aws marketplace

CentOS

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users

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Product Recap

CentOS

CentOS Recap

CentOS offers a stable, secure, and compatible environment with Red Hat packages, providing robust performance and cost efficiency. Its lightweight, scalable design and strong community support make it ideal for handling heavy workloads with limited resources.

CentOS is a popular choice for organizations seeking reliable server and virtualization solutions. Known for its robust stability and security, it offers seamless integration and maintenance. However, after a shift from Red Hat, some challenges emerged, including weak NFS client performance and a more complex interface, which beginners find challenging alongside insufficient documentation. Despite these, CentOS remains a favored option for deploying web applications, server installations, and supporting cloud solutions, thanks to its efficient use in monitoring, databases, and telecommunications.

What are CentOS's key features?

- Stability: Maintains a consistent performance, essential for mission-critical environments.
- Security: Offers robust safeguards, aligning with Red Hat's trusted security packages.
- Compatibility: Seamlessly integrates with Red Hat ecosystems, enhancing versatility.
- Cost Efficiency: Open-source approach reduces expenses compared to proprietary systems.
- Community Support: Access to extensive resources and assistance from a dedicated user base.

What benefits should users look for in reviews?

- Performance: Efficient resource management even under heavy workloads.
- Integration Ease: Smooth integration with existing IT infrastructures.
- Scalability: Ability to grow with changing requirements, supporting diverse applications.
- Flexibility: Adaptable to a wide range of industries and use cases.
- Reliability: Trusted for critical operations and consistent service delivery.

CentOS is widely used in industries requiring robust infrastructure, such as web hosting, scientific computing, and telecommunications. In data centers, companies deploy it to support virtual environments, testing, and development. The OS powers business applications, email servers, and cloud solutions, offering a cost-effective alternative to Red Hat.

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Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- "The most suitable feature of CentOS is its exceptional stability, security, and long-term support, which make it a popular choice for enterprise and server environments."

Mohammad Wasif
IT Infrastructure Engineer at Trigyn Technology

- "CentOS is an open-source platform that is free to use, which is one of its unique features, and it helps organizations and startups in cost optimization and application development."

Naveenkumar Lakshman
Presales Engineer at Crayon AS

- "The best features CentOS offers in my experience are that it is reliable, cost-effective, and easy to scale."

AnilKumar13
Devops Engineer at EDAG

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"CentOS has helped me most through its enterprise-level stability."

R Kirishikaran

Technical person at a university with 1,001-5,000 employees

"CentOS handled that situation reliably; while there were some difficulties changing some settings inside the application, once I managed to tweak the settings, it worked very well, allowing around 10,000 users to connect and chat simultaneously."

Muhammad Faizan Shah

Staff Software Consultant at a tech services company with 1,001-5,000 employees

"CentOS's stability and clean updates have helped me in my day-to-day work and with my projects by providing predictable workloads and ensuring that I can assure stability for my stakeholders, which is the business."

Validated user

Technical Lead InfraOps at a tech services company with 501-1,000 employees

"CentOS has positively impacted my organization in several ways: stability, reliability, and performance have improved our company cost-wise, especially moving out of paid operating systems for running distributed software."

Thiago Pallaro

Senior Support Engineer at a computer software company with 201-500 employees

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What users had to say about valuable features:

"The most suitable feature of CentOS is its exceptional stability, security, and long-term support, which make it a popular choice for enterprise and server environments.

"CentOS is widely recognized for providing a stable and secure platform, especially suited for server and mission-critical workloads. Whenever we face critical work, it is easy for our team to handle. For long-term support, each CentOS release generally guarantees long-term updates, ensuring reliability for extended periods.."

Mohammad Wasif
IT Infrastructure Engineer at Trigyn Technology

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"CentOS has helped me most through its enterprise-level stability. CentOS is very stable and easy to use because of the interface. It is easier for me to use CentOS for my specific requirements than Ubuntu server, which is mostly command-line. Security-wise, CentOS is also the best, comparable to Ubuntu and others. CentOS supports FreeRADIUS, which is helpful for my needs.

What has helped me most is that CentOS supports the latest stable FreeRADIUS packages with easy installation via YUM or DNF setup and wide module compatibility, including databases such as MySQL, and it supports Active Directory and LDAP setup, making it suitable for setting up a RADIUS server. CentOS also has long-term support, frequent security patches, and other features that are helpful for this operating system.."

R Kirishikaran
Technical person at a university with 1,001-5,000 employees

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"The best features CentOS offers in my experience are that it is reliable, cost-effective, and easy to scale.

When I mention reliability and cost-effectiveness, I explain that our product-based company uses a performance testing tool, so to generate load using the tool, we use CentOS generators, which are also known as VMs. We spin up a number of VMs in different locations such as Central, East, and West. If we purchase a subscription, it requires a good amount of money, but if we use CentOS, it is free of cost, and we can scale from more than 20 to 100 servers.

The biggest benefit of CentOS for my organization is cost saving.

CentOS has made a positive difference for my team and company by making scalability easier. For testing, sometimes we require 50 to 200 servers in different locations, and I can easily spin up and scale in and scale down.."

AnilKumar13
Devops Engineer at EDAG

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“In my opinion, the best features CentOS offers are that it is an easy to use Linux distribution based off Red Hat Enterprise Linux, which is very solid and very well known across the industry, providing a good mix of features and reliability. CentOS is my go-to Linux distribution.

What I find most valuable about its reliability or feature set is that stability and reliability are key factors. Our staff is very knowledgeable in Linux, which is rare, and we do not rely on the community. I have access to Red Hat's knowledge base site, which is a great source of knowledge material, and it translates brilliantly to CentOS.

CentOS has positively impacted my organization in several ways: stability, reliability, and performance have improved our company cost-wise, especially moving out of paid operating systems for running distributed software. The cost is the main factor in this positive impact..”

Thiago Pallaro

Senior Support Engineer at a computer software company with 201-500 employees

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“The best features CentOS offers include stability, which I think is the most important. I have found CentOS servers to run very long without any issues, as well as clean updates that do not cause any downtimes.

“CentOS's stability and clean updates have helped me in my day-to-day work and with my projects by providing predictable workloads and ensuring that I can assure stability for my stakeholders, which is the business. On features, security is always a good thing, and the important factor about CentOS is that security is a core feature. It is also part of the reason why the updates are so stable, which gives me the confidence to provide reports for the stakeholders.

“Compatibility is great as Linux servers in general are usually amazing for deploying both development and production workloads, and performance has never been an issue because Linux is very good on resources..”

Validated user

Technical Lead InfraOps at a tech services company with 501-1,000 employees

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"The best features CentOS offers that stand out to me include it being lightweight and the UI and the whole ecosystem, which I prefer. There is not something very specific about it that I like, but the generic UI and the whole setup, and it was the start of my career when I started using it, so I kind of stuck with it.

"I like CentOS interface or setup process because the instructions were quite clear; I was able to set up a whole new ecosystem without a tutorial or instruction set. The UI is clean, simpler, and I know where everything is.

"The Windows-like UI is quite helpful.

"CentOS has positively impacted my organization regarding cost savings; having a dedicated high-resource machine is quite expensive these days, and since the compute power is so cheap on AWS, hosting a machine with UI over the EC2 is quite easier for beginners like me.."

Muhammad Faizan Shah

Staff Software Consultant at a tech services company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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Other Solutions Considered

"Before choosing CentOS, I did evaluate other options, with Red Hat being one of them, but at the time, it was paid, so that is why I ended up using CentOS.."

Validated user
Technical Lead InfraOps at a tech services company with 501-1,000 employees

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"I did not previously use a different solution. In my institution, they had used Microsoft RADIUS, but I did not prefer it. There was conflict in setting up the Microsoft RADIUS server, and connecting it with global accounts was also difficult, so I chose CentOS.."

R Kirishikaran
Technical person at a university with 1,001-5,000 employees

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"Before CentOS, I primarily used Windows, but I switched because the licensing fees for Windows were quite high, while CentOS was not that expensive; the exact numbers escape me, but it was cheaper than maintaining a Windows machine.."

Muhammad Faizan Shah
Staff Software Consultant at a tech services company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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"Before choosing CentOS, I evaluated other options such as Red Hat Enterprise Linux and Ubuntu. I ended up choosing CentOS since that is where my staff is more knowledgeable, making it the operating system we would be more familiar with.."

Thiago Pallaro
Senior Support Engineer at a computer software company with 201-500 employees

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"I evaluated other options before choosing CentOS, including Mint and Ubuntu; I also considered Red Hat, though I do not exactly remember the name, but there are some expensive versions as well, which contributed to my decision.."

Muhammad Faizan Shah
Staff Software Consultant at a tech services company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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"I have previously used Ubuntu servers before, and the reason for my switch to CentOS was originally because of the security-forwardness of Red Hat based servers, as well as that hybrid kind of benefit you get from CentOS by receiving the updates from Fedora quickly in terms of the server environment. I found Ubuntu sometimes can be relatively unstable, which is why I moved to CentOS.."

Validated user
Technical Lead InfraOps at a tech services company with 501-1,000 employees

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

"In terms of documentation and community support for CentOS, I find it quite easy; these days, OpenAI's ChatGPT is really helpful for information, and generally, it is quite good.."

Muhammad Faizan Shah
Staff Software Consultant at a tech services company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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"I have seen a return on investment. My team had some time saved, but it was not significant. The money saved was significant, approximately fifteen percent of our IT budget.."

Thiago Pallaro
Senior Support Engineer at a computer software company with 201-500 employees

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"I have seen a return on investment in terms of time. It saved a lot of time through troubleshooting, which gives us substantial room for improvement in terms of fixing things, so time saved is a good return on investment.."

Validated user
Senior Technical Support Engineer at a tech vendor with 11-50 employees

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"I have seen a return on investment using CentOS. I can share that mainly time is saved because of the interfaces I have used. This has helped me the most. When you plan to improve this system, you must include all features that are accessible through graphical user interfaces, which are also best for users.."

R Kirishikaran
Technical person at a university with 1,001-5,000 employees

Read full review

"I have seen a return on investment, particularly in terms of money saved because I do not pay for the servers. I only pay for the use of the servers; I do not pay for the operating system. I would not say it translates to fewer employees, but for time, it is greatly considered once again the stability. Time is always positively impacted by stable systems, so I would say there is a lot of time that has been saved.."

Validated user
Technical Lead InfraOps at a tech services company with 501-1,000 employees

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Use Case

"My main use case for CentOS is that in the past, I used it as a Linux workstation, and currently, I use it as a CentOS server where we require RHEL-based server functionality.."

AnilKumar13
Devops Engineer at EDAG

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"CentOS is deployed in my organization on-premises. I have been working for my current company for the last two years and three months. We have a total of 64 servers in our infrastructure, and out of those, we use 10 to 12 CentOS OS servers. The versions we use are 7 and 8. From my past experience, the server has never rebooted or had any critical situation.."

Mohammad Wasif
IT Infrastructure Engineer at Trigyn Technology

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"My main use case for CentOS is setting up my RADIUS server. I have a RADIUS server, along with a DHCP server and Active Directory in Windows. I set up CentOS to run FreeRADIUS on the server and connect through Active Directory accounts using AD Connect. I also tried using the Samba server connection for the AD connection.

I set up CentOS RADIUS server for testing usage because our institution is fully adapted to Microsoft features and Microsoft accounts. I am implementing CentOS RADIUS server because of its speed and ease of accessibility. When you set up a RADIUS server in a Linux-based environment, it is easy to connect with global accounts, which is why I chose CentOS.."

R Kirishikaran
Technical person at a university with 1,001-5,000 employees

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"My main use case for CentOS is development and production servers. For development and production services, I use CentOS to deploy, and I am currently using it to deploy Docker Swarm applications for Dockerized applications for some legacy applications before we move them to Kubernetes.

"In addition to my main use case, I have a few bastion servers I use for VPN connections.."

Validated user
Technical Lead InfraOps at a tech services company with 501-1,000 employees

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"My main use case for CentOS is that I use it as an enterprise server for running multiple software applications like Apache, JBoss, and other middleware software.

I can give you a specific example of how I use CentOS as an enterprise server: multiple software as a service applications are deployed on CentOS servers, running Apache HTTP servers for web traffic, JBoss application server for application servers running Java applications, and multiple other purposes.

CentOS is the closest and best distribution other than Red Hat Enterprise Linux, making it a solid choice if you do not have the budget to spare.."

Thiago Pallaro
Senior Support Engineer at a computer software company with 201-500 employees

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"My main use case for CentOS is mostly development, as I use it when I have to create large builds over AWS EC2 instances. That is the main reason I use CentOS.

"A specific example of a project where CentOS was especially helpful for my development work is when I had an application with a backend build that took a long while to build on my local machines. I used an EC2 instance to do that because it has more compute power than my local machine, so I used it with CentOS to build my application.

"Other than that, hosting front-end applications back when I started working in the field was also a use case for CentOS, as I would use an EC2 machine with CentOS to host my front-end application alongside the backend applications and containers.

"When using CentOS on EC2 for builds, I noticed it is around three to five times faster, especially considering my local machine is not that great with CPU resources, so it is quite faster than my local machine.."

Muhammad Faizan Shah

Staff Software Consultant at a tech services company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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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.

"My experience with pricing and licensing for CentOS is that it was quite easy. The setup was not easy, but it is something that my team is very familiar with, making it easy for us. I understand that people who are not familiar with Linux may have a hard time with it.."

Thiago Pallaro

Senior Support Engineer at a computer software company with 201-500 employees

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"Migrating applications or workloads to CentOS was quite smooth; I just pulled in my code for the build scenario, and since the code was inside a container, that made it an easy process.."

Muhammad Faizan Shah

Staff Software Consultant at a tech services company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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"The installation of CentOS is simple, offering both minimal and GUI installation options. A typical layman with a basic Linux foundation can easily navigate through the installation process.."

Naveenkumar Lakshman
Presales Engineer at Crayon AS

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"The initial setup is easy. I rate the ease of setup an eight or nine out of ten. The time taken for deployment depends on what we have to add to the tool. Generally, the deployment can be done in about an hour.."

Van Cotoco
Senior Manager, Systems Engineering at Yutivo Corporation

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"The setup is pretty straightforward. We've installed other facilities that are just as good. There's nothing particularly different in the process.

The integration is as good as any other Linux platform. If another Linux platform can integrate with something, then CentOS can also integrate with it.."

Mahender Nirwan
Software developer at TAIGLE LLC

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"When users request to install or create new servers, they specify their preferred OS. They declared for us to install CentOS OS, so we create the servers and install CentOS OS based on their requests.

"Recently we have installed MariaDB as a database, and for the OS, we use CentOS. Our physical server, which had RHEL 8 already installed, was not providing good performance. Our user requested to format the physical server and reinstall CentOS OS. I have recently installed CentOS OS version 8 on my physical server.."

Mohammad Wasif

IT Infrastructure Engineer at Trigyn Technology

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Customer Service and Support

"When we encounter issues or need troubleshooting assistance, we almost always find answers from the community or from other people's experience shared over the internet.."

Mohammad Wasif
IT Infrastructure Engineer at Trigyn Technology

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"The documentation is excellent. I've never actually reached out to technical support. I've needed to leverage support services since the documentation is so strong. ."

Ibidapo Ibrahim
Head of IT Infrastructure at a non-tech company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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"The documentation and community support are great. I've seen many people across the globe interacting, and when users encounter issues, the community provides solutions. I faced an issue long ago, and it was resolved through the open-source community forum.."

Naveenkumar Lakshman
Presales Engineer at Crayon AS

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"A ton of articles are available on the internet about CentOS, so I haven't really felt the need for active support. But overall, you can say that the internet is still a great source of information on how to work with CentOS.."

Mahender Nirwan
Software developer at TAIGLE LLC

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"My company has not used the technical support of the product since it was a tool that relied on the community-driven part to provide help to its users. My company could use search engines to get answers whenever we faced any issues with the product.."

Arif-Kundi
CEO at BazTech

Read full review

"CentOS has no technical Support since it is an open-source or free edition platform. If I face any issues or I want to learn something about the product, then I would have to learn them through the online communities for the tool. In Linux, you can find every documentation you need by doing a simple Google search or on the online communities created for CentOS.."

Ahmed Qasim
Senior System Admin at Tepco-Group

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Other Advice

"My advice for others looking into using CentOS is that it is a Linux-based operating system with a graphical user interface. That is the main thing for whoever needs a Linux-based operating system to use as a server with a GUI, so it is best for its GUI. I would rate CentOS overall as an eight on a scale of one to ten.."

R Kirishikaran
Technical person at a university with 1,001-5,000 employees

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"My advice for others looking into using CentOS would be to make sure you set up your update schedule to be manual so that you can choose when and how to do your updates. If you want a stable environment, choose a good cloud provider and set it up in your own way. I have also used it for bare metal, so there is not much I can provide in terms of that. I want to say keep up the good work with CentOS. I gave this review a rating of nine out of ten.."

Validated user
Technical Lead InfraOps at a tech services company with 501-1,000 employees

Read full review

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"CentOS is more similar to RHEL. My advice to others looking into using CentOS is that if they require RHEL-based or RHEL flavor OS, they should definitely go for CentOS because it is free; if they use RHEL, it requires a subscription. I would rate this product a 9 out of 10.."

AnilKumar13
Devops Engineer at EDAG

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"Regarding cost savings, we have saved from a few hundred thousand dollars yearly to one or two million in the last years of transitioning, mostly because of moving out of other paid operating systems. I do not have any knowledge on how this budget was spent on other ends.

My advice to others looking into using CentOS is that if you are looking for a Red Hat Enterprise Linux alternative, CentOS might be the thing for you, especially regarding costs.

I love CentOS. I have a CentOS sticker on my laptop, and it is not just another tool for work; it is something that goes beyond that. Open source software is a belief that is very strong with me. I gave this review a rating of ten out of ten.."

Thiago Pallaro
Senior Support Engineer at a computer software company with 201-500 employees

Read full review

"The most suitable feature of CentOS is its exceptional stability, security, and long-term support, which make it a popular choice for enterprise and server environments.

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"CentOS is widely recognized for providing a stable and secure platform, especially suited for server and mission-critical workloads. Whenever we face critical work, it is easy for our team to handle. For long-term support, each CentOS release generally guarantees long-term updates, ensuring reliability for extended periods.

"For package management, we use YUM and DNF in the new version for flexible and efficient software management.

"It depends on our users' requirements for installing CentOS.

"Licensing for CentOS is above my management details, so I am not aware of this information.

"CentOS always provides good feedback, is easy to handle, and easy to troubleshoot.

"The experience with CentOS OS has been very good over the last two months.

"I rate CentOS nine out of ten.."

Mohammad Wasif
IT Infrastructure Engineer at Trigyn Technology

Read full review

"CentOS is deployed in my organization in both on-premises and private cloud environments.

"The cloud provider we primarily use for our private cloud deployment is AWS, and we also have a private server that is essentially a blade server where we have deployed it.

"I have not dived into the security features of CentOS that much, so I am not sure I am a good person to answer that question.

"I have pushed CentOS to the limit by testing an application where I had to accommodate multiple users; I increased the port number to allow 10,000 users to

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connect to that application hosted on a CentOS server.

"CentOS handled that situation reliably; while there were some difficulties changing some settings inside the application, once I managed to tweak the settings, it worked very well, allowing around 10,000 users to connect and chat simultaneously.

"The only compatibility issue I have faced with CentOS is with the biometric drivers, such as the fingerprint drivers, which were quite complicated, but generally, whatever I am trying to run works quite well.

"My advice for others looking into using CentOS is that it is quite sane; there is not any bloatware on it, and everything just seems to work. I would rate my overall experience with CentOS an 8.."

Muhammad Faizan Shah
Staff Software Consultant at a tech services company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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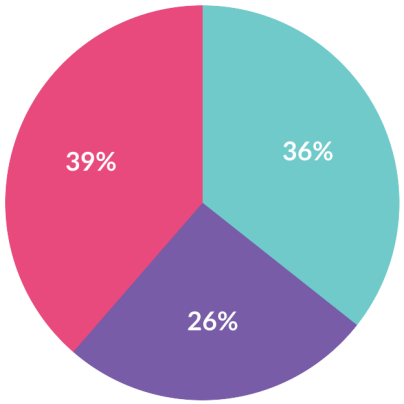
Comms Service Provider	9%

Company Size

by reviewers



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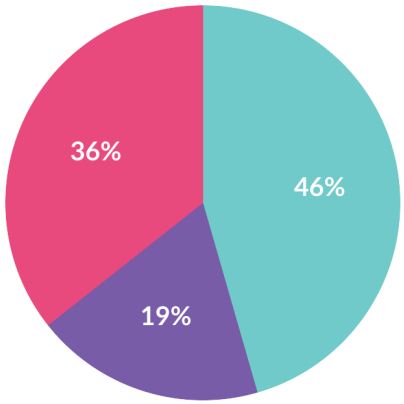

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