

# Choosing a Ceph Solution

You have considered all the distributed storage options and have decided on a solution: Ceph—the powerful, open-source, self-healing, clustered solution with support for block, object, and file system storage environments.

You are ready to set up your efficient and highly reliable Ceph cluster. Your next step? Find a Ceph vendor. Several companies offer products and services in this space, but the spotlight falls most often on two leading Linux vendors who are pacesetters in enterprise storage: SUSE and Red Hat.

---

## ■ Products:

SUSE Enterprise Storage

## Beyond the Code

SUSE Enterprise Storage™ and Red Hat's Ceph product are both based on source code from the open source Ceph project ([www.ceph.com](http://www.ceph.com)). You don't need to purchase a product from Red Hat, or SUSE, or anyone else to work with Ceph. In theory, you could actually download Ceph and set it up yourself. In the world of open source, all changes made to the code are shared with the community to benefit *all* versions and future releases. For this reason, no company has exclusive use of an open source code base. Contributions come from multiple sources and *all* users benefit from *all* the changes.

Because all vendors have access to the code, open source companies like SUSE and Red Hat base their business on integration and support services, including:

- *Service agreements*
- *Certification of hardware products*
- *Integration with the Linux stack and network environments*

SUSE has a long history of providing professional support services for enterprise customers. SUSE was founded in 1992 and SUSE® Linux is one of the oldest and most enterprise-focused Linux distributions in the industry. SUSE brings its long history of enterprise support to the Ceph space with SUSE Enterprise Storage.

## Shopping for Ceph

All Ceph products provide the same core Ceph system. When shopping for a Ceph solution, the most important question is: does the vendor provide enterprise-quality services and support for an affordable price?

As you make this decision, consider *all* of the following:

- **Price**—*Does the total cost of the solution compare favorably with other top-of-the-line products?*
- **Contribution**—*Does the vendor participate actively in the Ceph community?*

- **Enterprise support**—Does the vendor have a history of successfully supporting enterprise infrastructures?
- **Tools**—Does the solution provide an advanced toolkit for practical management and deployment?
- **Integration**—Does the solution offer seamless integration with existing network resources and provide for future expansion?
- **Certification**—Does the vendor have a comprehensive program for hardware certification?
- **OpenStack**—Many customers are considering Ceph because it is the leading storage system for OpenStack infrastructures. If you are planning for Ceph because you are building your network around OpenStack, does the vendor offer a competitive, comprehensive program for OpenStack support?

SUSE extends its legacy of enterprise Linux expertise to the Ceph distributed storage environment with SUSE Enterprise Storage. In addition to extensive hardware certification resources and proven experience with professional support, SUSE is an active participant in the Ceph development community. The SUSE team took the lead with Ceph's iSCSI interface, which adds direct support for Windows and VMware clients to the Ceph framework. SUSE Enterprise Storage 3 is the first Ceph implementation to include support for the new Ceph "Jewel" release. SUSE also specializes

in OpenStack and has a ready network of seasoned experts available to assist with OpenStack deployments.

### Next Steps

Big decisions start with small steps. Compare SUSE Enterprise Storage with Red Hat's Ceph solution (or any other Ceph-based product) in your test environment and choose the solution that offers the best:

- Support services
- Integration with your existing network
- Support for your hardware environment
- Price

We are confident that as you consider these criteria, you will place SUSE Enterprise Storage in the highest tier of leading enterprise storage products.

### Conclusion

Open source code is free to everyone, so all products build their services on a similar code base. The real measure of a Ceph solution is the vendor's capacity for enterprise support, as well as their investment in integration, certification, and management tools. SUSE's expertise with enterprise Linux, its active participation in the Ceph community, and its emphasis on professional customer service put SUSE Enterprise Storage in the top tier of enterprise Ceph solutions for any growing company with a need for state-of-the-art distributed storage.



#### Contact your local SUSE Solutions Provider, or call SUSE at:

1 800 796 3700 U.S./Canada  
1 801 861 4500 Worldwide

SUSE  
Maxfeldstrasse 5  
90409 Nuremberg  
Germany