Red Hat Summit

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Why Evergreening your IT estate is important

Moving from Risky, Big-Bang Projects to Continuous, Value-Driven Improvement

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Introduction

Evergreening IT: From Technical Debt to Strategic Advantage

- Pains, risks & challenges of allowing IT to stand still
- A better way: Evergreen IT
- Red Hat's platform capabilities

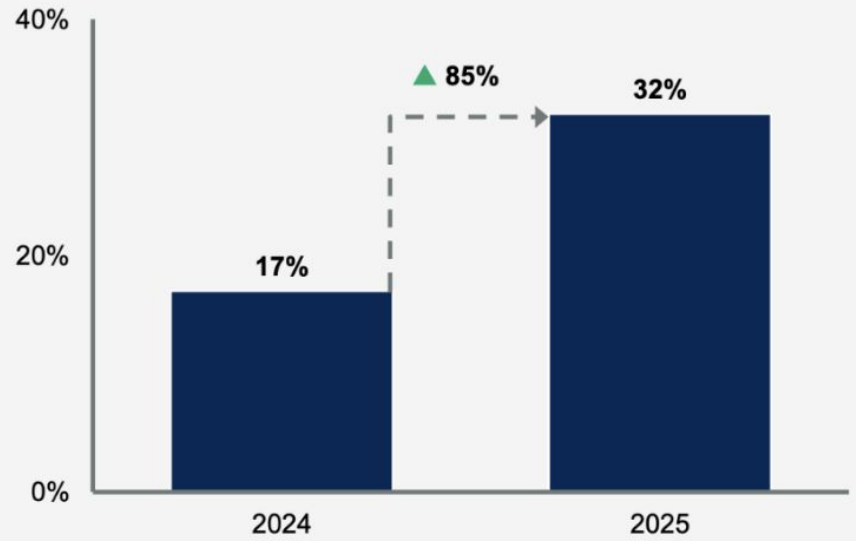
State of the CIO Survey

Technology initiatives in 2025:

1. Machine learning/AI **(42%)**
2. Security/risk management **(34%)**
3. Data/business analytics **(31%)**

Almost one-third of board members say risk management is among their top 5 strategic priorities for 2024 and 2025

Percentage of board members prioritizing risk management



n = 285
Q: Please tell us about the board's top 5 strategic business priorities for the next 2 years (2024-2025).
Source: 2024 Gartner Board of Directors Survey on Driving Business Success in an Uncertain World

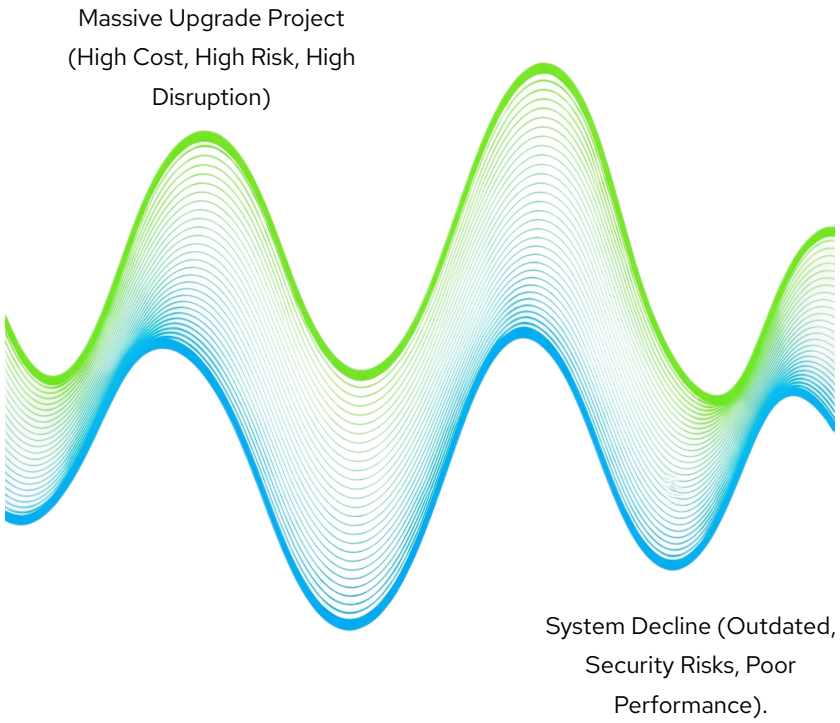
Gartner

SOURCES: Gartner & CIO.com

Pain We All Know

The Cycle of Traditional IT

- Massive, multi-year projects
- Huge, unplanned budget spikes.
- Significant disruption
- A race against "End-of-Life" deadlines.



Dangers of Standing Still

The High Cost of "Doing Nothing"

Security Vulnerabilities: Unpatched systems are the #1 target for cyberattacks. The risk of a breach grows every day we don't update.

Poor User Experience: Slow, clunky, and incompatible software frustrates employees, kills productivity, and can even impact staff retention.

Spiralling Costs: Maintaining legacy systems isn't cheap. It's called technical debt – the longer we wait, the more "interest" we pay in emergency fixes, custom support contracts, and lost efficiency.

Stifled Innovation: We can't build the future of our business on a crumbling foundation. Outdated IT becomes a roadblock, not an enabler.

A Better Way: Evergreen IT

The Evergreen IT Strategy

- Evergreen IT is a strategy of continuous, incremental updates to software, hardware, and services to prevent them from becoming obsolete.
- Instead of massive, disruptive events, we make small, manageable, continuous updates. This keeps us in a constant state of 'current'.

Why #1

Improved Security & Compliance

- **Always Patched:** Systems receive security updates automatically and quickly.
- **Reduced Attack Surface:** Eliminates known vulnerabilities that hackers exploit.
- **Simplified Compliance:** Easier to prove to auditors (for GDPR, ISO 27001, etc.) that environments are secure and up-to-date.

Reduced Risk

Why #2

Enhanced User Experience & Productivity

- **Modern Tools & Technology:** Users always have the latest features and performance improvements.
- **Less Downtime & Fewer Incidents:** Stable, current systems crash less and have fewer compatibility issues.
- **Attract & Retain Talent:** Top talent expects modern technology..

Increased Efficiency & Happier People

Why #3

Predictable Costs & Lower TCO

- **From CapEx to OpEx:** Shifts spending from huge, unpredictable capital expenditures to a manageable, predictable operational expense.
- **No More "End-of-Life" Premiums:** Avoids paying for expensive extended support for old systems.
- **IT Teams Freed Up:** IT staff can focus on innovation and value-add activities instead of planning the next nightmare upgrade or migration.

Financial Stability & Efficiency

Why #4

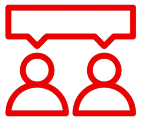
Greater Business Agility & Innovation

- **Always Ready:** The IT platform is always current and ready to support new business initiatives.
- **Faster Service Deployment:** Want to roll out a new AI tool or collaboration platform? An evergreen environment can integrate it easily.
- **Competitive Edge:** React to market changes and adopt new technologies faster than competitors who are stuck on legacy systems.

IT becomes a Strategic Enabler

Everything-as-code driving compliance & resiliency

Why a GitOps model is necessary to evergreen continuously while keeping risk low



Collaborative

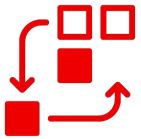
Foster cross functional collaboration while retaining control

Scalable

Unified scalable patterns for heterogeneous environments

Reliable

Continuous remediation corrects drifts before they becomes a problem



Repeatable

Redeploy to desired states faster than recovery

Auditable

Every change has complete immutable history

Consistent

GitOps practices - Single operating model from lab to production

Evergreening consistency across footprints

A continuous IT stack that allows to retain control, choice and autonomy over your systems and data.

Data Layer

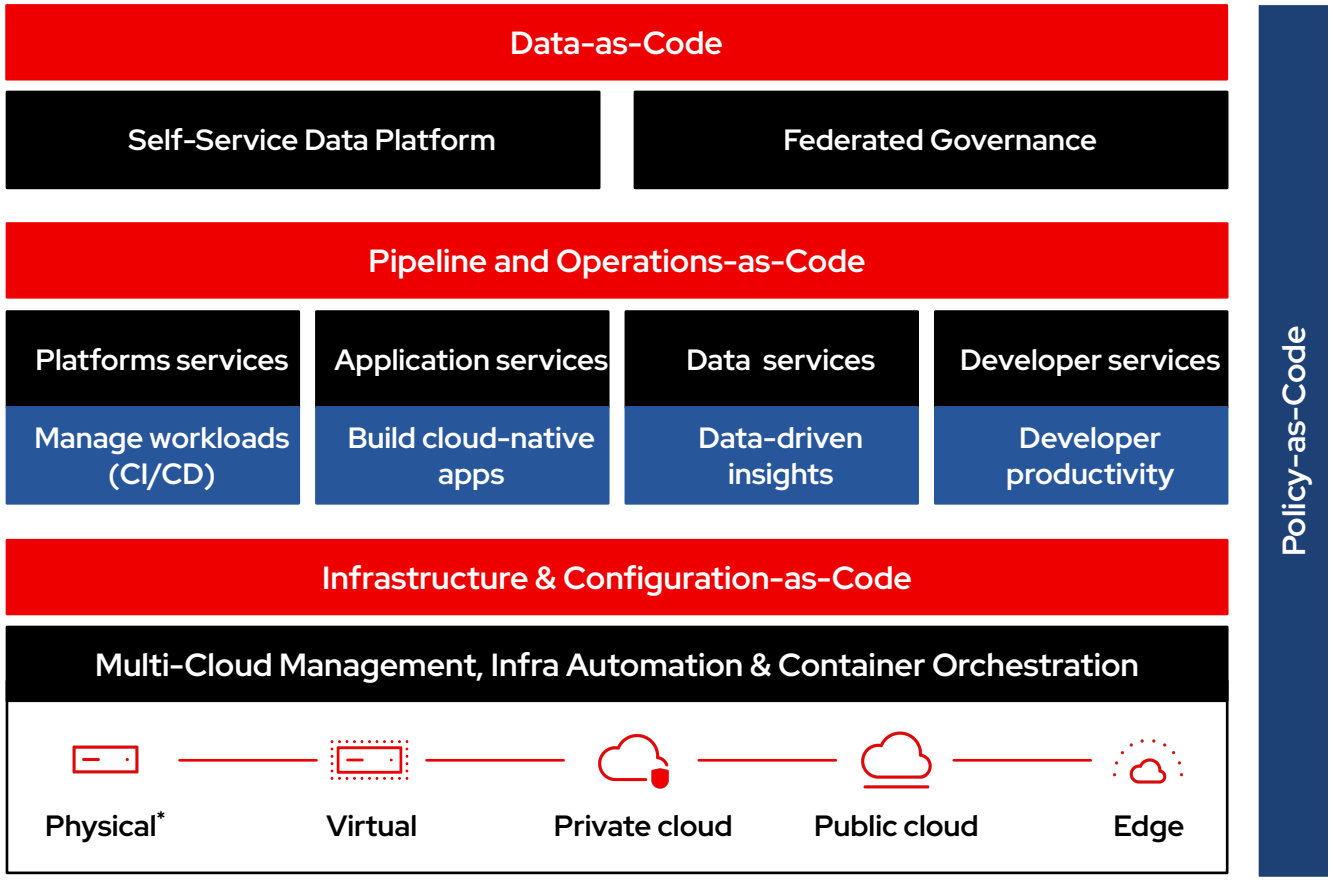
Allows the organization to keep control of its data in the cloud, prevent unsolicited third-party access, and maintain regulatory rules for data at rest and in transit.

Operational Layer

Allows the organization to have visibility and control of its operations while maintaining continuity of operations and regulatory compliance.

Technical Layer

Allows the organization to run workloads without continuous dependence on a specific provider's cloud infrastructure, software or services.



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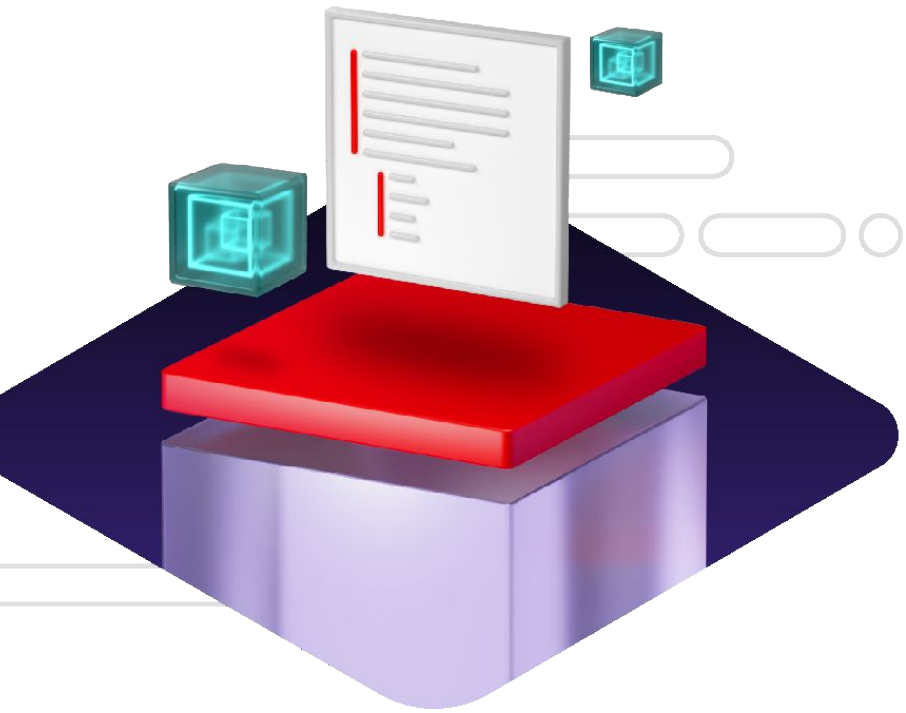
Contain drift and accelerate delivery

using container tools and technologies



With image mode for Red Hat Enterprise Linux, you can:

- **Speed time to market**
  using DevOps and CI/CD practices, which now include the OS
- **Streamline operations**
  by automating updates and rollbacks—just like your smartphone
- **Enhance security**
  by reducing your attack surface with immutable system images
- **Simplify appliance creation**
  by combining the OS with apps and drivers for faster development and delivery

Because systems should be as easy to update as smartphones

Ansible provides a structured approach to operationalise change management

COST EFFICIENCY

Enhanced Maintainability

Supported upgrade migrations between versions, developer tooling and deployment across hybrid cloud

REVENUE GROWTH

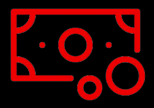
Improved Flexibility & Innovation

Integration, testing and support for separated features like UI, API, RBAC, Backend, nightly builds at scale

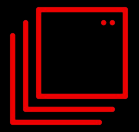
RISK MITIGATION

Highly resilient and secure

Service-level agreement (SLA) guarantees on security vulnerabilities, independent software vendor (ISV) compatibility



Operational efficiency (Integration or testing of seperated/new features)



Number of new features in Automation platform

Improved security posture and less downtime hours

Call to action...

- ❑ Identify the **biggest areas of technical debt**.
- ❑ **Build a business case** for a pilot program in one area.
- ❑ Commit to **shifting your mindset** from '**one-off projects**' to '**continuous improvement**'.

Adopting an Evergreen IT strategy is one of the most impactful investments you can make in security, productivity, and future growth.

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