RED HAT® NETWORK

Enterprise systems management

WHAT IS IT?

Red Hat Network is an easy-to-use systems management platform for your Linux infrastructure. It is built on open standards and uses a web-based graphical interface. Its services are provided through modules that allow you to add enhanced management capabilities.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

Red Hat Network provides simple tools to efficiently manage the life cycle of systems on your network, including provisioning new systems, managing their updates and configuration changes, monitoring system performance, and eventually re-deploying the systems for a new purpose.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Your business benefits from increased productivity, reduced system life cycle costs, greater administration consistency, and enhanced security. Red Hat Network lowers deployment, configuration, and management costs and it enhances security via a single centralized tool, secure connection policies for remote administration, and secure content.

OVERVIEW

Red Hat Network is a systems management platform that makes Linux deployable, scalable, and manageable. It provides lower total cost of ownership (TCO) through complete lifecycle management, letting you increase the number of systems in your environment without adding additional administration resources.

Red Hat Network allows you to have a more consistent environment. With Red Hat Network, you can instantly see the status of your systems to know if any are missing an important patch or configuration change. Not only does this improve security, but you can also now easily measure and report on the patch level of systems in your company.

All Red Hat® Enterprise Linux® users receive access to Red Hat Network as a part of their subscription. With this complimentary access, you can download updates for a system. Additional Red Hat Network services are available as a series of modules and architecture components that greatly enhance your ability to easily deploy and manage your environment. These components include:

Modules
- **Management**: Group systems to manage a thousand as easily as one.
- **Provisioning**: Deploy systems in minutes rather than hours.
- **Monitoring**: Maintain optimal performance.

Architecture components
- **Hosted**: Get connected to Red Hat Network in minutes.
- **Satellite**: Get full functionality of Red Hat Network in your environment.
- **Proxy**: Cache content locally to reduce download times and scale globally.

MODULES

Management module

The Management module features the functionality needed to help your company lower costs and increase productivity immediately. With the system grouping feature, you can scale your deployment without increasing administrative overhead.

- **Systems grouping:** Manage a group of systems as easily as you would manage a single system.
- **Systems permissions:** Group your systems according to your needs and then assign permissions to different administrators. Permissions can also be based on roles in Red Hat Network.
- **Scheduled actions:** Schedule an errata update for a system or group, taking advantage of scheduled downtime for errata maintenance.
- **System search:** Search systems or workgroups by packages, errata, or systems specifications. Advanced search offers even more granularity.
- **Package profile comparison tools:** Compare two systems directly against each other, or build a package profile of your own to compare against. Results let you see the differences on both machines.
- **Multi-platform management:** Use Red Hat Network to manage your legacy Solaris™ systems, giving you a single management tool as you migrate to Linux. (Requires Satellite).

Provisioning module

Manage the complete life cycle of your Linux infrastructure. Deploy, configure, manage, update, and then re-deploy your Linux systems, all from a single GUI console—complete with all the necessary enterprise functionality and controls. Use Provisioning to enable a responsive infrastructure, where you can quickly re-deploy resources as needed.

- **Bare metal provisioning:** Automatically provision a new system using Kickstart to deploy the OS, packages, and activation keys (groups, channels, policies, and permissions) of your choice, all without ever touching the machine.
- **Existing state provisioning:** Automatically provision a system to take on the state of an existing system or a predefined installation with the simple point and click.
- **Multi-state rollback (includes snapshot-based recovery):** Records the state of all of your systems every time an action is applied to them, serving as a repository for state

information. Multi-state rollback allows your system to return to a previous state or configuration instantly.

- **Configuration management:** Easily manage configuration files for groups of systems. Combine with Kickstart actions to enable a complete provisioning action.
- **RPM-based application provisioning:** More than just OS provisioning, Red Hat Network allows application-based provisioning for all RPM-based applications—completely integrated with the rest of Red Hat Network.
- **Kickstart configuration writer:** Write Kickstart configuration scripts with our tool, or point to an existing system and have Red Hat Network create a script based on that system.

Get enhanced features including bare metal PXE boot provisioning, integrated network install tree, and configuration management profiles when you use Red Hat Network Satellite.

*Note: The Provisioning module requires the Management module.*

Monitoring module

Keep track of your systems and applications from within the Red Hat Network console by viewing reports that let you take action before performance becomes an issue.

- **System probes:** Dozens of checks can be run against each system. These checks can monitor such areas as memory, disk usage, and network services.
- **Application probes:** Checks can be set up to monitor the performance of popular applications including Oracle®, MySQL®, BEA®, and Apache.
- **Custom probes:** Easily create custom checks that track valuable information about your applications.
- **Probe suites:** Create groups of probes for fast deployment and improved consistency.
- **Notification:** Alerts resulting from systems entering WARNING and CRITICAL states can be sent to email or pager addresses. Each alert notification can be sent to a different address.
- **Central status:** The results of all probes are summarized in a single status page, with the systems affected broken down by state.
- **Reporting:** By selecting a probe and identifying the desired metric and a range of time, you can generate graphs and event logs depicting precisely how the check has performed.

Note: The Monitoring module requires the Management module and Satellite server.

ARCHITECTURES
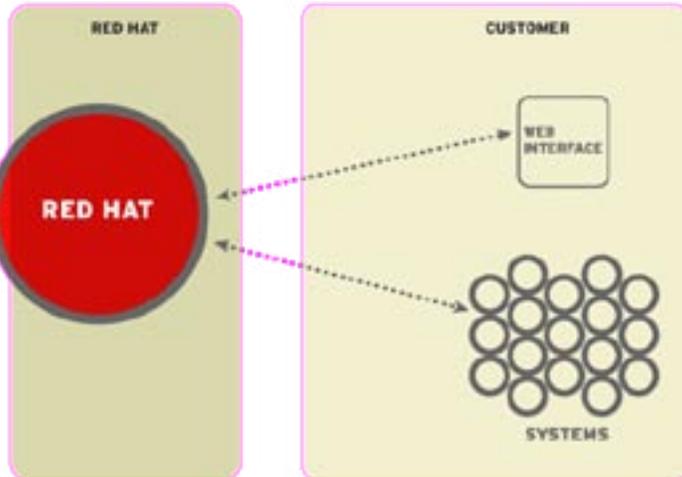
Hosted model
Basic architecture for Red Hat Network. Each of your individual systems connects to Red Hat Network via the public Internet and exchanges packages and information with the central Red Hat Network servers. Includes the following features:

- **Simple web user interface:** Intuitive web interface consolidates your systems management activities.
- **Hosted database repository:** Information about your systems, policies, and profiles is stored and hosted by the Red Hat Network database.

Installation time: minutes (occurs during OS installation).
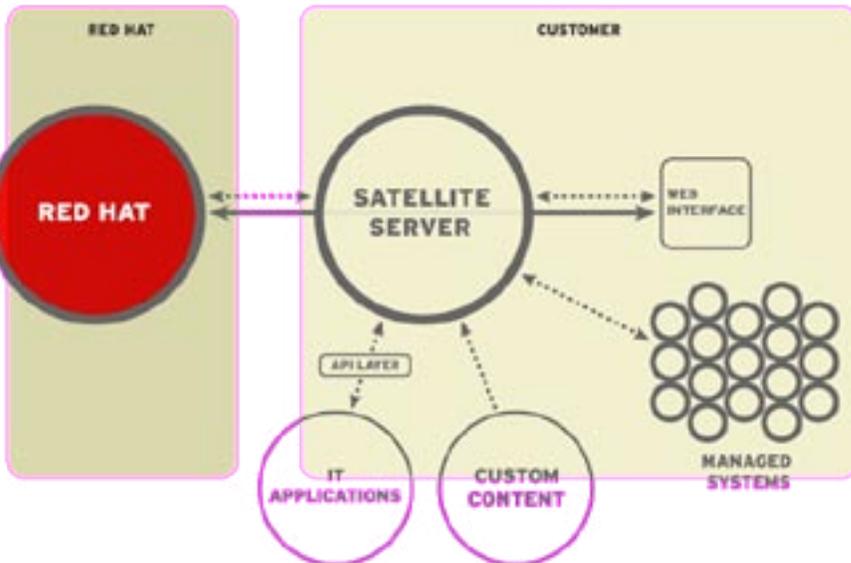
Satellite server
Take control of your systems management solution with Satellite server. All Red Hat Network functionality is stored locally on your network, with managed systems connecting to the Satellite Server, rather than downloading packages across the Internet. Only Satellite server connects with Red Hat over the Internet to download updates and synchronize Red Hat content. This model even allows you to take your systems management solution off the public Internet if desired.

- **Local database repository:** All information about your systems, policies, and profiles is stored locally on your infrastructure.
- **Complete off-network capability:** Red Hat can provide packages over the Internet or via physical media for complete network security.

- **Custom Channels:** Create custom channels for content distribution of either OS or third-party RPM-based applications.
- **Advanced API access layer:** Create scripts to automate tasks or integrate Red Hat Network with other IT applications or systems management tools.
- **Channel and errata cloning and management tools:** Easily create, clone, or customize channels and errata. Useful for staged environments.
- **Push to client:** Administrators can send packages and updates to their systems immediately, rather than wait for the system to check in with Red Hat Network.
- **Bare metal PXE boot provisioning:** Kickstart systems in tandem with PXE boot images.*
- **Integrated network install tree:** Store all default boot images, network install trees, and packages for Red Hat Enterprise Linux.*
- **Configuration management profiles:** Store configuration management profiles in an integrated directory for easier deployment.*

*Requires Provisioning Module entitlements

Installation time: one day.

Professional installation through Red Hat Professional Services is also available for Satellite server.

Proxy Server

Proxy Servers can be added to your Hosted or Satellite environment to scale content distribution across many servers and multiple locations. Individual systems connect through a Red Hat Network Proxy on your network to communicate with your Satellite or the central RHN servers (in the Hosted model).

The Proxy aggregates all necessary data and performs selected tasks locally. Content is cached locally at the Proxy for faster downloads, easier distribution, and lower bandwidth requirements.

Installation time: half day.

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