

trends

February 17, 2004

Linux Salaries on the Rise

By Evan Schuman

How are salaries and perks faring for a corporate Linux job applicant? The consensus is that Linux salaries were, until recently, quite a bit lower than salaries for traditional platforms, but it's recently evened out.

See Main Story: [How To Land a Linux Job](#)

And companies are more willing to pay relocation costs for Linux hires than for hires working on other platforms, because of talent shortages, said Brian Gabrielson, branch manager of consulting services for Robert Half Technology, a technology recruiting firm.

Gabrielson recommends that Linux applications focus not just on technology, but also on learning the businesses of the companies they apply to. That's good advice for any applicant for an IT job, but it's especially important for applicants for Linux jobs. Given that Linux is relatively new in IT shops, Linux specialists have an excellent opportunity to give advice to senior management.

Will Linux specialists start earning more than other IT managers and staff anytime soon? That depends on management perceptions, Gabrielson said. He said that Linux is now seen as a replacement for Unix, and IT managers are used to paying lower salaries for Unix talent. When Linux starts replacing pricier Windows, NetWare and legacy platforms, salaries for Linux specialists will likely increase, he said.

The jobs in greatest demand are mostly kernel development, TCP/IP stack and security protocol projects with storage, security, set-top box, consumer electronics and telecommunications vendors, as well as Internet service providers, said Rob Jones, president of Glacier Technology Services, which owns HotLinuxJobs.com.

Demand for Linux and open source jobs is increasing, but enterprises are mainly migrating from Sun Microsystems Solaris and Hewlett-Packard HP-UX, not from Windows, in part because the big Windows hardware vendors have not fully committed to the operating system as a replacement for other platforms, Jones said.

Evan Schuman (eschuman@thecontentfirm.com) is a freelance technologist journalist who has covered open systems, operating systems, and IT strategy. His byline has appeared in InformationWeek, BusinessWeek, USA Today and The New York Times, and he is former news editor for TechWeb and InformationWeek.

[E-mail This Story](#)
[Print This Story](#)

FREE LINUX NEWSLETTER

Get the latest linux news, product info, and trends every week.

[Subscribe!](#)

RELATED LINKS

- [How To Land a Linux Job](#)
- [Evermore Software Challenges Microsoft Office In China](#)
- [Novell Challenges SCO Claims On Unix Code](#)
- [Expert Claims SCO-Novell Copyright Dispute Will Halt Linux Customer Lawsuit](#)
- [Review: ImageStreams' TransPort Linux Router](#)
- [Buyer's Guide: Linux Support Services](#)



Integrate. Manage. Leverage.

CA Management Software for Linux



Computer Associates*

ca.com

TECHWEBCASTS

Editorial and vendor perspectives
[Managing Your WAN for Maximum Business Value](#)
[Preparing for the future by protecting the past](#)

VENDOR RESOURCES

[The future is open: Learn how Linux and IBM On Demand computing are transforming business.](#)
[Open standards are the key to On Demand: Download executive On Demand strategies from IBM](#)

FOCAL POINTS (Sponsored links)

[Best Practices for Designing a Secure Active Directory.](#)
[10 Things to Know About Active Directory Recovery](#)

VOTING BOOTH

Is Linux Torvalds right that "it's going to take literally **five to 10 years** before 'normal users' start seeing" Linux emerge as a serious contender on the desktop?

- Yes.
- No.
- Not sure.

PRODUCT FINDER

[Find Out About Enterprise Linux Distros](#)

Compare released versions enterprise Linux, the most popular open-source operating system.

[Fast and Free Open-Source Databases](#)

[The Secret's Out On Open-Source App Servers](#)

TODAY'S TOP TREND

[Extremist Linux Advocates Doing More Harm Than Good](#)

Foul language, abuse, and threats brought by angry Linux advocates could be giving a good operating system technology a bad name.

HOW TO

[Review: SUSE 9.0: A Distro Worth Paying For](#)

SUSE 9 offers a superb printed manual, a great installation interface, a modern KDE system in addition to the more standard, older GNOME interface, and a new kernel build. It's easy to see why Novell thought enough of the software to buy the company.

[Red Hat Scores With RHEL 3.0](#)

[Figuring Out Where Linux Makes Sense In Your Organization](#)

Sponsored Links: [White Papers](#) [Sponsor Resources](#) [WebCasts](#)

[News](#) | [Trends](#) | [Product Finder](#) | [How-To](#) | [Core Linux](#) | [Applications](#) | [Enterprise Open Source](#) | [Business](#)
[Free Newsletters](#) | [Linux Glossary](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Privacy](#)

[TechWeb.com](#) | [InformationWeek](#) | [InternetWeek](#) | [Network Computing](#) | [Network Magazine](#) | [Financial Technology Network](#)
[Small Business Pipeline](#) | [Wall Street & Technology](#) | [Bank Systems & Technology](#) | [Insurance & Technology](#) | [Optimize Magazine](#)
[Server Pipeline](#) | [IT Utility Pipeline](#) | [Storage Pipeline](#) | [Security Pipeline](#) | [Mobile Pipeline](#) | [Linux Pipeline](#)
[Networking Pipeline](#) | [IT Pro Downloads](#) | [Intelligent Enterprise](#) | [Transform](#) | [CommWeb](#)

Copyright © 2004 CMP Media LLC. | LINUX PIPELINE All rights reserved. | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#)