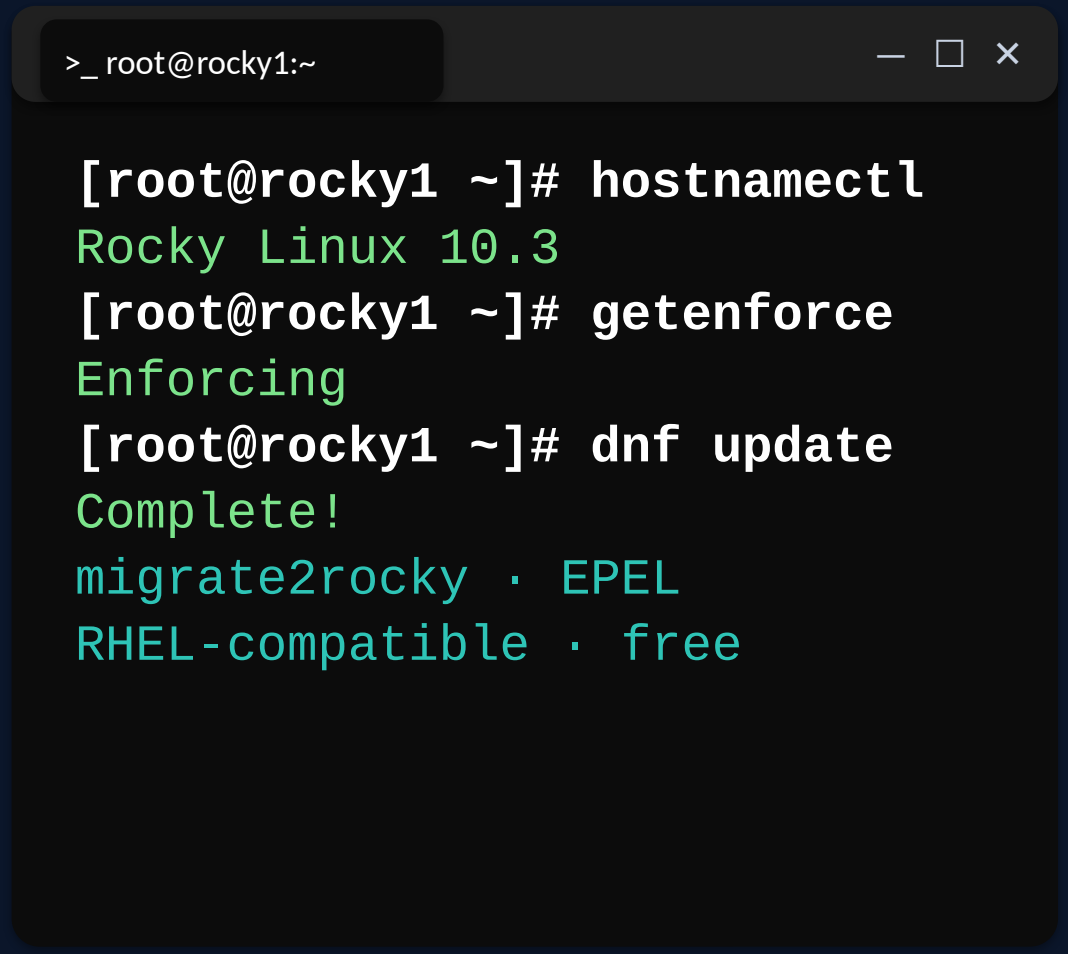


LESSON 8 OF 12

Rocky Linux 9 & 10

Install · Migrate · Differences

Moving Between Major Versions: Rocky 8 → 9 → 10

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

What You Will Learn in Lesson 8

- Why Rocky does not support in-place major upgrades
- When you must move: support dates
- What changes from 8 to 9 and from 9 to 10
- Strategy 1: rebuild and migrate data
- Strategy 2: blue-green with automation
- Community options and their risks
- A step-by-step plan for rocky2 (9.9 → 10.3)

Why No In-Place Upgrade?

Fact	Details
RHEL uses Leapp	Red Hat's Leapp needs upgrade data written for RHEL
Rocky's position	Leapp for Rocky is not supported; Rocky recommends reinstalling
ELevate (AlmaLinux)	Community Leapp project; Rocky support ended Nov 3, 2025 (data not maintained)
Major versions change a lot	Kernel, libraries, Python, defaults, removed packages
Clean installs	Remove years of drift; a chance to fix old decisions
Result	Plan major moves as projects, not as a single command

When You Must Move

Version	Active support	Security fixes end	Action
Rocky 8	ended	May 31, 2029	Plan the move now
Rocky 9	to May 31, 2027	May 31, 2032	Plan for 2027–2031
Rocky 10	to May 31, 2030	May 31, 2035	New servers today
Hardware	Rocky 10 needs x86-64-v3	—	Old servers: replace or stay on 9

What Changes Between Versions

Area	8 → 9	9 → 10
Kernel	4.18 → 5.14	5.14 → 6.12
CPU (x86)	v1/v2 → x86-64-v2	v2 → x86-64-v3
Python	3.6 default → 3.9	3.9 → 3.12
Packaging	Modules continue	Modules removed; versioned packages
Network config	ifcfg deprecated → keyfiles	ifcfg not supported
Crypto / SSH	SHA-1 disabled by default	Post-quantum; stricter defaults
Desktop	Xorg and Wayland	Wayland only; VNC → RDP

Strategy 1: Rebuild and Migrate

Step	What you do
1	Inventory the old server: apps, configs, users, cron, firewall, SELinux changes
2	Build a new Rocky 10 server (Kickstart or a cloud image)
3	Install the apps; copy configs carefully — review, don't blindly copy
4	Sync data with rsync; repeat until the final cut-over
5	Test: functions, performance, backups, monitoring
6	Cut over: final rsync, switch DNS or IP; keep the old server off but ready

Inventory Commands for the Old Server

```
[student@rocky2 ~]$ dnf repolist ; rpm -qa --qf '%{NAME}\n' | sort > pkgs.txt
[student@rocky2 ~]$ dnf history userinstalled > user-installed.txt
[student@rocky2 ~]$ systemctl list-unit-files --state=enabled > enabled-units.txt
[student@rocky2 ~]$ sudo firewall-cmd --list-all-zones > firewall.txt
[student@rocky2 ~]$ sudo semanage export > selinux-local.txt       # all local SELinux changes
[student@rocky2 ~]$ sudo crontab -l ; ls /etc/cron.d /var/spool/cron
[student@rocky2 ~]$ getent passwd | awk -F: '$3>=1000' > users.txt
[student@rocky2 ~]$ sudo rpm -Va --nofiles 2>/dev/null | grep '^..5' | grep ' c ' > changed-
configs.txt
[student@rocky2 ~]$ ss -tlnp > listening.txt ; df -h > disks.txt
```

Strategy 2: Blue-Green with Automation

Idea	How
Describe servers as code	Ansible playbooks (or Kickstart + scripts) build the server
Green = new version	Run the same playbook against a Rocky 10 host
Test green	Automated checks; a few users; monitoring
Switch traffic	Load balancer, DNS or IP — seconds, not hours
Blue = rollback	Keep the old server until green is proven
Bonus	Next upgrade (10 → 11) becomes routine

Community Options and Their Risks

Option	What it is	Risk
Migrate to AlmaLinux, then ELevate	almalinux-deploy (Rocky 8/9/10 → Alma), then Alma 9 → 10	You end on AlmaLinux
Convert to RHEL, then Leapp	Red Hat conversion tools; Leapp 9.9 → 10.3	Needs RHEL subscriptions
Manual distro-sync with Rocky 10 repos	Swapping repos and forcing dnf	Very high: unsupported, often breaks
Containers	Move apps into containers on a new host	Effort; but simplifies future moves
Rule	Never try an unsupported upgrade without a tested restore	—

Plan: rocky2 from 9.9 to 10.3

Week	Task
1	Check CPU (x86-64-v3); inventory rocky2; read the Rocky 10 release notes
1	List apps and their EL10 support (vendors, EPEL, Python 3.12, modules)
2	Build rocky2-new on Rocky 10.3 with Kickstart; apply semanage import, firewall
2	Install apps; review configs; first rsync of data
3	Test functions, backups, monitoring; fix differences; document
3	Cut-over window: final rsync, switch IP/DNS, verify; old rocky2 off for 2 weeks

Summary and Homework

- Rocky: no supported in-place major upgrade — plan a project
- Rocky 8 security ends 2029; Rocky 9 in 2032; Rocky 10 needs x86-64-v3
- Rebuild and migrate: inventory, new server, rsync, test, cut over
- Blue-green with Ansible makes future upgrades routine
- Community routes change vendor or need subscriptions
- Homework: run the inventory commands on rocky2 and write its 3-week upgrade plan

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.