



Case Study
**Infrastructure
 Technology
 Management**

CentOS - RHEL - Windows Servers

About the client

A prestigious university in Milan, Italy. One of the largest in Europe and always present within the top 500 annual QS World University Ranking.

The challenge

The client, UCSC, requested a critical project to upgrade its Linux systems, including CentOS and RHEL, to RHEL versions 8 or 9. This upgrade was driven by security requirements, focusing on the need to install antivirus CrowdStrike Falcon. Which was incompatible with many previously deployed and unsupported Linux versions.

The project spanned multiple environments, including Production CentOS, Non-production CentOS, Production Red Hat, and Test and Development Red Hat systems. A comprehensive upgrade strategy was necessary to mitigate risks associated with operating systems that had reached their end-of-support lifecycle, ensuring security and operational reliability. The initiative needed to address the upgrade of legacy Windows 2008/2012 systems to newer versions (2016/2019/2022), aligning with the compatibility requirements of application components.

Technical solution

The proposal outlined a comprehensive plan to upgrade Linux and Windows systems to ensure compatibility, security, and operational reliability. Key approach included:

- Migrating CentOS and legacy Red Hat servers to Red Hat versions 8 or 9 across Production and Non-production environments
- Migrating Windows 2008/2012 servers to more recent versions (2016/2019/2022)

Phasing the project:

- Selecting servers to be upgraded and identifying the appropriate version based on the application compatibility matrix
- Installing the new servers (RHEL or Windows) with necessary configurations
- Installing application components (handled by the vendor) and aligning data
- Performing functional and application testing (conducted collaboratively by the client and vendor)
- Switching application pointers to the new servers via load balancer configuration
- Decommissioning and disposing of old servers

Deliverables included:

- Upgraded Linux and Windows systems aligned with the compatibility matrix
- Compliance with the CrowdStrike Falcon antivirus requirements
- Support for functional and application testing
- Knowledge transfer (KT) to IT Operations teams

Business outcome

Modernize, secure, and improve reliability of UCSC's IT infrastructure

System upgrades



Upgraded Linux systems (CentOS, RHEL) to RHEL 8/9

Upgraded Windows 2008/2012 to 2016/2019/2022

Security posture



Integrated CrowdStrike Falcon Antivirus



Achieved security compliance & compatibility standards

Environments & workflow



Production CentOS, Non-production CentOS, Production Red Hat for Testing & Development



Structured KT to IT Ops teams. Empowered ongoing maintenance & management

Stratival benefits



From reducing the risks of unsupported systems to building a scalable, high-performance, and reliable infrastructure—with enhanced security, sustainable workflows, and seamless integration of critical applications. This project ensures both current efficiency, and future readiness!