



# Trustix™ Secure Enterprise Linux

## Trustix™ Vs Red Hat



### Why Trustix™ Secure Enterprise Linux better addresses the needs of corporate servers

Both Trustix™ and Red Hat offer distributions that are aimed at the enterprise server market. In this document we shall explain why Trustix™ Secure Enterprise Linux is better equipped to meet the needs of mission critical server deployments.

#### Security vs. Software Proliferation

The packages in Trustix™ Secure Linux have been carefully picked based on their security history and design. When several packages can provide the same functionality, we always select the one with the best security.

For example- Red Hat ships with both the notoriously insecure Sendmail MTA, and the more secure Postfix MTA. Trustix Secure Linux has only the SSL/TLS enabled postfix included- decreasing the chance that an administrator will install an insecure package.

Red Hat are proud of this proliferation and actually *add* packages as you move up through their operating system hierarchy. This means that the server version has more running services and applications than the workstation version. (Indeed, Red Hat Enterprise Linux ES/AS is designed to run on workstations as well as servers!!!)

More packages means:-

- More potential security holes
- More server configuration
- More dependency issues
- More drain on system resources
- Less efficient server performance

This is completely antithetical to the philosophy and mission of Trustix™ Secure Enterprise Linux. By streamlining the distribution to include only the most secure server essential Linux packages we deliver the most efficient, stable and secure Linux distribution available. Your new server is stable enough to run for years with minimal administrative intervention- allowing your business to benefit from lower TCO from day one.

Trustix™ Secure Enterprise Linux is for servers and *servers only*.

#### Secure Updates

Trustix has SWUP™, Red Hat has The Red Hat Network Update Module. SWUP™ is the more versatile and cost effective option when you need to upgrade your installation.

- **SWUP™** enables administrators to secure update installations of TSEL from any media ( CD, Mirror Servers, FTP, Web Server etc) using GPG signature verification- free of charge. Red Hat offer the same functionality via their Proxy and Satellite Architecture Models. Unfortunately, these options require the \$2500 purchase of Red Hat Enterprise AS Premium. The Satellite model is even more expensive- demanding a separate server to run an Oracle Database. This is on top of the \$2500 cost of Red Hat Premium AS- and you still need to license the Oracle

server separately!! SWUP™ enables you to update your installations across networks using remote media such as internal FTP, CD, LAN Servers, Proxy Servers- securely and completely free of charge when you buy TSEL.

- **SWUP™** can, due to the verification of GPG signatures, use any mirror site securely. Red Hat's up2date depends on the RH distribution servers. This means that Red Hat users rely solely on the availability of the official Red Hat servers. SWUP™ is able to check the integrity of the update package so you can upgrade your installation from a wide range of Trustix™ mirror servers, your own local mirror or any Trustix™ controlled server. By using mirrors as well as its own servers, Trustix™ removes the single point of failure that would occur should the Red Hat servers fail.
- **SWUP™** maintains the privacy of the users by creating the list of packages to update locally. Red Hat's updates transfers a lot of information to the update servers (including, but not limited to: your current hardware configuration and a list of all software installed). This information is stored on these servers. The arrangement is documented in their End User License Agreement.

### **Secure Default Installation**

Trustix™ Secure Enterprise Linux ships with only essential, server specific packages and no remote services running. There is simply no way anyone can break into a TSEL, out of the box, default configuration. Red Hat ships with a lot more packages with no real consistency, some services enabled, some not. Red Hat has no defined policy about the default status of installed services, and it's up to the user to decide if a running service is a security threat. This means that a default installation of Trustix is much less vulnerable to attacks than the default installation of Red Hat.

### **Secure Default Configuration**

Trustix™ provide secure defaults for its services, Red Hat does not. Trustix™ Secure Enterprise Linux ships with updated installation media, saving administrators from having to immediately update the installation- the latest security and bugfix updates are installed from the installation CD. Typically, when you install a new machine, there is a window where potentially critical updates have not yet been installed. With TSEL, there is no such window, because your system preinstalled with the latest updates.

Red Hat, on the other hand, leaves this window wide open. There will be a number of services running but the daemons providing you these services are not up to date and may contain security issues. Red Hat makes you download additional 400MB just to secure the software you just installed. In contrast, TSEL represents immediate security and functionality out of the box.

**Trustix™**

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