SUSE

White Paper

Optimize cost and reduce complexity with an open IT infrastructure

Reduce complexity and cost without disrupting what works, and build a stronger foundation for whatever comes next.

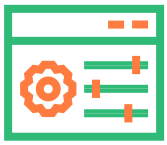
Summary

Today's enterprises need IT infrastructure that evolves with the business, without escalating costs, forced migrations or loss of control. This whitepaper outlines how an open, enterprise-ready IT foundation helps organizations reduce complexity, optimize total cost of ownership and modernize at their own pace. By embracing open source and open standards, IT leaders can unify operations across heterogeneous Linux environments while preparing for AI-assisted operations and future workloads. The result is greater flexibility, stronger security and a resilient foundation that supports innovation without disruption.

Key Highlights

Take back control of infrastructure costs

An open, unified IT foundation reduces the "complexity tax" created by fragmented tools and siloed environments. Centralized management and automation lower operational overhead, extend the life of existing systems and turn unpredictable spend into a more controlled, strategic investment.



Simplify operations across heterogeneous environments

Managing diverse Linux distributions, hybrid cloud and edge deployments from a single control plane improves visibility and consistency. Automated patching and standardized processes replace manual firefighting, improving uptime while freeing teams to focus on higher-value initiatives.

Modernize without disruption or forced migrations

Open infrastructure enables organizations to adopt modern platforms only where new workloads demand it. Existing enterprise systems remain secure and supported, allowing modernization to happen incrementally on business terms, not vendor timelines.

Prepare for AI-assisted operations and future innovation

AI-driven infrastructure operations depend on a modern Linux foundation and open standards. With open source and standards-based management, organizations can adopt AI-assisted automation when ready while preserving long-term choice and avoiding proprietary lock-in.

Build on an open, enterprise-ready foundation with SUSE

SUSE delivers a modular platform that unifies Linux operations across environments, combining open source innovation with enterprise-grade security, lifecycle support and AI-ready capabilities. This approach helps organizations reduce risk, optimize costs and maintain full control as they modernize and scale.

Technology decisions should align with and power your specific business objectives, even as your goals and strategies evolve.

That's only possible when you're in control of your infrastructure. You need the freedom and flexibility to build an open, enterprise-ready IT foundation that supports what's already working while preparing you for what comes next.

When your infrastructure is scalable, efficient, secure and adaptable, it delivers real business value by reducing complexity and enabling smarter resource allocation across teams.

- **Cost control:** Reduce TCO by streamlining management across heterogeneous environments. Extend the life of legacy systems and avoid escalating vendor fees without forcing massive infrastructure changes.
- **Faster innovation:** Eliminate operational drag by unifying operations across diverse Linux estates. Enable DevOps teams to deploy seamlessly from core to edge–without reskilling for every use case.
- **Growth on your terms:** Meet the requirements of new workloads that incumbent platforms can't support, while keeping existing enterprise Linux systems secure and operational. Adopt modern platforms where needed, without forced migrations or disruption to what already works.
- **Operational efficiency:** Replace manual firefighting with global visibility and automated patching. Keep systems secure and compliant while freeing teams to focus on higher-value work.
- **Future-proof IT operations in the age of AI:** AI is transforming how IT environments are operated, secured and optimized. An open foundation ensures your infrastructure can adopt AI-assisted operations and intelligent automation while preserving the stability, lifecycle, and value of mission-critical systems—without forced replatforming or lock-in.

These aren't lofty ideals. They're attainable goals with the right approach. In the pages that follow, we'll show you how to take back control with an interoperable IT foundation that lowers costs, improves uptime, reduces complexity and positions you for long-term success.

It's **your** IT infrastructure, not your vendors'. Shouldn't **you** be the one calling the shots?

Clear the hurdles that limit your speed, flexibility and growth

Every technology leader wants infrastructure that is fast, flexible, secure and built to support growth. But too often, they're forced to choose between agility and control.

For CIOs and CTOs, rising IT costs and restrictive vendor agreements force teams to focus on maintaining legacy systems instead of investing in AI, Edge and other strategic innovations.

For operations leaders, mounting complexity and security gaps slow the pace of work and increase risk. For platform engineers and Linux administrators, fragmented toolsets across heterogeneous environments (multi-Linux, hybrid cloud, edge, etc) lead to duplicated effort, inconsistent updates and a growing compliance burden.

These issues are amplified by scale and heterogeneity, where growth and the passage of time turn small inefficiencies into insurmountable obstacles. Whether through

the creation of operational niches filled with exceptions or the need to maintain distinct management tools for different environments, the result is the same: a surge in complexity, fragmented workflows and cost. This directly drives an unplanned rise in TCO that jeopardizes your budget.

In many cases, enterprises are locked into renewals or forced migrations that don't align with their goals. They rely on manual processes, homegrown scripts or inconsistent patching just to maintain the status quo.

Even when organizations can invest in modernization, it is too often built on legacy foundations because operational leaders are forced to focus solely on maintaining today's infrastructure. True future-proofing requires a lifecycle that aligns with your investment horizon and a modern platform ready for what comes next.

Deploying infrastructure today that is not ready for an AI-assisted future will inevitably render those investments obsolete—as quickly as AI itself is adopted—turning them into a barrier to innovation instead of an enabler.

AI-assisted operations are not an add-on. They depend on a modern Linux foundation and open standards-based management capabilities, designed to evolve continuously with the platform while preserving future choice.

It is about being ready when you need it—because you will. And when your IT is ready, execution follows. There's a better way. An optimized, unified IT foundation makes it possible to patch, secure and manage your entire Linux estate from one place. With built-in automation and centralized control, you can reduce manual work, eliminate unnecessary costs and build a more resilient environment– without disrupting what's already working.

The Innovation Paradox

Heterogeneity is not a choice—it is the natural outcome of innovation over time

Hybrid cloud architectures, edge deployments and AI-driven operations inherently introduce diversity across platforms, devices and workloads. As infrastructure evolves, new workloads bring requirements that existing environments were never designed to meet, while existing systems continue to deliver critical business value.

The real risk is not heterogeneity itself, but the operational sclerosis that emerges when organizations try to manage this diversity with fragmented tools, manual processes, incompatible lifecycles, or by forcing homogeneity at the expense of innovation.

"We have used SUSE Linux Enterprise Server from the very beginning and are very happy with it. We see it as a building block for many of our internal and external systems."

— Karin Bering, Strategic Product Manager at Ericsson

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This liberates resources to adopt a truly modern infrastructure that fulfills the promise of continuous, long-term innovation. You gain AI-ready Linux and management tools based on open standards like MCP (Model Context Protocol) to ensure AI provider choice. Without this foundation, you risk stranding investments in proprietary silos, leaving you unprepared for the era of agentic AI.

How open source and open standards lead to greater control–and how that benefits your business

Open source puts IT leaders back in control. Open solutions give teams access to cutting-edge software through the transparency and collaboration of the open source community. That unlocks the flexibility to build what you need today and adapt as requirements evolve.

But a truly open solution is much more than just open source code. Open source accelerates innovation while open standards preserve control, interoperability, and long-term choice, including the choice of AI providers.

Combined with best practices, this foundation helps future-proof your solutions–a commitment validated by recognitions such as the Digital Public Good (DPG) designation. With this foundation, your vendors aren't driving your strategy; you are.

When you work with a trusted partner that hardens open source innovation and applies open standards to make it enterprise-ready—backed by security updates, lifecycle support and ongoing innovation security updates, lifecycle support, and ongoing innovation—you get the best of both worlds. You can move fast while maintaining operational control, without spending cycles securing raw code or retraining teams on unfamiliar tools, distributions or environments.

This isn't about control for its own sake. It's about what that control allows you to do. When you take back control of your IT infrastructure, you have the power to optimize resources and prepare for whatever comes next. That might mean scaling into new markets, integrating emerging technologies or keeping costs in check. Enabling modern infrastructure adoption while unifying operations across your diverse, hybrid Linux landscape empowers you to be:

- **Flexible:** Choose technologies that align with your needs. Adopt a modern Linux where required, while preserving the freedom to run existing distributions and extend their lifecycle. Leverage open standards to ensure long-term choice, including AI provider choice, without vendor lock-in.
- **Scalable:** Growth should be seamless across hybrid, cloud, AI and edge environments while maintaining operational consistency across your heterogeneous estates.
- **Efficient:** Automate routine tasks and reduce manual overhead with centralized visibility, AI-assisted operations and expert support, freeing budget for high-value initiatives instead of reactive maintenance and complex operations.
- **Secure:** Protect systems and data through automation, zero trust principles and a rigorously evaluated software supply chain—without adding operational friction.
- **Future-ready:** Prepare your infrastructure to adopt AI and edge technologies on your terms. Enable AI-assisted operations and intelligent automation—built on open standards like MCP—through continuous platform evolution rather than disruptive rip and replace.

Taking back control of your infrastructure puts you in a better position to meet today's needs while building a stronger foundation for the future.

Let's look at four ways a unified, automated IT stack can directly support and accelerate your business strategy.

The right open infrastructure enhances business decisions

When your infrastructure is flexible, scalable, efficient and secure, it does more than run workloads. It enables better decisions, reducing complexity, controlling costs and allows the business to adapt with confidence as priorities evolve.

Here are four ways a unified, open IT foundation directly supports your strategy:

1. **Cost efficiency at scale:** Stop paying the "complexity tax." By unifying management and implementing AI-assisted infrastructure operations across diverse Linux distributions and heterogeneous environments, you reduce operational overhead, lower TCO and extend the value of existing investments. This turns unplanned infrastructure spend into a predictable, strategic investment.
2. **Accelerated execution:** Move beyond simply keeping systems running. A consistent, open foundation allows teams to deploy new workloads—from modern edge applications to AI-driven services—anywhere, without friction. When the foundation is ready and automation is in place, execution accelerates.
3. **Growth on your terms:** Adopt modern infrastructure where new workloads demand it, while integrating technologies such as AI and edge computing into existing workflows—without disrupting what already works.

   Open standards and real modernization needs, not vendor mandates, determine how and when you evolve, giving you the freedom to scale into new markets or adopt new providers without lock-in.
4. **Operational excellence and business resiliency:** Shift from reactive firefighting to proactive operations. With centralized visibility, automation and AI-ready management capabilities—supported by open standards like MCP—you improve uptime, strengthen security and compliance, and increase business resiliency while preparing for intelligent, AI-assisted operations tomorrow.

This is not just infrastructure management; it is operational readiness for the future.

SUSE: Open and enterprise-ready are at our core

You deserve to control your IT strategy, not let a vendor dictate it. SUSE's portfolio is built to support complex environments with a focus on flexibility, efficiency and control, **your** control.

> "SUSE Multi-Linux Support has given us the primary benefit of operational flexibility and vendor independence...We have the choice we need, and we benefit greatly from SUSE's open source expertise. It's all about collaboration and shared progress... This relationship is essential for our long-term strategy."
>
> — Peter Nutt Global Head of Unix Engineering Deutsche Bank

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Whether you're running in the data center, at the edge, in the cloud or across AI-driven workloads, SUSE delivers enterprise-ready innovation without vendor lock-in, supporting both today's operations and the evolution toward the AI-assisted operations of the future.

AI-assisted operations in SUSE are delivered at multiple layers. SUSE Linux Enterprise Server enables deeper, server-level AI-assisted operations. SUSE Multi-Linux Manager enables AI-assisted management across heterogeneous environments at scale, while SLES for SAP, through Trento, delivers SAP-aware infrastructure operations. Together, they enable AI-assisted management across the entire Linux estate.

Open source has been central to our mission for more than 30 years. It puts you in control of your infrastructure and your business strategy. SUSE builds on that foundation by hardening open source technologies for enterprise use and providing the automation, security and lifecycle support you need to operate with confidence.

SUSE offers a modular, enterprise-ready platform that enables IT teams to streamline operations, reduce risk and maintain full control, without vendor lock-in. Here's how each component contributes to a smarter infrastructure foundation:

- **SUSE® Linux Enterprise Server (SLES):** Build on a secure, enterprise-grade Linux platform designed for stability, performance and compliance. SUSE Linux Enterprise Server embeds AI-assisted capabilities directly at the operating system level. With MCP Host and MCP Server components, SLES enables local, context-aware operations such as troubleshooting, remediation and system insight. SUSE Linux Enterprise Server supports mission-critical workloads with a hardened OS, extended lifecycle support and integration with automation and monitoring tools. Whether you're running on-premises or in hybrid environments, SLES gives you the confidence to scale while minimizing disruption.
- **SUSE® Multi-Linux Manager:** Centralize control across all your Linux systems, regardless of vendor. SUSE Multi-Linux Manager provides a unified control plane to patch, manage and secure both SUSE and non-SUSE environments—and serves as the foundation for AI-assisted operations and automation at scale across heterogeneous estates. This increases consistency and ensures visibility across your entire infrastructure, making operations more predictable and efficient.
- **SUSE® Multi-Linux Support:** Standardize support across your entire Linux estate with a single point of contact. SUSE Multi-Linux Support provides you with expert assistance and trusted maintenance for all major enterprise Linux distributions, even if you're not using SUSE Linux. You can retain your

> "SLES for SAP Applications makes our complete deployment process way easier. It comes preconfigured with SAP requirements so we can deploy without having to take any extra steps... It's quite easy to use and makes for a much better experience for everyone involved."
>
> — Elke Bregler Principal Service Architect Microsoft
>
> Microsoft

existing Enterprise Linux OS version while switching your support to SUSE. Extend system life, simplify vendor relationships and avoid costly forced migrations.

- **SUSE® Linux Enterprise Server for SAP® applications (SLES for SAP):** Run SAP workloads with greater reliability and performance on a platform co-developed with SAP. SLES for SAP is optimized to support high-availability configurations, fast recovery and SAP-specific tuning out of the box. With built-in automation and extended support, you can reduce downtime and ensure business continuity for your most critical SAP systems.

At SUSE, our mission is simple. We are here to support your strategy, not dictate it. Everything we build is designed to give you more control, more flexibility and more confidence in your IT infrastructure.

The bottom line

An adaptable IT foundation makes it easier to scale, optimize and modernize on your terms. SUSE helps you build that foundation with an open, flexible infrastructure platform that puts you back in control. With SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, SUSE Multi-Linux Manager and SUSE Multi-Linux Support, you can manage your entire Linux environment from a single place, no matter the distribution. Built-in automation, centralized visibility and consistent patching help extend system life and increase efficiency across your estate.

This is what "open" means at SUSE. You choose the tools, timing and approach that work for your business. We provide the enterprise-ready platform and expert support to make it possible. There is no lock-in, no forced migrations and no reliance on a restrictive vendor model. With more than 30 years of experience in open source and enterprise support, SUSE gives you the confidence to move fast without compromising stability or security.

Ready to find out what open and enterprise-ready really look like in practice? Learn how SUSE can help you take back control at suse.com.

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Thank You