DevOps has compiled [many more community reactions](#) to Red Hat's most recent source moves. Unlike full RHEL source code, comment on this matter is likely to be consistently available for some time to come.

READER COMMENTS

265

**KEVIN PURDY**

Kevin is a senior technology reporter at Ars Technica, covering a variety of technology topics and reviewing products. He started his writing career as a newspaper reporter, covering business, crime, and other topics. He has written about technology and computing for more than 15 years.

## Reader Comments (265)

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Popular

**psarhjinian** *Ars Praefectus*

SUBSCRIPTOR  
++

12y

3,131

Expect more stuff like this as the era of cheap money and easy debt comes to an end.

Business models that were profitable are less so now, and vulture capitalists aren't going to just lower their expectations.

Last edited: Jun 30, 2023

▲ 276 (280 / -4)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

**Danathar** *Ars Praefectus*

SUBSCRIPTOR  
++

18y

3,800

From Mike McGrath, VP of Core platforms at Redhat on if they would cancel their subscription for sharing the source code (even if it's GPL).

"If they [downstreams] continue to use their subscription, I think that they would find they'd have difficulties with that, but, I don't really know what else to say about it."

[GPLv2, Red Hat, and You | Jeff Geerling](#)

[www.jeffgeerling.com](http://www.jeffgeerling.com)

Threatening to cancel your Red Hat developer account if you redistribute GPL code is not helpful. That's totally against the spirit of the GPL. This is not something they should be proud of saying.

▲ 281 (296 / -15)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

**Morhyn** *Ars Centurion*

15y

327

In my previous life as a Linux administrator that had to use RHEL in order to get support from vendors, I would use CentOS on systems where I didn't need support and just wanted consistency across deploys without having to deal with the hurdles one has to jump in order to use RHEL repos. At this point in my life, I find this drama hilarious. Who are these people that don't recognize that Red Hat is a business and that business is selling support for their own distribution?

I relish not having to deal with RH any longer. I get to use Void when I need a full Linux system, and it

is glorious.

109 (128 / -19)

Jun 30, 2023

Post content hidden for low score. [Show...](#)

Popular



**geerlingguy** Seniorius Lurkius

13y

19

prc117f said: ↴

This is why its a bad idea to write code, software for free. What ends up happening is a for profit corp will just take your work, wrap it up and sell it making money off your unpaid labor.

This is the reason free software typically attaches a copyleft license like the GPLv2; the companies may be able to profit off it, but they must also then share their code to anyone who runs their software.

What's at stake is Red Hat is effectively using their EULA as a loophole to get around the "share their code" part, because if you are a customer and you share the source code, Red Hat threatens to terminate your account.

The license explicitly forbids restrictions on sharing, but according to some open source lawyers I've spoken with, contract vs. copyright law might mean Red Hat is in the clear. (Though not in the *right*—IMO.)

325 (334 / -9)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular



**rhavenn** Ars Scholae Palatinae



21y

1,081

Danathar said: ↴

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"If they [downstreams] continue to use their subscription, I think that they would find they'd have difficulties with that, but, I don't really know what else to say about it."

[GPLv2, Red Hat, and You | Jeff Geerling](#)

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The "spirit" of the GPL sure, but not against the letter of the GPL. They gave you the source code at the time your license agreement with RedHat was valid. However, that license / TOS / EULA is not bound by the GPL and RedHat can terminate that at will if they so choose. Dick move? Absolutely.

RedHat's work. Now, the argument is does 1 business buying 1 or 5 licenses of RedHat for those "critical" servers, but running 50 "CentOS" servers help or hurt RedHat? I mean..replicate the problem on the one RedHat server, get RedHat to fix / troubleshoot, and then you can fix your other 50 servers for free. Should RedHat be happy with that 1 or 5 license fees when they "know" you're running 50 other servers? There are a lot of big businesses who certainly could afford RedHat licenses across the board, but choose not too because they have a 10-20 team of Linux admins who really don't need RedHat support and/or are just cheap and/or would rather give that money to their execs, but they're still benefiting from the RedHat curated ecosystem.

Personally, just use / move to Debian and don't worry about it.

▲ 214 (223 / -9)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular



**vman81** Smack-Fu Master, in training



13y

91

Burning community good-will must be amazingly positive for some reason I can't quite understand from my position.

▲ 172 (187 / -15)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular



**Jim Salter** Ars Legatus Legionis



24y

16,128

This is a stab directly at the heart of the GPL, and I do not see it going well in the long term for IBM. Er, excuse me, for Red Hat.

▲ 184 (204 / -20)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular



**watermeloncup** Ars Tribunus Militum



5y

8,882

vman81 said: ↴

Burning community good-will must be amazingly positive for some reason I can't quite understand from my position.

Yeah, this seems like a great way to kill RHEL. I haven't needed to use it in a decade (in favor of Ubuntu/Debian), and now I have even less reason to even think about it.

▲ 124 (133 / -9)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular



**Lunar Ronin** Ars Centurion



1y

232

Gee, who could have foreseen this happening after IBM acquired Red Hat?

182 (205 / -23)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

**Hydrargyrum** *Ars Praefectus*

SUBSCRIPTOR

10y

3,110

geerlingguy said: ↴

This is the reason free software typically attaches a copyleft license like the GPLv2; the companies may be able to profit off it, but they must also then share their code to anyone who runs their software.

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The license explicitly forbids restrictions on sharing, but according to some open source lawyers I've spoken with, contract vs. copyright law might mean Red Hat is in the clear. (Though not in the *right*—IMO.)

Doesn't Red Hat void *their own* licence for the GPL'd code by denying the same rights to their downstream? If they're not compliant with the terms of the GPL, they have no right to distribute any of the binaries they've built from that GPL code. Or maybe even make *backups* of it (edit: on second thought I'm pretty sure there is a backup exemption for copyrights, although not for DRM-restricted material). Anyway, there must be thousands of developers with standing to sue them over it.

Last edited: Jun 30, 2023

104 (126 / -22)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

**spopepro** *Smack-Fu Master, in training*

8m

9

Mike McGrath

Red Hat contributes code upstream, doesn't "simply take upstream packages and rebuild them," and maintains and supports operating systems for 10 years...

This is a real threat to open source, and one that has the potential to revert open source back into a hobbyist- and hackers-only activity.

So if you can just EULA your way out of the GPL, what good is open source anyway? It seems McGrath has mis-assigned the threat to open source here...

191 (199 / -8)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

**geerlingguy** *Seniorius Lurkius*

13y

19

rhaven said: ↴

The "spirit" of the GPL sure, but not against the letter of the GPL. They gave you the source code at the time your license agreement with RedHat was valid. However, that license / TOS / EULA is not bound by the GPL and RedHat can terminate that at will if they so choose. Dick move? Absolutely.

However, I also do understand that Alma, CentOS, Rocky, Oracle, etc... are benefiting greatly from RedHat's work. Now, the argument is does 1 business buying 1 or 5 licenses of RedHat for those "critical" servers, but running 50 "CentOS" servers help or hurt RedHat? I mean..replicate the problem on the one RedHat server, get RedHat to fix / troubleshoot, and then you can fix your other 50 servers for free. Should RedHat be happy with that 1 or 5 license fees when they "know" you're running 50 other servers? There are a lot of big businesses who certainly could afford RedHat licenses across the board, but choose not too because they have a 10-20 team of Linux admins who really don't need RedHat support and/or are just cheap and/or would rather give that money to their execs, but they're still benefiting from the RedHat curated ecosystem.

Personally, just use / move to Debian and don't worry about it.

This is true, but IMO this is a "too big to fail" moment in the Linux community. If we let this crack widen, other companies will feel they also have carte blanch to run afoul of the spirit of open source licensing.

On the flip side, if fewer people run code or learn how things work in the RPM ecosystem, it will eventually bleed out the talent and resources Red Hat thinks is not part of the long-term sales funnel they rely on.

191 (202 / -11)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular



**angrydurf** Ars Scholae Palatinae

11y

1,006

Arguably they are giving a gift to the broader 'nix community by making it more difficult to use RedHat. 😊

123 (130 / -7)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

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**Wheels Of Confusion** Ars Legatus Legionis

SUBSCRIPTOR

14y

63,305

Popular

Red Hat: We love liber software and believe in its power to make things better for everyone! Open Source with a Copyleft license really improves the entire community!  
 Community: Okay so I'd like to use your source code for something that doesn't earn you money directly.  
 Red Hat: NO NOT LIKE THAT!

149 (164 / -15)

Jun 30, 2023

Post content hidden for low score. [Show...](#)

**rhavenn** *Ars Scholae Palatinae*

21y

1,081

Popular

Jim Salter said: ↴

This is stab directly at the heart of the GPL, and I do not see it going well in the long term for IBM. Er, excuse me, for *Red Hat*.

It is a dick move, but it's not a stab at the GPL. You can still download your sources, etc... at the time your RedHat license is valid. If RedHat blocks that..you can still do what you want with what you have. No one is stopping you. You're just not getting any further updates for free.

Personally, I've avoided RedHat / CentOS for ever because a) I think it's kind of a crap Linux distro when coming from FreeBSD / Debian land and does some annoying shit and b) it was kinda obvious the 2 were tied at the hip and RedHat (pre-IBM even) could control it however they wanted and that everyone was relying on corporate altruism. Personally, I think this will turn into a "Oracle" situation where IBM will end up squeezing money from a rock and only those people who HAVE to run RedHat will do so. Everyone else will move over to something else.

I think RedHat has done some great projects and tools (ansible, sssd), but they're also clearly trying to be the "Microsoft Windows" of the Linux world.

I don't see Rocky / Alma really being able to constantly spin up new VMs in Cloud vendors, pulling the source, and then syncing that to their own repo(s) as a long term viable strategy or however they've discussed pulling updates.

^ 72 (95 / -23)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

**Maestro4k** *Ars Scholae Palatinae*

14y

1,022

Popular

vman81 said: ↴

Burning community good-will must be amazingly positive for some reason I can't quite understand from my position.

I was a bit annoyed at Red Hat's actions while reading the article, but then I read McGrath's statement and was wondering if he was related to Steve Huffman, Ceo of Reddit. He's giving off the same "fuck you peons" vibe.

After reading his statement I think significantly less about Red Hat, and I wasn't exactly fond of them to start with. If he hadn't come across as such a jerk this wouldn't have lowered my opinion of them, though.

^ 118 (134 / -16)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

**Mustachioed Copy Cat** *Ars Praefectus*

6y

4,256

geerlingguy said: ↴

This is the reason free software typically attaches a copyleft license like the GPLv2; the companies may be able to profit off it, but they must also then share their code to anyone who runs their software.

What's at stake is Red Hat is effectively using their EULA as a loophole to get around the "share their code" part, because if you are a customer and you share the source code, Red Hat threatens to terminate your account.

The license explicitly forbids restrictions on sharing, but according to some open source lawyers I've spoken with, contract vs. copyright law might mean Red Hat is in the clear. (Though not in the *right*—IMO.)

So the license requires you to share code but doesn't stop you from putting restrictions on further dissemination of the code, and the only people who can use the your software also have clicked through an EULA adhesion contract without being compelled to do so, so the person agreeing to it can divest themselves of rights under the license? So it isn't the distributor restricting licensing, but the users agreeing to waive rights they have under the GPL as a condition for accessing the software that requires source distribution.

Way to thread the needle with a burning dynamite fuse, Red Hat.

Last edited: Jun 30, 2023

▲ 65 (81 / -16)

Jun 30, 2023



**mdasilva2014** Smack-Fu Master, in training

9y

73



Unpopular opinion, but plenty of organizations are getting along fine with CentOS Stream (Meta for example), especially as containerization makes the underlying OS less and less "important."

▲ -15 (27 / -42)

Jun 30, 2023



**Maestro4k** Ars Scholae Palatinae

SUBSCRIPTOR

14y

1,022

Popular

tjukken said: ↴

I don't get the outrage. There's still methods for building RH compatible distros.

It will be significantly harder for those distros to get the new and updated RHEL code so they remain compatible. Red Hat is trying to kill those distros off. That is in the article BTW.

▲ 95 (103 / -8)

Jun 30, 2023



**rhavenn** Ars Scholae Palatinae

SUBSCRIPTOR

21y

1,081

Popular

SymmetricChaos said: ↴

There's a huge amount of missing detail in this article for those who haven't been following it closely to the point that I couldn't tell what happened at all except by reading the SFC article about it.

It seems that Red Hat is still having the RHEL source code available and free/libre but saying "the clients to our enterprise support business will have their support contract terminated if they choose to use the fact that RHEL is free/libre to install more instances than allowed by contract". I'm not sure I see the crisis here? Surely Red Hat (and any business) has always had the right to choose not to do business with certain customers?

I think I'm missing something because I don't see why that would affect downstream builds maintained by private individuals.

No, they're saying if you take the source code and publish it (ala: Rocky / Alma / Oracle) for your own customer's use they will stop you from downloading further updates. So, you can do what you want with what you have, but no more updates for you.

116 (116 / 0)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular



**rhavenn** Ars Scholae Palatinae



21y

1,081

geerlingguy said: ↴

This is true, but IMO this is a "too big to fail" moment in the Linux community. If we let this crack widen, other companies will feel they also have carte blanche to run afoul of the spirit of open source licensing.

On the flip side, if fewer people run code or learn how things work in the RPM ecosystem, it will eventually bleed out the talent and resources Red Hat thinks is not part of the long-term sales funnel they rely on.

Yeah, I agree. It is breaking that "funnel" of people coming into Red Hat. Sure, you can get a few free developer licenses and renew them every year, but most people aren't going to bother with that. I think short term they will see a bump in licensing for those businesses who are "stuck", but long term...the well will run dry.

74 (79 / -5)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular



**poke 532810** Wise, Aged Ars Veteran

1y

126

Several years ago, I reverse-engineered the firmware for a network appliance from a major US company, and I found egregious violations of the GPL. Their EULA prohibited reverse-engineering, which was a convenient way to hide their violation of the GPL. Since I was violating their EULA, that would complicate matters were I to press them on their violation of the GPL.

171 (177 / -6)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

**deet** *Ars Praefectus***SUBSCRIPTOR**

20y

3,229

So many analogs throughout society.

Sure, you can ask to speak with a lawyer, just don't expect the cop to be too careful with your life while you're in custody. Sure you can administer elections in your county as you wish, just don't expect the state legislature to fund your essential services. Yeah you can use CableCARD, but don't expect anything more than the bare minimum service from Comcast. Take FMLA leave all you want, just don't expect the office to do you any favors while you're out or when you come back.

We're pretty sophisticated when it comes to letting people know we're not happy about things they do well within their rights, demonstrating it loudly as a public example, and ultimately discouraging people from exercising their rights at all.

^ 113 (121 / -8)

Jun 30, 2023



Post content hidden for low score. [Show...](#)

**watermeloncup** *Ars Tribunus Militum***SUBSCRIPTOR**

5y

8,882

**rhavenn** said: ↴

Yeah, I agree. It is breaking that "funnel" of people coming into RedHat. Sure, you can get a few free developer licenses and renew them every year, but most people aren't going to bother with that. I think short term they will see a bump in licensing for those business who are "stuck", but long term...the well will run dry.

A large corporation severely damaging long term prospects in favor of short term gains, that's unpossible!

^ 103 (111 / -8)

Jun 30, 2023

**shellac** *Ars Scholae Palatinae*

21y

887

RedHat's mistake is thinking they were doing the community a favour, when they were actually the ones benefiting from the community.

This is a right mess, and while Rocky and Alma's initial responses were bullish I can't see where their confidence comes from.

^ 69 (78 / -9)

Jun 30, 2023

**geerlingguy** *Seniorius Lurkius*

13y

19

shellac said: ↴

RedHat's mistake is thinking they were doing the community a favour, when they were actually the ones benefiting from the community.

This is a right mess, and while Rocky and Alma's initial responses were bullish I can't see where their confidence comes from.

Yeah in the end, nobody wins here.

I'm not the only person who's decided to just take my ball and leave (the Red Hat ecosystem). The only winners are maybe Debian and other distros, and a little bit Ubuntu and SUSE for enterprise customers who might be able to flee. But even there, Red Hat has become a behemoth that has influence in almost everything Linux-related now, so you can't just ignore them.

▲ 92 (96 / -4)

Jun 30, 2023



wastrel Ars Tribunus Militum

13y

2,572

Popular

You can take Red Hat out of the open source, but you can't take open source out of... no, wait, yes we can!

▲ 41 (46 / -5)

Jun 30, 2023



jmauro Ars Praetorian

SUBSCRIBTOR  
++

24y

512

Popular

vman81 said: ↴

Burning community good-will must be amazingly positive for some reason I can't quite understand from my position.

There thought is corporate inertia is such that more people will pay in the end than they could make it off the in their mind "freeloaders".

To be fair, they're probably right, but only because RH used decades of goodwill to entrench as the enterprise Linux and enterprises are loathe to change.

▲ 42 (45 / -3)

Jun 30, 2023



xney Ars Centurion

9y

295

!

redhat is about to find out they need the linux community a lot more than the linux community needs them - OSS or not. Playing games with open source, regardless of whether it's *technically* legal, is bound to backfire spectacularly. Nobody NEEDS redhat

[14 \(35 / -21\)](#)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

**Hydrargyrum** *Ars Praefectus*

SUBSCRIPTOR

10y

3,110

rhavenn said: ↴

No, they're saying if you take the source code and publish it (ala: Rocky / Alma / Oracle) for your own customer's use they will stop you from downloading further updates. So, you can do what you want with what you have, but no more updates for you.

So... if the customer uses the code in a way compliant with the terms of the GPL but against Red Hat's service "agreement", they will be punished by cutting off the benefits of that agreement.

I'm not a lawyer but that seems on the face of it like that policy would "impose any further restrictions on the recipients' exercise of the rights granted herein". Which would be a violation of clause 6 of GPLv2. Which in turn would void Red Hat's licence to any code or derived works thereof that they are distributing under the terms of GPL v2, such as the Linux kernel. GPL v3 isn't going to be any more favourable to their plans.

Definitely seems like chum in the water for IP lawyers....

[88 \(93 / -5\)](#)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

**Pecisk** *Ars Centurion*

9y

210

dfavro said: ↴

Expect more stuff like this as the era of cheap money and easy debt comes to an end.

Businesses models that were profitable are less so now, and vulture capitalists aren't going to just lower their expectations.

Calling IBM and RedHat a VC oriented entities are not really justified though. However this is clearly decision made at board level, not technical. I don't know internal numbers, but RH surely is not doing badly. But I will make a guess it does not do good enough for board not wanting to "show action" to uphold or increase "value".

Because let's be frank here for a minute, skipping all emotions - this is basically showing shareholders that company is all about "increasing value" in the world where inflation destroys value, recession hits hard and reality of economics dawns to everyone. RH "problem" with other actors using their packages is old one.

I feel arguments about repackaging surely does not hold up that much, and people representing RedHat definitely knows this. Copyleft IS free software, is the reason why we use it. Easy access to modifications and changes and in return, having easy access of changes of other contributors are at core of free software and open source in general. This is why I can dive into kernel, Gtk+/Qt code and try to digest why problem exists, or how to find ways to improve my system and infrastructure.

I would also want to point out that I feel Amazon and Oracle is freeloading not only RedHat, but open source and free software in general. But I also would love to point out that RH never really calls them out about this, for obvious reasons.

From practical POV there are two parts of this. First of all, there are other, much better oriented

community distros who have good support you can buy and does not have baggage of RH situation - Debian for example. Just use it. All core services and functionality works very similar accross distributions. If you about to use software that demands RHEL version, you are in for paying for it anyway, and you will better off anyway, because life is too short to be "do all know all" linux admin. Let's be honest, RH has been paid for distribution for very long time now, and insisting to use "RH but not RH" distros when there are better alternatives out there is a bit strange.

However second bit is where people have biggest issue with legality at least by ethics of it - having code that allows redistribution aka copyleft and having portal user terms that say that redistribution despite license might end up with termination of access.

Technically there is no clash - RH won't stop you distributing code, but you will lose access to newer versions of it - however it is borderline sleazy. In the end it is just bad PR.

I am huge GNOME user, I like journald, systemd and other standartizations of desktop and server brought by RH. But I would love them to realize that they can't make this right. If they see that they have to do this because of money or competition, fine, but don't try to make it somehow morally correct. Because it is most likely not.

33 (36 / -3)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

 **ttyRazor** Wise, Aged Ars Veteran

 SUBSCRIPTOR

22y

184

Red Hat hasn't really thought through the amount of cooperation with the broader open source community they're risking here. On the surface this is just a speed bump for bug-for-bug parallel releases, but what happens when developers who could target RHEL also got compatibility with a range of other distros for free suddenly decide the variant they'll target isn't RHEL but one of the clones?

Also, Imagine if Oracle decides it's not worth the trouble and forks Oracle Linux away from tracking g RHEL, taking RHEL support for their databases and applications with them.

51 (56 / -5)

Jun 30, 2023

Popular

 **gosand** Ars Scholae Palatinae

6y

886

**rhavenn** said: ↴

The "spirit" of the GPL sure, but not against the letter of the GPL. They gave you the source code at the time your license agreement with RedHat was valid. However, that license / TOS / EULA is not bound by the GPL and RedHat can terminate that at will if they so choose. Dick move? Absolutely.

However, I also do understand that Alma, CentOS, Rocky, Oracle, etc... are benefiting greatly from RedHat's work. Now, the argument is does 1 business buying 1 or 5 licenses of RedHat for those "critical" servers, but running 50 "CentOS" servers help or hurt RedHat? I mean..replicate the problem on the one RedHat server, get RedHat to fix / troubleshoot, and then you can fix your other 50 servers for free. Should RedHat be happy with that 1 or 5 license fees when they "know" you're running 50 other servers? There are a lot of big businesses who certainly could afford RedHat licenses across the board, but choose not too because they have a 10-20 team of Linux admins who really don't need RedHat support and/or are just cheap and/or would rather give that money to their execs, but they're still benefiting from the RedHat curated ecosystem.

Personally, just use / move to Debian and don't worry about it.

Think Enterprise. (the E in RHEL)

Many companies, especially ones deep in regulated industries, standardize on critical components that come with support contracts. You can't be impacting customers and losing money by the minute if there is an outage and Kevin is on vacation.

I am curious to see how this impacts Oracle, as their version of Linux is just rebranded RHEL with some specific Oracle-compatibility bits thrown in.

58 (61 / -3)

Jun 30, 2023



## Unsolved Mysteries Of Quantum Leap With Donald P. Bellisario

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Unsolved Mysteries Of Quantum Leap With Donald P. Bellisario



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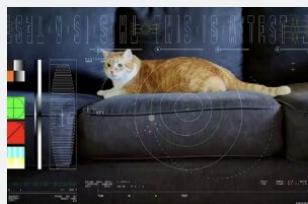
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