

Why Upgrade to Novell® Open Enterprise Server?

Upgrading to Novell Open Enterprise Server: The Smart Move

NetWare® is a legendary product and you have relied on it for years to give end-users access to critical network resources with the greatest performance, security and scalability possible. The upgrade path from NetWare is Novell Open Enterprise Server. Based on Linux with nearly unlimited choices in hardware and software, Open Enterprise Server delivers all the same tried-and-true storage, print and networking services that NetWare offers.

The market is consolidating around two major platforms: Windows and Linux. Customers running NetWare are facing this choice. Don't migrate—upgrade. Moving your infrastructure from NetWare to Windows is loaded with risk and cost. Get ready to learn why upgrading from NetWare to Novell Open Enterprise Server is the smart move.

Linux Is the Right Strategic Direction

No one ever bought NetWare for the kernel. The value was in the services and how they enabled Novell customers. Today, all those services are available on SUSE® Linux Enterprise, the foundation so many world-class enterprises have chosen for their mission-critical applications.

Because Novell Open Enterprise Server is based on SUSE Linux Enterprise, all software and hardware that are certified for SUSE Linux Enterprise run on Open Enterprise Server. This means that you have more choices than ever for your infrastructure. When you consider the option of virtualizing applications with Xen, included in Open Enterprise Server, the picture becomes clear: Novell Open Enterprise Server becomes a powerful, cost-saving consolidation platform based on Linux.

Since the market growth rates for Linux are eclipsing Windows, more innovations and development will be available for Novell Open Enterprise Server than were ever available for NetWare. For example, at Novell, we've recently introduced interoperability and cost-saving innovations on Open Enterprise Server that were previously unavailable on NetWare, like Dynamic Storage Technology and Domain Services for Windows.

In today's flat world, no single company can maintain a competitive edge alone, no matter how big it is. The most successful companies are relying on the power of community and collaboration to deliver groundbreaking innovations. By upgrading to Linux, you join the fastest-growing segment of enterprise customers. These customers are gaining value from thousands of developers and innovators who contribute to the most efficient and secure platform available.

Are You Willing to Risk a Major Migration Now?

When considering your next move, don't be tricked by licensing costs alone. Did you know that there are several hidden costs in a move from NetWare to Windows Server? Even in small- or medium-sized enterprises, the migration could easily cost millions of dollars and won't even offer feature parity.

There are three main areas of hidden cost: hardware, effort and risk. Since Novell Open Enterprise Server is the most efficient file-and-print infrastructure, a migration to Windows means you can expect to double your hardware investment to maintain equal workloads and users. If there is a SAN in the environment, expect your costs to soar even more, as most companies will have to migrate all data, all at once, to a brand new target SAN.

Then there's the effort in conducting such a migration. From the assessment and planning phases through pilot, phased deployments and assimilation, the move from NetWare to Windows will consume tremendous man-hours. Can you afford to spare those resources from more strategic projects? The migration from NetWare to Windows Server will be manual across every service and file system, and will probably require changes to every end-user workstation. And inevitably, there will be incremental training required for helpdesk personnel, administrators—and worse, end users. Add to that a complete redesign and deployment of your disaster contingency infrastructure and you can see how the hidden costs of this kind of migration add up.

When you start to understand the complexity of a move from NetWare to Windows Server, based on manual processes and best-guess input, it's easy to see how risky it can be.

Upgrading to Novell Open Enterprise Server Is Easy

While you might think that Linux is a “new” technology that you'll have to learn to administer, Novell has made it easy to upgrade your NetWare infrastructure to Linux, using familiar NetWare tools and techniques.

Today, moving NetWare workloads to Open Enterprise Server is even easier than it was to move from NetWare 6.0 to NetWare 6.5. With a new, intuitive graphical user interface, administrators can point and click to assign workloads to a new target server, schedule operations, create alerts and watch real-time status. You can even retain the same server identities between NetWare and your new Linux servers. Just think of all the downstream manual processes that will save you.

Since services can be managed from Novell iManager or Novell Remote Manager, administrators won't have much of a learning curve. Best of all, there will be no impact to end users. While we understand that a move from one platform to another is technically a migration, Novell has invested heavily to ensure that your experience with this move is more like an upgrade. Customers around the world who have already made the move from NetWare to Open Enterprise Server on SUSE Linux Enterprise agree: Upgrading is easy.

Upgrading to Novell Open Enterprise Server Is the Smart Choice

In today's economic climate, it's important to be smart about where you invest your limited resources. Infrastructure already consumes too high a proportion of your IT budget. Why spend more when you don't have to? Novell is committed to making the move as easy as possible, with services and programs that support your efforts and help you get the most out of your existing investments. When it's time to make your choice, choose the easier, *smarter* way: Novell Open Enterprise Server.

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