

# Enterprise Linux OEM Conversion

18 October 2009

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## Scope

The Red Hat Enterprise Linux distribution is provided under the GPL, but if a user would install it and provide it to a third party, then Red Hat requires that their trademark information be removed. This is a reasonable request, but is somewhat easier said than done.

This document briefly explains how to re-badge Linux from Red Hat Linux to Aerospace Linux. All the modified files are provided in a set of tar archives. You can use these files for your own purposes under the GPL version 2 and you can modify them any which way you like. This should enable you to rebadge Linux within an hour or so, using the Gimp to edit the graphical files.

Of note is that there is a difference between trademarks and copyright. In other words, we should not remove *all* references to Red Hat. What we need to do is give the distribution a clearly different name such as 'Aerospace Linux' and ensure that it is what the user will clearly see on *all* splash screens and login dialogues. Underneath though, the name Red Hat occurs in many places inside files and in file names, which is good if they actually wrote that code and is asserting their copyright.

It took about a day to figure out what needs to be changed and there may be one or two things more somewhere, but these tar balls contain the bulk of the problem. The most tedious part is converting all the Red Hat icons (a snowflake drawing was used since it scales nicely from 12 pixels to 512 pixels).

## Download

Download the source code from <http://ftp.redhat.com/pub/redhat/linux/enterprise/>. There are two groups of files for Client and Server (this is just to make things annoying). Use *wget* to get both and use the *mirror* and *continue* options to download both groups to the same place (most files are the exact same so *wget* will go faster the second time).

You can compile the source files yourself, but it may take a very long time to do so. It may be worth while buying a copy from the Red Hat online store and rebadge that. Alternatively get CentOS from <http://www.centos.org> since they already compiled everything, which can save you a day or two.

Create a FTP server that points to the binary files and rebuild the *yum* repository index so that you can do network installs. See *man yum*. It is simple to do.

## System boot messages

Edit these files and replace mention of *Redhat* with 'Aerospace Linux':

*/etc/issue*

*/etc/issue.net*

*/etc/rc.sysinit*

*/etc/redhat-release*

## **Grub boot loader splash screen**

Edit file `/boot/grub/menu.lst`. and replace *Redhat* with '*Aerospace Linux*'.

Change the graphical file `/boot/grub/splash.xpm.gz` as follows using *The Gimp*:

*Size: 640x480*

*Colours: 14*

*Colour dithering: None*

## **Graphical login screen**

Run `gdmsetup` and select *no theme* and a simple background picture `/etc/gdm/splash.jpg`. Edit the picture and add a logo to it. The settings are saved in file `/etc/gdm/custom.conf`.

## **Graphical boot splash screen**

Edit the picture files of the *Red Hat Graphical Boot* (RHGB) system:

`/usr/share/rhgb/system-logo.png`

## **System icons**

Edit all the icons in `/usr/share/pixmaps/redhat` and replace them with a generic *snowflake* or *maple leaf* (something symmetrical that scales well). These pictures are used all over the place for buttons or logos.

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*Et Voila!*