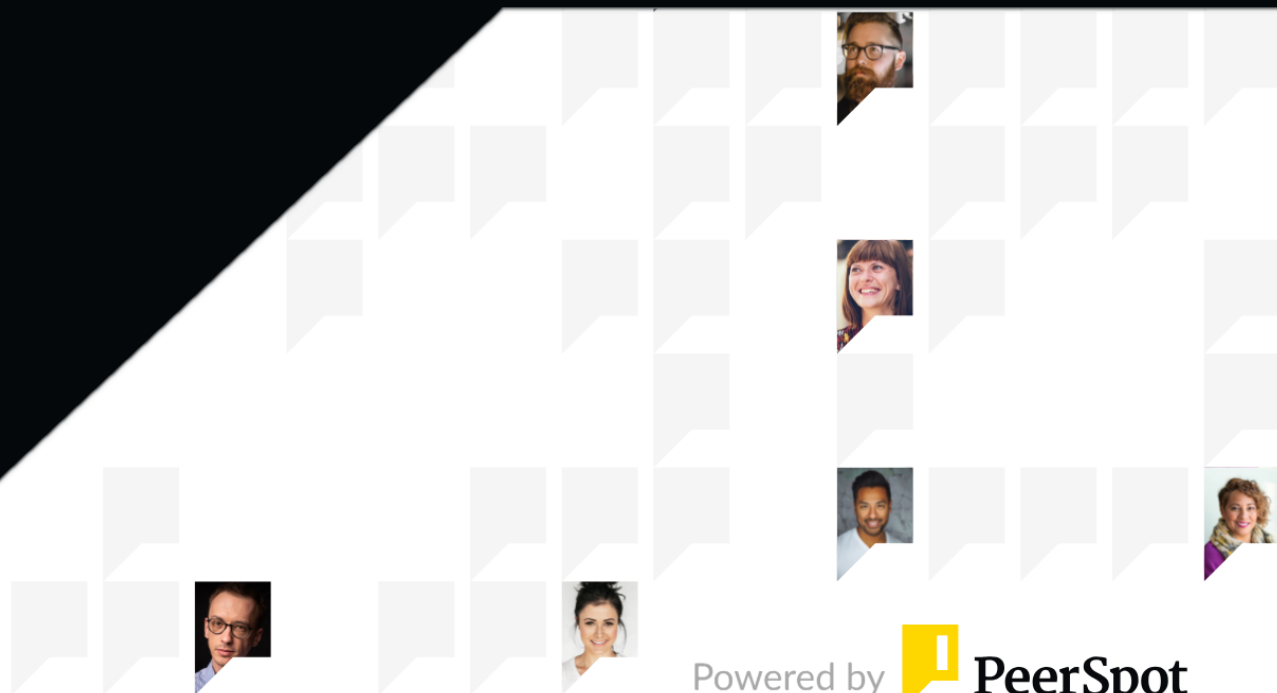


aws marketplace

Chef

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



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Product Recap



Chef

Chef Recap

Chef is a powerful automation tool designed for efficient infrastructure management across varied environments. With its environment-as-code model, Chef provides predictability and reliability in deployments, enhancing security compliance and reducing manual intervention.

Chef focuses on automating deployments and configurations, ensuring server consistency, managing scalable environments, and orchestrating service deployments. Its versatile recipe-writing and Ruby-based flexibility cater to large-scale operational needs. Chef's integration with services like AWS and Azure enhances its versatility, while its idempotent deployments assure reliability. Despite its prowess, Chef requires improvements in feature offerings, especially regarding container orchestration and cloud technologies.

What are Chef's Key Features?

- **Automation:** Streamlines infrastructure management across diverse environments.
- **Environment-as-Code:** Offers predictability and efficiency in management.
- **Idempotency:** Ensures reliable deployments by maintaining the same outcome no matter how often applied.
- **Cloud Integration:** Seamlessly integrates with AWS and Azure.
- **Security Compliance:** Enhances security measures across infrastructures.
- **Ruby-Based Flexibility:** Provides versatile recipe-writing and flexible configurations.
- **Scalability:** Suitable for large-scale operational needs.

What Benefits Should Users Consider?

- **Consistency:** Automated deployments reduce errors and manual efforts.
- **Efficiency:** Decrease in manual intervention enhances team productivity.
- **Reliability:** Idempotent deployments ensure consistent outcomes.
- **Scalability:** Supports expanding infrastructures effectively.
- **Security:** Maintains compliance with enhanced security features.

Chef is implemented across industries to automate application deployments, manage CI/CD pipelines, provision infrastructure, and maintain compliance. Its recipes and cookbooks streamline workflows in application deployment, system updates, and orchestration of services, reducing errors and manual intervention in a variety of sectors.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:



“The manual work has been reduced with the help of this automation, we only need two or three people to write those recipes and upload them on the Chef server, and once the configuration tool pulls those changes from the Chef server, it automatically deploys all those changes and has reduced our manpower and our costs.”



G Srivastava

Senior Cloud Engineer at a tech services company with 201-500 employees



“Chef has given us an easy time doing all that automation, security, and monitoring by automating the processes across all those servers so that we don't do manual work, going one place at a time to install updates.”



Walter Ochieng Odhiambo

Software Engineer and Tester at Safaricom



“Chef offers valuable features in infrastructure as code, where it uses cookbooks and recipes written in Ruby language for detailed and flexible configuration of systems and applications.”



K. Rajesh

Senior Consultant Development at Infogain



“Chef has created much faster procedures for system setup and rollout of infrastructure in my organization, as well as for scaling and ensuring that all servers are configured identically.”



FedirPlotnikov

Senior Cloud Engineer at Globant



“Chef benefited my organization by definitely reducing time because we were provisioning tens of thousands of servers.”



TariqSiddiqui

Principal DevOps engineer at Autodesk, Inc.



“Using Chef for automating infrastructure and applications in my organization has helped us reduce manual tasks by more than forty percent, thereby saving significant revenue for the client.”



Sai Chandra

Principal Engineer at Wipro Limited



“Chef has impacted my organization positively by ensuring that consistent deployments across production and test environments help more effective testing and faster deployments mean that more work can be done in one release cycle.”



Verified user

Technical Architecture Support at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

What users had to say about valuable features:

“The best features Chef offers include configuration management and server-client setup, along with the ability to coordinate with Chef servers to keep servers up to date automatically and remove any configuration drift from the system automatically.

“Chef handles configuration drift automatically by having Chef client contact Chef server, retrieve needed recipes and variables set up for a specific server, verify the current server state with the required state and configuration, and automatically make changes if needed.

“Chef has created much faster procedures for system setup and rollout of infrastructure in my organization, as well as for scaling and ensuring that all servers are configured identically. It has removed the possibility of human error from configuration. Plus, it ensures that all servers for specific roles have an identical setup, which makes debugging much easier, along with performance optimization and security measures..”

FedirPlotnikov

Senior Cloud Engineer at Globant

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“The best features Chef offers for my workflow include that Chef is very useful for infrastructure as code as part of the solution. Obviously, you might need Terraform or Ansible to build on bare metal, but then you use Chef to configure from the OS upward in the stack. It allows you to build all of that from a Git repo in a predictable way instead of a person doing it slightly differently every time manually, which is both faster and more reliable, therefore useful.

“Out of those features, the one that stands out the most for me is the infrastructure as code aspect. The predictability and the speed are the key benefits. When you have infrastructure as code and you already have everything apart from the environment-specific config, which you can specify in variables, then it is not only more repeatable and reliable, it is faster. The two together is the benefit that you are after..”

Verified user

[Read full review](#) 

Technical Architecture Support at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

“In my experience, the best features I find in Chef are predictable and scalable environments, and it seamlessly integrates with cloud providers such as AWS and Azure. There is a way to do test-driven development using Test Kitchen and ChefSpec, and there are also compliance and security checks that we used.

“When we use Chef, we comply with profiles such as benchmarking of CIS infrastructure, validating the configurations of industry standards, and using it for continuous integration and continuous deployment pipelines for secure configurations. We also enforce SSL and TLS authentication, firewall rules, and OS-level operations.

“Using Chef for automating infrastructure and applications in my organization has helped us reduce manual tasks by more than forty percent, thereby saving significant revenue for the client. The customer is satisfied using Chef for automating these services, with most regular day-to-day operations being reduced because of this automation..”

Sai Chandra

Principal Engineer at Wipro Limited

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“The best features Chef offers make the management of large-scale infrastructure easy, and the development around custom resources was also something useful. Most configuration management tools offer the same kind of features, but Chef is better at handling large-scale infrastructure.

“Chef has impacted my organization positively because most of our infrastructure configuration management depended on it. If Chef is not working, we are blocked at many fronts, including not being able to provision services or our application servers, making it a critical part of our whole ecosystem.

“Chef benefited my organization by definitely reducing time because we were provisioning tens of thousands of servers. Anytime we built the server using Terraform, we never had to worry about the configuration management part since it would run as our pipeline, making it a really significant time-saver for us.

“The custom resources helped my team specifically because we had a bunch of custom things that we used to do on our application servers, and that is where we used Chef's custom resources to build on that..”

TariqSiddiqui

Principal DevOps engineer at Autodesk, Inc.

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“The main use case is the Infrastructure as Code. We can simply change any system configuration, whether it is related to changes of any port number of any files, or we can use package installation. We can help with user and group management. If we need to deploy any application, security hardening is the main tool. For the SAP servers, we need to update many codes, files, programs, and features on the server. With the help of Chef, we can just change those things in a recipe, and those recipes are going to be pulled by all those systems, changing themselves in a minute. Security and compliance hardening are also features we find very useful.

“The manual work has been reduced with the help of this automation. We do not need to have 15 or 20 engineers to do those tasks manually. We only need two or three people to write those recipes and upload them on the Chef server. Once the configuration tool pulls those changes from the Chef server, it automatically deploys all those changes. It has reduced our manpower and our costs.

“For example, suppose we have 20 servers to patch in this cycle and we need to deliver them in a week. Earlier we used to have six or seven engineers to patch all those 20 servers because it was a manual task. They had to log in on those servers and review if the patches had been correctly deployed. They also needed to validate the changes performed before or after the reboot of the servers. That was a lengthy task and they had to manage all those screenshots and comparisons of those screenshots. With the help of Chef automation tool, we simply deployed the recipe on the workstation and it got uploaded to the workstation, and all those 10 servers and 15 servers pulled the patches from the Chef server. With the help of Chef Client and Ohai, they patched themselves, and we simply clicked another recipe to reboot the servers. That is how only two or three engineers are required to patch those 20 servers. The number of engineers has been reduced and the timing has also been reduced by 10 to 12 hours for each server.

“Chef is stable. If we have a large number of servers, it is stable..”

G Srivastava

Senior Cloud Engineer at a tech services company with 201-500 employees

[Read full review](#) 

“Chef offers valuable features in infrastructure as code, where it uses cookbooks and recipes written in Ruby language for detailed and flexible configuration of systems and applications. Idempotency is one of the major components, as Chef ensures that configurations are applied without any unintended side effects, making deployments more reliable. Chef's scalability allows for managing configuration across thousands of nodes effectively, which is critical for large-scale environments in production. Moreover, Chef integrates with multiple cloud platforms, such as AWS and Azure, has an ecosystem of community cookbooks, and allows for automated compliance checks with Chef InSpec. Its extensibility, custom resources, and handlers enable tailoring Chef for any organizational needs. Chef's ability to automate complex configuration workflows while maintaining the CI/CD pipeline contributes significantly to DevOps automation.

“In day-to-day work, Chef helps me manage configuration consistently across hundreds or thousands of cloud instances without any manual intervention, significantly reducing human error. It aids in quickly provisioning and configuring new environments in multiple clouds such as AWS or Azure, using Chef cookbooks integrated with Terraform or CloudFormation to scale rapidly during peak demand or new project launches. It also automates updates and patches across all nodes simultaneously, reducing compliance and security downtime or tracking efforts. For example, while working on AKS and EKS clusters, Chef's integration with cloud platforms helped automate node configuration and application deployment, which was critical during cluster scaling and updates. The ecosystem of community cookbooks has accelerated this process, and Chef's scalability and cloud integration have enabled me to maintain a high level of availability while reducing operational overhead. This approach helps deliver faster, more reliable infrastructure changes in multi-cloud setups.

“Chef has automation capabilities that enhance operational efficiency by minimizing manual tasks. The idempotent nature of Chef ensures consistent application of configurations, and its integration with the CI/CD pipeline facilitates continuous delivery and infrastructure updates in alignment with DevOps and SecOps practices. Additionally, the flexibility to create custom resources and handlers allows it to be tailored to unique organizational needs and complex workflows..”

Other Solutions Considered

“Previously, I used a different solution where things were manually configured or servers were cloned. We did not have as capable a solution in the past..”

Verified user

Technical Architecture Support at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“Chef is something that solves challenges related to the cloud. Now that we are looking at scalability of data centers with thousands of servers, I will look at Chef to see how we can have everything and have other languages working on it, not just Ruby..”

Walter Ochieng Odhiambo

Software Engineer and Tester at Safaricom

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“I started with Chef and I am still working with Chef. Now I am exploring cloud-native services related to Chef or configuration management, where we use OpsWorks instead of Chef. We are moving to OpsWorks because most of the servers are in AWS and it integrates easily using OpsWorks..”

Sai Chandra

Principal Engineer at Wipro Limited

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“We also looked at Puppet, Ansible, and Jenkins. Chef rolled things into one for us with the way that they were running their deployments.

It was more of a one stop convenience going with Chef. A lot of the features, plugins, and compatibility items that we were looking for were already bundled into the package. Rather than piecemeal things together with the other services, we directly went with Chef to make sure it was a smooth, functional package for us. We went with Chef and its suite of tools to manage things more centrally..”

Mike Silva

Senior Operations Engineer at a retailer with 10,001+ employees

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“We had not used any other solution before using Chef. We were using all those tasks with shell scripts only. After using Chef, we found other configuration management tools, such as Ansible and Terraform, which we found better, and then we switched from Chef to Ansible.

“There was another tool called Puppet, but Puppet and Chef are both pull-based configuration tools, and Puppet has a limitation of 25 nodes to perform. That is why we went with Chef..”

G Srivastava

Senior Cloud Engineer at a tech services company with 201-500 employees

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“There are other automation tools, configuration management tools in the market, which offer many good functionalities compared to Chef. For Chef, we need to install those agents, the Chef client, on all those nodes. That is another heinous task to perform on those nodes. Compared with other tools, they do not require any agent; they simply push configurations to all the clients. Chef needs to improve on this agent installation on all those nodes.

“I would say that the agent configuration is required, and we need to manage the workstation, the Chef server, and then the Chef client. These two or three things are very difficult. It is a time-taking task compared with other configuration management tools.

“They need to compete with other tools, such as Ansible or Terraform. They should work on their agent part. If they can remove the agent installation on the nodes and combine both the Chef server and workstation into one server, that will provide a significant benefit in cost for the clients. They should aim for an agentless architecture rather than an agent-based architecture, which will help other customers.

“That is a very difficult thing because I have stopped using Chef. If you have very good developers who are skilled in Ruby language and can write codes in the Chef recipe, then those developers should start using Chef..”

G Srivastava

[Read full review](#) 

Senior Cloud Engineer at a tech services company with 201-500 employees

ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“I have seen a return on investment with Chef because we definitely need fewer employees to manage infrastructure. In today's scenario, no one is doing configuration management manually anymore..”

TariqSiddiqui

Principal DevOps engineer at Autodesk, Inc.

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“We see ROI from saving a lot of time and that our deliveries are now on time. Also, we save the amount of time we take to deploy and make any changes in the deployment and in expediting service. The amount of time invested there is less which in turn we can invest in some other work. So our ROI is speed..”

Ijaz Hussain

Manager at ZS Associates

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“We are saving a lot our delivery time and on te amount of the time that we deploy. We used to make changes during the deployment. So, the amount of time invested there is less, which in turn, we can invest in some other work. Therefore, our ROI is quick, though it does depend on the size of your service..”

Amit Chaudhary

Primary Architect at Autodesk, Inc.

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“I am definitely able to save a lot of time doing the same manual tasks every day, which are operational. In terms of revenue, I have not observed much because it is holistically depending on the project. However, we have seen significant improvement in the time and the way we make changes to the infrastructure, so it is good from the developer perspective, even if it may not be great from a business point of view..”

Sai Chandra

Principal Engineer at Wipro Limited

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“I have seen a return on investment. With the same number of employees or a very slight increase, we are doing more work than we were before Chef and Cinc were introduced. Even though we are using Cinc rather than paying for Chef, there is an investment required in time to configure it correctly on the on-premises version, time for people to learn, and generally staff resourcing. However, the return has been far more hours saved than spent..”

Verified user

[Read full review](#) 

Technical Architecture Support at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

“I have seen the ROI, but it was brief. It cut down on our workload. We supported 36 to 38 development teams with a team of six DevOps engineers. We had embedded DevOps personnel within their teams. It could have gotten to the point where we needed individual DevOps personnel for every team, but Chef allowed us, as a group of five, depending on the time we were there, to reach out to them individually, and help them on a one-to-one basis. At the same time, we provide a center of excellence for best practices. This easily could've scaled to each team needing their own direct support person, but with the ability to manage these configurations through Chef, it allowed us to hand them their best practices straight across the board. Therefore, we didn't have to go ahead and drop in on each team and help them through their migration practice..”

Mike Silva

[Read full review](#) 

Senior Operations Engineer at a retailer with 10,001+ employees

Use Case

“My main use case for Chef is configuration management to set up systems, provision software, and keep configurations up to date.

“I create Chef recipes for setup and install needed software from a clean Linux installation to set up server roles, which is a specific example of how I use Chef to manage and provision software while keeping configurations up to date..”

FedirPlotnikov

Senior Cloud Engineer at Globant

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“My main use case for Chef was around provisioning and configuration management for our application servers.

“I can give you a specific example of how I used Chef for configuration management on our application servers: we provisioned our servers using Terraform, and once the servers were provisioned, there were a bunch of things that we installed on our application servers through Chef, such as NGINX, security packages, and other custom utilities..”

TariqSiddiqui

Principal DevOps engineer at Autodesk, Inc.

[Read full review](#) 

“My main use case for Chef is configuration and deployments. We receive blank servers and use Chef to build predefined application or appliance servers.

“A quick specific example of how I use Chef to build a predefined application or appliance server is that we use Chef to build Postgres database servers in containers. We receive a blank Red Hat VM and then deploy Docker CE, Docker Compose, and the Red Hat environment.

“Additionally, we deploy Postgres images and the Prometheus Postgres exporter and configure it with all of the client's requirements, including their pre-shared secrets and pre-agreed IP addresses. We use encrypted data bags for pre-shared secrets..”

Verified user

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Technical Architecture Support at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

“I have used Chef for more than six years to automate daily tasks and tasks related to building infrastructure and configuring Apache Cassandra servers.

“I generally remember creating the cassandra.yml file and configuring the seed and data directories for Apache Cassandra. Whenever we needed to change the data directory folder or modify anything related to cluster names or replication strategies, we used Chef because it is a multi-layer cluster of Apache Cassandra.

“Additionally, we used Chef for scaling out to provision new Cassandra instances in AWS.

“Apart from that, I use Chef to deploy cron jobs for nodetool, snapshot, and incremental backups, and to automate the cleanup of old snapshots and backups..”

Sai Chandra

Principal Engineer at Wipro Limited

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“My main use case for Chef involves doing automation work in my environment. I use Chef to automate deployments and configuration for building application components across cloud infrastructures, such as automating scheduled jobs or scripts to process billing data or generate invoices. Additionally, I have automated similar workflows using Ansible, Bash, Python, GitHub Actions, and pipelines to ensure secure repeatable pipelines. Chef is a requirement where I currently work, and I am confident that I can quickly adapt my automation skills to use cookbooks and workflows effectively.

“My main use case for automation tools such as Chef, Ansible, or scripting is to help with configuration and operational workflows to ensure repeatability, specifically to provision and configure cloud infrastructure and applications using Terraform or any cloud ARM or CloudFormation. I automate CI/CD pipelines for building, testing, scanning, and deploying microservices to Kubernetes, along with scheduling and automating routine operational tasks. This usage helps reduce manual errors and accelerates deliveries while improving reliability and compliance across multiple environments..”

K. Rajesh

Senior Consultant Development at Infogain

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“We used Chef, the automation tool, as an Infrastructure as Code tool for configuration deployment, such as deploying patches on numerous servers, first on the development box, then on QA, and then on production. That was the main use case for us in the initial stage of using Chef. We then started using Chef for configuration changes. We deployed all those things on the workstation, pushed the recipes from the workstation to the Chef server, and the Chef client pulled from the Chef server, so that is how all the configurations got matched.

“Before using Chef, we patched our servers manually or with shell scripts. Suppose we had 100 servers in our development area and needed to patch them all in a day or a week. We would run those shell scripts and wait for their outputs while going on each server to find out what patches had already been applied and if the server had been rebooted. That was a very long-running task for us. With the help of Chef, we configured all those nodes as Chef clients and matched or configured all those nodes by subscribing them to the Chef server. We changed the configuration file with the help of a recipe and pushed those recipes from the workstation to the Chef server. Chef clients started comparing their configuration files from their client to the server. That is how they started to patch themselves and make changes to their configuration files. This was the main use case for us when we started to use this automation tool.

“After that, suppose we had 10 servers currently and 10 new servers. We had an application to deploy and the application team requested 10 servers with those many tools, users, configurations, and server hardlink compliance. We simply wrote those recipes in the workstation and pushed those recipes to the Chef server. Chef Client and Ohai were already installed on all 10 servers, and they simply compared their configuration files from Chef client to Chef server. As soon as there was a difference in the configuration, the Chef client pulled all those configurations and automatically deployed all those configurations on those nodes. That is how easy it was for us to deliver the servers or the configurations in a faster manner with the help of Chef.

“For SAP servers, we needed to make many changes in files such as `sysctl.conf` on the Linux server. Suppose we had a brand new server delivered to us from a cloud platform, and we needed to make all those changes so that it could have all the

security-related features or changes on the server. Instead of manually doing those changes on all those SAP servers, we could simply write a Chef recipe once and it would be applied on all those SAP servers. That is how it benefited us.

“When I used Chef in my previous organization five years ago, it was on-prem servers.

“We had not used any other solution before using Chef. We were using all those tasks with shell scripts only. After using Chef, we found other configuration management tools, such as Ansible and Terraform, which we found better, and then we switched from Chef to Ansible..”

G Srivastava

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Senior Cloud Engineer at a tech services company with 201-500 employees

Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

“The initial setup of Chef is simple. The time it takes for the setup depends on what is included in the environment. However, it typically can be done in one day..”

Arun S .

Senior Consultant at a tech services company with 201-500 employees

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“The pricing, setup cost, and licensing are managed by another team. However, within my scope of work, we have Chef servers automatically installed, and I log in to Chef server to run those cookbooks..”

Sai Chandra

Principal Engineer at Wipro Limited

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“The solution's initial setup for clients is very easy, but it is moderate for the infra server. The solution's documentation is very good, and its installation can be done in 15 to 20 minutes..”

Manjunath Reddy

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Senior Customer Architect at a computer software company with 1,001-5,000 employees

“The initial setup for Chef was easy. The tool is easily installed. Installation could take a few hours. It's the implementation of the tool that takes time, because if you need to scale up, you need to integrate it with other products, and that can take time..”

Murat Gultekin

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Presales Consultant Solution Architect at Hewlett Packard Enterprise

“Before choosing Chef, the organization I am part of had already implemented Chef when I joined. However, I have heard about the process, and Chef was built as GitLab was already in place and Chef was used as a proof of concept to show how it could work, and it became production because it was working..”

Verified user

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Technical Architecture Support at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

“The integration and configuration of the product in our AWS environment was functional at the time. I didn't get to do the migration after the production environment. However, everything up until then, we had handled in our lower environments. It seemed to work as described and within the confines of what we were dealing with, and it was functional for us. I just never got to work with it in the production realm..”

Mike Silva

Senior Operations Engineer at a retailer with 10,001+ employees

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Customer Service and Support

“We usually work with the Chef teams and community support, who are always willing to assist. We often reach out through Slack or the main Chef support pages. The usual emails provide a lot of support, which contributes to our success and consulting efforts..”

Walter Ochieng Odhiambo

Software Engineer and Tester at Safaricom

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“If we need technical support we raise an AWS ticket and someone from the technical support team helps us. If we hit a roadblock we have to go out beyond AWS support which is fine..”

Ijaz Hussain

Manager at ZS Associates

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“We have had to open a few Amazon support tickets. However, they have typically not been Chef-related, they have been Amazon service-related.

The technical support has been great. Our tickets have all been closed out quickly..”

Timothy Rogers

Engineer II at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

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“Since we used the free version, the license cost was zero. We have not used the paid version, so we have not had the option to create a ticket for support. However, the developer option or community support is good on Chef, and Chef codes, which are in Ruby language, are easily available on Chef Supermarket, so we found them very useful..”

G Srivastava

Senior Cloud Engineer at a tech services company with 201-500 employees

[Read full review](#) 

“We did use technical support, but not on a regular basis. We use our contact there, our account manager, who is always readily available, if not over the phone, by email. We either open up a ticket with them or contact them directly, and they go ahead and research the issue, then get back to us with their findings..”

Mike Silva

[Read full review](#) 

Senior Operations Engineer at a retailer with 10,001+ employees

“Because we're using the open software, we never get a chance to call their support. We just use the community support.

If you have a question, just upload your questions on the community forum, and ask for answers from there..”

Verified user

[Read full review](#) 

DevOps Director at a tech vendor with 501-1,000 employees

Other Advice

“My advice to others looking into using Chef is to be ready to learn Ruby at least on a basic level. I have never used AI in Chef. I gave this product a rating of seven..”

FedirPlotnikov

Senior Cloud Engineer at Globant

[Read full review](#) 

“My advice to others looking into using Chef is that it is a good tool for implementing it across large-scale infrastructure. If you are planning to manage tens of thousands of servers, Chef is one of the better choices.

“I am not sure how Chef is going to keep up with the adoption of containers across the industry since many companies are moving to containerized workloads, and I am curious how Chef will be implemented in those scenarios.

“I would rate this review a 7 out of 10..”

TariqSiddiqui

Principal DevOps engineer at Autodesk, Inc.

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“On a scale of one to ten, I would rate customer support an eight.

“Chef is a traditional configuration management tool that is very easy to understand and deploy, and I get predefined cookbooks from the internet, which helps me move forward quickly without spending a lot of time developing the cookbooks.

“I think Chef is quite good, and the focus should be more on customer support and providing monitoring and observability capabilities, which would be beneficial. I rate this review as a nine overall..”

Sai Chandra

Principal Engineer at Wipro Limited

[Read full review](#) 

“After using Chef, we found other configuration management tools, such as Ansible and Terraform, which we found better, and then we switched from Chef to Ansible.

“There was another tool called Puppet, but Puppet and Chef are both pull-based configuration tools, and Puppet has a limitation of 25 nodes to perform. That is why we went with Chef.

“I chose that number because the other automation tools, the other configuration tools are far better. I would give them nine or ten, for example, Ansible. They are not agent-based tools; they simply push configurations, and there is no need to install these tools or the clients on the nodes. Other tools are much better than Chef these days. I would rate this review as five out of ten..”

G Srivastava

Senior Cloud Engineer at a tech services company with 201-500 employees

[Read full review](#) 

“My advice for others looking into using Chef is that if Cinc covers your use case, even if in production you require the type of support that means you would have to buy Chef, it is possible to deploy for free still. Many people are not aware of that because of the trademark policy and the change of name. I would recommend that if Cinc covers your use case, then build your proof of concept using that because there are no license implications. As for the actual licensing, we are not using any of the features that require licensing, and we are a primarily on-premises organization, so we have been using on-premises Cinc.

“My company does not have a business relationship with this vendor other than being a customer. Accenture may or may not be, but the contract I am on is with a public sector organization who are using the open-source version deliberately.

“I have additional thoughts about Chef regarding the opaque relationship between the open-source distributions such as Cinc and the mainline Chef itself. I would rate this review an 8 out of 10..”

Verified user

[Read full review](#) 

Technical Architecture Support at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

“My advice for those looking into using Chef is to understand that it is a powerful and mature configuration management tool, but it comes with a steep learning curve, particularly for those new to Ruby or infrastructure as code concepts. Investing time in learning the Chef DSL and the structures of cookbooks is essential. I recommend starting with small, well-defined projects to build confidence before scaling up to more complex environments. It is also beneficial to use infrastructure as code tools such as Terraform in conjunction with Chef and to focus on security best practices by integrating Chef with secrets management tools such as [Azure Key Vault](#) or AWS [IAM](#) rules. Implementing observability and monitoring strategies to track configuration drift is advisable. Leveraging community cookbooks and resources can help accelerate learning, and it is crucial to plan for robust testing and validation. Finally, staying updated on

improvements in Chef and related tools will help continuously enhance automation workflows. With this kind of consideration, Chef can become a highly effective tool for scalable and automated infrastructure management.

“Chef remains a strong and reliable tool that is flexible. I recommend organizations evaluate their team's skill set and project requirements to determine if Chef aligns well with their automation goals. Continuous improvements in integration with modern CI/CD pipelines and enhanced user experience would further solidify its position in the industry. Chef's flexibility and extensibility through cookbooks and the DSL make it adaptable to a variety of use cases. I would rate this product an overall eight out of ten..”

K. Rajesh

Senior Consultant Development at Infogain

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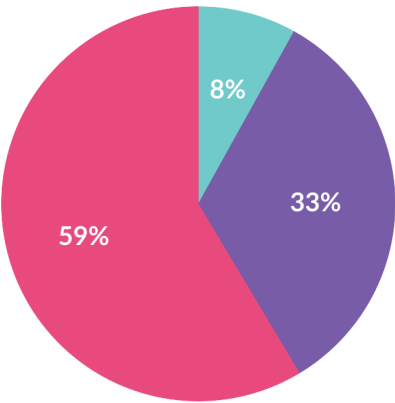
Top Industries

by visitors reading reviews

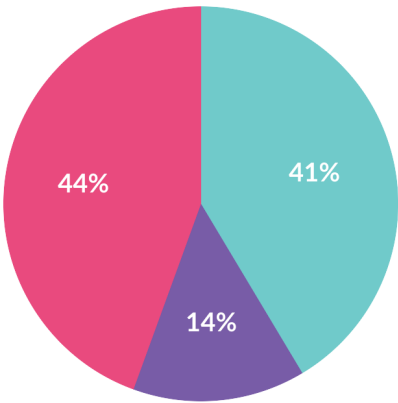


Company Size

by reviewers



by visitors reading reviews



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 Midsize Enterprise

 Small Business

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