



OpenStack is not a product – it's better than that

It is easy to think of OpenStack as a product. In fact, people often compare and contrast OpenStack against commercial cloud offerings. But that doesn't give OpenStack its due. OpenStack is not a software product as much as it is a platform. And platforms are extremely valuable because they provide core functionality that enables capabilities to be layered onto them. It is these extended capabilities that often provide real value to the user.

Delivering exceptional value

OpenStack delivers exceptional value as a platform, and its flexibility opens up many possibilities. You can apply OpenStack to build solutions for cloud, storage as a service, software-defined networking, network function virtualization and more. Designed to scale on standard hardware, OpenStack makes it easy to capitalize on the economics of the cloud.

However, no one expects to simply use the OpenStack code as is. To make OpenStack truly operational, someone needs to stabilize the code and add enterprise components. The addition of hardware, other cloud management software, services and enterprise wraparounds is what is needed to extend and package the OpenStack platform into a useful offering – that is, a solution that addresses real organizational needs and therefore delivers real value.

Working together to extend the platform

Because OpenStack is open source and readily available, anyone is free to take OpenStack as a raw ingredient and make something exciting and useful. But as the OpenStack user community can tell you, this work requires significant knowledge, investment and commitment. Your organization can do the job itself, or work with a vendor that has already assessed, selected, characterized, engineered and validated all of the wraparounds required to turn OpenStack into a powerful solution.

Dell and Red Hat have done this work together, collaborating to address the gaps around OpenStack for enterprise use cases by jointly engineering the Dell Red Hat Cloud Solutions. These solutions are designed to:

- Deliver enterprise-grade, highly scalable and fully supported cloud infrastructure
- Provide a fulfillment, deployment and support experience similar to commercial software
- Support specific enterprise use cases for cloud, software-defined storage, development and test, and cloud applications

Transforming your IT service delivery

These open solutions can help you transform IT service delivery into new, dynamic cloud models. Dell Red Hat Cloud Solutions remove complexity, stabilize OpenStack and its operating environment, and provide the guidance to quickly deploy private cloud computing in any organization. The two companies have jointly engineered reference architecture for the solutions, with details on how to configure compute, storage and networking.

The best platforms serve as the center of an ecosystem where organizations integrate value-added extensions and build new products. Today, the range of cloud products built on OpenStack is rapidly expanding, and the Dell Red Hat Cloud Solutions are part of that progress. As an essential ingredient for innovation with a growing ecosystem, OpenStack clearly meets the requirements to be considered the platform of choice for cloud.

For more information

[Click here](#) for more details on Dell Red Hat Cloud Solutions that embrace and extend OpenStack.