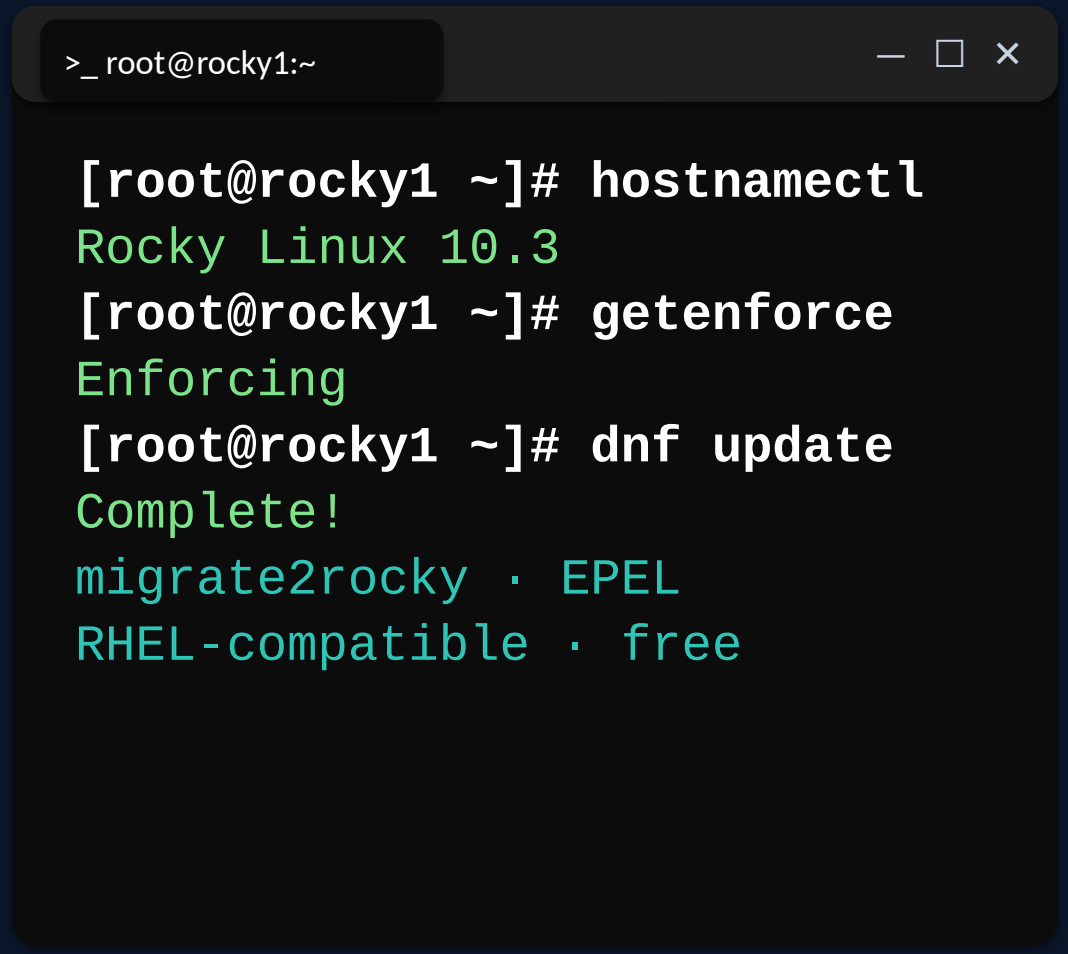


LESSON 1 OF 12

Rocky Linux 9 & 10

Install · Migrate · Differences

Rocky Linux: History, Versions, Lifecycle & the RHEL Family

Full Course · Rocky Linux 10.3 & 9.9 (Nov 2026)

What You Will Learn in Lesson 1

- Why Rocky Linux exists: the CentOS story
- Who builds Rocky: RESF, community and sponsors
- Versions, release names and lifecycle
- Architectures and hardware requirements
- Where Rocky fits: Fedora, CentOS Stream, RHEL, AlmaLinux
- Our lab for this course
- How this course connects to the RHEL course

The CentOS Story

Year	What happened
2004	CentOS: a free rebuild of RHEL, used on millions of servers
2014	Red Hat takes over CentOS sponsorship
Dec 2020	Red Hat ends CentOS Linux 8 early; focus moves to CentOS Stream
2021	Gregory Kurtzer, a CentOS co-founder, starts Rocky Linux; 8.4 GA June 2021
2023	Red Hat limits public RHEL sources; Rocky keeps building from public sources
2025–2026	Rocky 10 (June 2025); Rocky 10.3 and 9.9 on Nov 16, 2026

Who Builds Rocky Linux?

Who	Role
RESF	Rocky Enterprise Software Foundation: owns and governs the project
Community	Volunteers build, test, document and support Rocky
CIQ	Founding sponsor; offers commercial support and services
Sponsors	Cloud and hardware companies donate infrastructure
OpenELA	Shared enterprise Linux sources with Oracle and SUSE (2023)
Cost	Free to download, use and share — servers, desktops, cloud

Versions and Lifecycle

Version	Latest	Active support	Security fixes until
Rocky 10 (Red Quartz)	10.3 (Nov 16, 2026)	to May 31, 2030	May 31, 2035
Rocky 9 (Blue Onyx)	9.9 (Nov 16, 2026)	to May 31, 2027	May 31, 2032
Rocky 8 (Green Obsidian)	8.10 (final)	ended	May 31, 2029
Minor releases	Follow RHEL, usually within days	—	—

Architectures and Hardware

Item	Rocky 10	Rocky 9
Intel / AMD	x86-64-v3 (about 2013+ CPUs)	x86-64-v2
ARM 64-bit	Yes (aarch64)	Yes
RISC-V	Yes (new in Rocky 10)	No
IBM Power / Z	POWER10+, z15+	Yes
Minimum RAM / disk	2 GB / 10 GB (no GUI)	2 GB / 10 GB
Older x86 CPU?	Use Rocky 9, or AlmaLinux's x86-64-v2 build	—

Where Rocky Fits

Distribution	Relationship to RHEL	Best for
Fedora	Upstream; new features first	Developers, desktops, the future
CentOS Stream	Just ahead of RHEL	Contributing to RHEL; previewing changes
RHEL	The product, with support	Paid support, certifications
Rocky Linux	Bug-for-bug compatible rebuild	Free production servers, HPC, labs
AlmaLinux	ABI-compatible rebuild	Free production servers; v2 builds
Oracle Linux	Compatible; Oracle's kernel option	Oracle workloads

Our Lab for This Course

Machine	OS	IP address	Purpose
rocky1	Rocky Linux 10.3	10.0.0.21/24	Main server; most lessons
rocky2	Rocky Linux 9.9	10.0.0.22/24	Upgrade planning, mirrors, Ansible target
legacy1	AlmaLinux 9 or CentOS Stream 9	10.0.0.23/24	We migrate it to Rocky in Lesson 7
Network	lab network	10.0.0.0/24	Gateway and DNS 10.0.0.1
User	student (wheel)	—	sudo for admin tasks

This Course and the RHEL Course

Topic	Where to learn it
Command line, users, permissions	RHEL course, Lessons 3–4 (identical on Rocky)
dnf, systemd, boot, logs	RHEL Lessons 5–6; Rocky repos in Lessons 3–4 here
Storage, networking, firewalld	RHEL Lessons 7–8; quick tour in Lesson 6 here
SELinux, Apache, NFS, Podman	RHEL Lessons 9–10 (identical on Rocky)
Rocky-only topics	Verify ISOs, repos, SIGs, migration, upgrades, cloud
Exam skills	RHCSA skills are the same on Rocky

Your First Look at Rocky

```
[student@rocky1 ~]$ cat /etc/rocky-release
Rocky Linux release 10.3 (Red Quartz)
[student@rocky1 ~]$ cat /etc/redhat-release       # same file name as RHEL, for compatibility
Rocky Linux release 10.3 (Red Quartz)
[student@rocky1 ~]$ grep -E '^(ID|ID_LIKE|VERSION_ID)=' /etc/os-release
ID="rocky"
ID_LIKE="rhel centos fedora"
VERSION_ID="10.3"
[student@rocky1 ~]$ uname -r ; rpm -q rocky-release
```

Summary and Homework

- Rocky Linux: free, community, bug-for-bug compatible with RHEL
- Created in 2021 after CentOS Linux 8 ended early; governed by RESF
- Rocky 10 to 2035, Rocky 9 to 2032, Rocky 8 to 2029
- Rocky 10 needs x86-64-v3; adds RISC-V
- Homework: read the release notes for Rocky 10.3 at docs.rockylinux.org
- Homework: create the rocky1, rocky2 and legacy1 VMs

Thank You! 🙏

Free videos & PDFs: www.MyWebUniversity.com

Slides for this lesson: MyWebUniversity.com/presentations

YouTube: @MyWebUniversity · @MyWebUniversity-Dari

Wahidullah Lutfy — Founder and Director of IT of MyWebUniversity, and CS teacher

Book: The Direct Path to Linux Ubuntu (Amazon · Barnes & Noble)

Learn it, then pass it on.