

The Linux Opportunity

Linux has not only captured the hearts and minds of open source fans, it's also grabbing the attention and preferences of corporations and developers worldwide.

IBM® is an established leader in helping to drive open standards for robust e-business platforms and Internet infrastructure, including such open systems technologies as Java™, eXtended Markup Language (XML), OGSI and Linux. The worldwide [IBM Innovation Centers for Business Partners](#) are one of the many ways that IBM provides developers with the resources needed to build Linux applications.

By using the IBM Innovation Centers, you can

- reduce your development costs
- get to market faster
- flatten the learning curve
- gain access to the latest technologies

What are the IBM Innovation Centers?

They are worldwide facilities, offering easy on-site and remote access to a comprehensive set of porting, testing and enabling services, to help you capitalize on the exploding customer demand for Linux-based, e-business solutions. They are staffed with IBM technical consultants who have the Linux skills to make your time as productive as possible.

Reduce your development costs

The IBM Innovation Centers offer end-to-end support under one roof from application porting to integration testing with your Linux solution on Linux-enabled IBM eServer, including IBM eServer iSeries, IBM eServer pSeries® and IBM eServer zSeries®.* This means you don't have to invest your development budget in dedicated limited use equipment. Access to our technical consultants' skills and experience will help cut your development time. IBM's secure [virtual private network](#) (VPN) service eliminates the need in some cases for you to travel to an IBM Innovation Center location.

Minimize your risk

The IBM Innovation Centers provide test lab facilities, where you can port your Linux applications and test them to ensure scalable optimized solutions are built and available for your customers. [IBM and third party software quality assurance tools](#) are available at our centers to provide load testing and performance analysis on iSeries and pSeries.

Maximize your platform options

Give your customers choice and offer broad support. To maximize your Linux investment, add support for the Linux-enabled e-business-ready iSeries, pSeries, and zSeries servers. Deploying your Linux-enabled application (for example, one that currently executes on Linux on Intel) across multiple IBM eServer platforms is often as simple as recompiling on the appropriate platform and performing the validation. Often you can extend your application's suitability to one or more IBM eServer platforms without changing any code. Carry out integration testing with IBM's world-class middleware (including IBM WebSphere Application Server, WebSphere Portal for Multiplatforms, and DB2 Universal Database). If you're targeting the small and medium business (SMB) market, you can focus your integration testing on IBM WebSphere Application Server-Express, WebSphere Portal-Express and IBM DB2-Express on Linux.

Get to market faster

By taking advantage of the IBM Innovation Centers' ready-to-run environments and the expertise of our technical consultants, you don't need to build infrastructure (including hardware, BIOS, network and software) for testing or acquire new skills. This leaves you free to concentrate on getting your solution to market ahead of your competitors.

Flatten the learning curve with our Linux education for developers

If you want to increase your knowledge of Linux, be sure to check our Web pages for the latest Linux [technical seminars and hands-on workshops](#). Linux education previously offered includes "Introduction to Linux for POWER" technical seminar and workshop and "Develop, deploy and integrate on Linux" workshop.

IBM eServer: providing the Linux e-business advantage for you

The entire IBM eServer product line is Linux-enabled, and IBM works closely with leading Linux distributors to help ensure maximum performance and functionality. Once you've ported your application to one IBM eServer platform, it's easy to extend your potential market by porting to the other eServer platforms at the same time.

Linux distributions available at the IBM Innovation Centers

Our centers provide support for major Linux distributions* making it easy for you to quickly test your applications on multiple platforms.

- Red Hat
- SUSE
- UnitedLinux
- TurboLinux

IBM Innovation Centers accelerates Linux testing for Storix

[Storix](#) is the creator of Storix System Backup Administrator (SBA) for AIX® and Linux. [SBA](#) is one of the most complete and user-friendly backup applications for Linux, providing significant flexibility in daily backups, system recovery cloning and migration. Storix required hands-on testing by creating full system backups, boot media, and completely reinstalling the systems.

The technical consultants at the IBM Innovation Center provided various hardware configurations, and assisted in further testing after the Storix staff had returned to San Diego. As a result, Storix will soon announce the first system backup and recovery software available for Linux on pSeries and iSeries.

"IBM clearly stands behind its commitment to Linux, and has eagerly backed Storix efforts to provide an enterprise-class backup and disaster recovery solution for their customers. The IBM Innovation Center saved us valuable time and cost by providing a professionally staffed and efficient work environment".

Anthony Johnson, President, Storix, Inc., San Diego, Ca.

IBM Innovation Centers locations supporting Linux

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|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| United States | • Chicago, Illinois | • San Mateo, California | • Waltham, Massachusetts | |
| Europe | • Hursley, England | • Paris, France | • Stuttgart, Germany | |
| Asia Pacific | • Bangalore, India | • Shanghai, China | • Sydney, Australia | • Tokyo, Japan |

How to book lab time at the IBM Innovation Centers

Complete a [porting form](#) to request the use of the porting/enabling labs at your nearest center. The center will contact you and discuss your requirements prior to any test activity. The test environment will be set up in advance for you. To ensure your use of the center is as productive as possible, ask about porting and testing on multiple IBM eServer platforms. At the end of testing, please complete our satisfaction survey form (available on our Web site), which will help us improve our Linux testing services.

Marketing support for your Linux solution

On completion of testing at our centers, visit the marketing section of the Linux Roadmap to ensure you promote your Linux solutions to IBM sales and customers.

* Configurations vary at the IBM Innovation Centers. Please check your local center for specific availability.

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