Rocky Linux™
from CIQ

Rocky Linux from CIQ (RLC) is an enhanced release of the Rocky Linux Community Edition, featuring commercial guarantees backed by CIQ. The four main benefits include: CVE remediation, verified package repositories, OS updates with service level objectives (SLOs), and indemnification. RLC enables customers to confidently and affordably deploy Rocky Linux into production environments.

The problem: Uncertainty, risk, and lack of support for Rocky Linux

With nearly 1 million deployed instances of Rocky Linux 8 and 9, it has become the leading enterprise Linux operating system and is the de facto replacement for the once-dominant CentOS. However, CentOS had official support from Red Hat until it was EOL'd on June 30, 2024. Modern businesses migrating to Rocky benefit from community-driven support, but for mission-critical and regulated environments, they may encounter challenges such as:

- **Lack of guaranteed security updates:** Community distributions benefit from the contributions of dedicated volunteers, but the reliance on volunteer efforts can sometimes result in varying update schedules, which may affect the speed at which critical vulnerabilities are addressed. Enterprises and smaller organizations may be reluctant to put a community-supported OS on the front lines of their critical infrastructure.

- **Unverified package supply chain:** Communities typically do not offer verified and authenticated software packages, exposing organizations to risks from untrusted or compromised software sources. Given the complexity of software dependencies, security-minded orgs are rightly wary about potentially vulnerable packages as an attack vector into their businesses.

- **No commercial indemnification:** Communities cannot provide legal protections or commercial-grade support, which can be a dealbreaker for larger organizations, especially if they're operating in highly-regulated industries with strict compliance requirements.

- **Cost-prohibitive alternatives:** The larger the datacenter footprint, the more expensive OS licensing becomes. Though distributions like RHEL are popular for stability and security, businesses can easily face 7-figure OS licensing costs, making it difficult to afford or justify.

- **Complexity of compliance and regulatory requirements:** Businesses in regulated sectors like healthcare, finance, and government need to ensure their OSes meet stringent compliance standards, such as FIPS.

PERFORMANCE MEETS SECURITY AT SCALE

An OS without formalized commercial expectations is likely to feel like a gamble with delayed security updates, unverified software sources, and the absence of accountability. These risks can also lead to vulnerabilities remaining unpatched, non-compliance with industry regulations, and operational disruptions. Without the backing of a commercial entity, there's no guarantee of timely fixes, indemnification, or professional support, leaving IT teams to manage mission-critical systems with no safety net. Without these assurances, businesses jeopardize both their security and compliance posture.

Rocky Linux from CIQ (RLC) brings commercial assurance to free, open source enterprise Linux

RLC gives organizations an enterprise-grade Linux distribution with all the assurances, security, and compliance needed for mission-critical workloads. At a $25K annual price point that delivers unmatched value, RLC is the ideal solution for businesses seeking a secure, scalable, high-performance, and cost-effective Linux distribution.

- **Service level objectives (SLOs) on updates**: RLC comes with SLO-backed security updates and patches, providing assurance for update availability within 30 days of upstream releases.

- **Verified and secure package repositories:** All packages delivered by CIQ are tested, validated, and mirrored from US-based secure repositories to ensure integrity and reliability.

- **Commercial indemnification:** Legal indemnification provides peace of mind and protects businesses from risks related to open source software usage, giving IT leaders confidence in meeting internal and external compliance requirements.

- **Cost-effective enterprise Linux:** At a competitive price point, RLC offers unlimited deployments and access to premium enterprise-grade features that provide value without the high costs of traditional enterprise Linux vendors.

	Rocky Linux	Rocky Linux from CIQ
1:1 compatibility with Enterprise Linux	✅	✅
Supply chain validation by CIQ	❌	✅
Package Validation and confirmation by CIQ	❌	✅
SLO on security updates	❌	✅
Limited indemnification	❌	✅
Priority dedicated access to repositories	❌	✅
Professional support with SLAs	Available	Available
Guarantees on security updates	❌	✅
FIPS 140-3	❌	Available
Cloud-specific content mirrors	✅	✅
Paid support options	✅	✅

Use cases for RLC

- **Financial services:** Ensure compliance with PCI DSS and SOX through guaranteed security updates and indemnification, protecting sensitive data and reducing legal risk.

- **Healthcare:** Achieve HIPAA compliance with secure, verified packages and timely security patches, safeguarding patient data and ensuring operational continuity.

- **Government agencies:** Meet FIPS 140-3 compliance and protect classified data with guaranteed updates and verified repositories hosted in the U.S.

- **Large enterprises:** Reduce OS licensing costs with unlimited deployments for $25K/year, maintaining enterprise-grade security without sacrificing reliability.

- **Cloud providers:** Secure cloud workloads with validated packages, guaranteed updates, and cloud-optimized images across AWS, GCP, Azure, and OCI.

- **SMBs**: Deploy an affordable, enterprise-grade Linux solution with security assurances, scaling seamlessly across on-premise and cloud environments.

RLC is the easiest possible route to low-cost Linux across a business

A free, open source enterprise Linux with formalized commercial expectations provides certainty and peace of mind for businesses, IT leaders, and customers. Community-driven operating systems like Rocky Linux provide innovation and flexibility but lack the guaranteed security updates, validated software supply chain, and indemnification that organizations in regulated industries need to mitigate risk.

RLC solves these problems by bringing accountability and commercial assurances to organizations that need more than what the community can provide. Rather than risk their critical business operations, businesses can look to CIQ for guaranteed security patches, verified software integrity, and ongoing legal protections, ensuring that their infrastructure remains secure, compliant, and scalable—without breaking the budget.

CIQ is your software infrastructure provider, delivering next-gen solutions that let you build the future you've always imagined. We provide high-performance, secure products for every layer of the software stack.

We are the founding sponsor of Rocky Linux and have the deepest industry knowledge of the operating system, providing 24/7 enterprise support and long-term support (LTS) to organizations around the world.

To learn more about Rocky Linux from CIQ (RLC), go to **ciq.com/products/rocky-linux/** and contact us at **info@ciq.com.**