aws marketplace

Chef

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users

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Product Recap

Chef

Chef Recap

Chef, is the leader in DevOps, driving collaboration through code to automate infrastructure, security, compliance and applications. Chef provides a single path to production making it faster and safer to add value to applications and meet the demands of the customer. Deployed broadly in production by the Global 5000 and used by more than half of the Fortune 500, Chef develops 100 percent of its software as open source under the Apache 2.0 license with no restrictions on its use. Chef Enterprise Automation Stack™, a commercial distribution, is developed solely from that open source code and unifies security, compliance, infrastructure and application automation with observability. Chef provides an unequaled developer experience for the Coded Enterprise by enabling users to express infrastructure, security policies and the application lifecycle as code, modernizing development, packaging and delivery of any application to any platform. For more information, visit http://chef.io and follow @chef.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

✔ "The most valuable feature is its easy configuration management, optimization abilities, complete infrastructure and application automation, and its superiority over other similar tools."

Aaron P

DevOps Engineer at a manufacturing company with 1,001-5,000 employees

✔ "Chef can be scaled as needed. The Chef server itself can scale but it depends on the available resources. You can upgrade specific resources to meet the demand. Similarly, with clients, you can add as many clients as you need. Again, this depends on the server resources. If the server has enough resources, it can handle the number of servers required to manage the infrastructure. Chef can be scaled to meet the needs of the infrastructure being managed."

Arun S .

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

✔ "The solution is easy to use and learn, and it easily automates all the code and infrastructure."

Neha Bisen
Devops Intern at Brillect Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd

✔ "Stable and scalable configuration management and automation tool. Installing it is easy. Its most valuable feature is its compliance, e.g. it's very good."

Murat Gultekin
Presales Consultant - Solution Architect at Hewlett Packard Enterprise

✔ "The product is useful for automating processes."

Ivan Bizhev
DevOps Engineer at a comms service provider with 501-1,000 employees

✔ "You set it and forget it. You don't have to worry about the reliability or the deviations from any of the other configurations."

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

✔ "The scalability of the product is quite nice."

Anshul Somani
Solutions Architect with 201-500 employees

What users had to say about valuable features:

"Its versatility is the most valuable feature. It's not necessarily the end all or be all solution for configuration management, deployment, etc. However, for what we use it for, it fits right in and it doesn't bloat our infrastructure (or any of our instances) that we deployed to.."

Mike Silva   Read full review ⬈
Senior Operations Engineer at a retailer with 10,001+ employees

"The most valuable feature is the language that it uses: Ruby.

Regarding integration and configuration of the product, they're pretty manageable. The layers are really easy to configure.."

Verified user   Read full review ⬈
AWS Content Support Manager at a tech company with 51-200 employees

"The solution is easy to use and learn, and it easily automates all the code and infrastructure. The solution quickly automates development in a cloud environment and provides flexibility for selecting multiple clouds in infrastructure. The solution is easy to use.."

Neha Bisen   Read full review [↗]
Devops Intern at Brillect Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd

"Writing recipes, which is great. Any business can write a recipe based on their deployment. We do not have to follow a path.

It is simple, easy to use, and versatile. The most important thing is it can handle a 100,000 servers at the same time easily with no time constraints.."

Amit Chaudhary   Read full review [↗]
Primary Architect at Autodesk, Inc.

"The most valuable feature is its easy configuration management, optimization abilities, complete infrastructure and application automation, and its superiority over other similar tools. It smoothly integrates with CI processes and helps reduce manual errors in system management and configuration. It is an effective and user-friendly tool for automating IT infrastructure and applications.."

Aaron P
DevOps Engineer at a manufacturing company with 1,001-5,000 employees

Read full review ↗

"The most valuable features for us would be the writing of the recipes. Any business can write the recipe based on their deployment, it's not like we have to follow a specific path.

AWS Marketplace gives you a sense of authentic products. Since AWS does its own checks on the marketplace products it's kind of a sense of relief that something will not be problematic.."

Ijaz Hussain
Manager at ZS Associates

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Other Solutions Considered

"Ansible has more advanced features than Chef. Ansible is easy to install, highly scalable, excels in orchestration and streamlined provisioning, and is easy to deploy. However, I cannot decide whether I prefer Ansible or Chef.."

Aaron P
DevOps Engineer at a manufacturing company with 1,001-5,000 employees

Read full review ↗

"Our environments used to be on-premise, then we were moving them into the cloud. Since they were big and complicated, we decided we needed a manageable provisioning system instead of doing it by hand every time.."

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

Read full review ↗

"We tried Ansible and Jenkins. However, because we use Terraform in our products, these weren't the most fitting solutions. Chef was the best solution for helping us build our infrastructure.."

Anshul Somani
Solutions Architect with 201-500 employees

Read full review ↗

"The reason that we chose this solution is because it's more effective and it gives us the ability to do the customization that we would like to do. It's also more versatile in the way that we can deploy using this tool, not only on Cloud but at the same time on-prem as well. It's more powerful.."

Ijaz Hussain   Read full review ↗
Manager at ZS Associates

"We looked at other product like Puppet. We are also using Ansible. However, Chef is the market leader, so we went with that.

Chef is more effective. It provides the hooks, so we can do customization. The product is more versatile. For example, we can deploy using this tool, not only with cloud, but simultaneously on-premise. So, it is quite powerful.."

Amit Chaudhary   Read full review ↗
Primary Architect at Autodesk, Inc.

"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   Read full review ↗
Senior Operations Engineer at a retailer with 10,001+ employees

ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

"We have seen a lot of ROI. Our customers really enjoy the tool. We are able to save in development time, deployment time, and it makes it easier to manage the environments.."

Stefan Nava

Director at a tech services company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review ↗

"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

Read full review ↗

"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

Read full review ↗

Primary Architect at Autodesk, Inc.

"We have seen ROI. It has decreased a lot of man-hours that we were previously spending doing stuff which we now manage with Chef. It has decreased when we have a production issue, since we are able to fix it faster. We also have had less production issues since using Chef to automate our provisioning.."

Timothy Rogers

Read full review ↗

Engineer II at a transportation company 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

"Chef is a configuration management tool, and I work for the product team of Chef. All the DevOps teams mainly use Chef for configuration management of their servers or infrastructure.."

Manjunath Reddy   Read full review ↗
Senior Customer Architect at a computer software company with 1,001-5,000 employees

"Our primary use case of this solution is for the orchestration of the service deployment, and integrations. Earlier, we had it on-prem but now it's totally on AWS cloud. AWS cloud is easier to use, and changing and refitting the architecture solutions is very easy.."

Ijaz Hussain   Read full review ↗
Manager at ZS Associates

"We use it for deployment of applications. It is a tool that you can use on the back-end for deploying architectures.

I have used the product for a couple years. I used to work for an online data center, and we used Chef for a lot of the tools and appointments.."

Stefan Nava   Read full review ↗
Director at a tech services company with 10,001+ employees

"Chef is like a master chef in a kitchen for computer systems. It's used to create recipes (cookbooks) that specify how servers and apps should be set up. Chef then makes sure these instructions are followed the same way on all computers in a network. The ChefServer is like the recipe book, where all these instructions are kept and shared, making it easier to manage and control how software and systems work in a company.."

Aaron P   Read full review ↗
DevOps Engineer at a manufacturing company with 1,001-5,000 employees

"Chef is primarily used for configuration management. For example, if you are managing a large number of servers (thousands or more), it is essential to ensure that the configurations across all servers are consistent. Otherwise, making any changes to the configurations would require writing a script to apply those changes across all the servers. Additionally, end-users may change configurations on multiple servers, leading to inconsistencies across different servers. To avoid this, configuration management is required.

We use Chef for this purpose by using a server-client mechanism. We apply changes to the Chef server, and every 30 to 40 minutes (depending on the configuration), Chef will verify whether the server has the required configuration. If not, it will revert to the required configuration automatically.."

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

Read full review ↗

"Chef is mostly for the operating systems to deploy or style, e.g. not containers. Before the containers, you need hardware, then an operating system, then you start to work on Kubernetes. To automate those steps, we use Chef.

The tool is useful for provisioning the operating system, because as you talk about the ops, sometimes customers ask to further deploy everything through automation, e.g. starting from scratch. You need to use different tools for you to provision via automation, so you need Chef. We use an automation tool such as Chef, then we were able to run Docker or containers on top of the hardware and operating system.."

Murat Gultekin

Presales Consultant - Solution Architect at Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Read full review ↗

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

Read full review ↗

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

Read full review ↗

"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

Read full review ↗

Presales Consultant - Solution Architect at Hewlett Packard Enterprise

"The integration and configuration in our AWS environment is very good.

It works well with most operation management systems, and where it doesn't, we upgrade the system.."

Anshul Somani

Read full review ↗

Solutions Architect with 201-500 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

Read full review ↗

"The integration and configuration were pretty straight forward. We have automated most of our department processes with Chef. Therefore, whenever there is a new software release ready, we can automatically use Chef to publish it to production. It is very easy to use.

We need to upgrade Chef and Ansible.."

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

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Customer Service and Support

"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

Read full review ↗

"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

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

Read full review ↗

"I've contacted them before about the same issues that I have mentioned for improvement. Because Chef is being developed by a hybrid team of open source contributors, as well as the Chef core team, I am not sure my communications have gone to the right people yet.."

Wil Whitlark
Lead DevOps Engineer at General Assembly

Read full review ↗

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

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"Vendor support has been decent. It's okay from that perspective. But sometimes it takes a while. They could have more dedicated support. Sometimes that is a challenge. If my in-house team cannot handle it, getting dedicated vendor support is a challenge and something that comes at a premium. Because they charge us a premium, I use my partner's channel rather than directly with Chef. Except for some proofs of concept and some demos, I haven't used much help.

But presale support was very good.."

MohammedHashim
Principal Architect at Brillio

Read full review ↗

Other Advice

"I would not recommend the solution to others. It depends entirely on how someone's system is made, but still, I would probably suggest something else entirely. Overall, I rate the tool a four or five out of ten.."

Ivan Bizhev
DevOps Engineer at a comms service provider with 501-1,000 employees

Read full review ↗

"I've worked with the solution during my three months of internship and in my self-made project. I would recommend the solution to other users.

Overall, I rate the solution an eight out of ten.."

Neha Bisen
Devops Intern at Brillect Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd

Read full review ↗

"Compare it to the other services that you use.

Everything can always be improved. If you have a specific need in configuration management and integration, Chef is a great product, especially with AWS.."

Verified user
AWS Content Support Manager at a tech company with 51-200 employees

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"Learning to write cookbooks to manage infrastructure with Chef does have a learning curve, but it is steady and manageable. However, if you're looking for an alternative with an easier learning curve, I would suggest evaluating other options such as Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform, and comparing them to Chef. Some alternatives have a much simpler learning curve than Chef.

I rate Chef a seven out of ten.."

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

Read full review ↗

"For automation and configuration management, we are using several tools: [Terraform](), Chef, and Ansible for provisioning. We are using those products, and they are good. They are not for container management, but for provisioning and deploying applications, software, and hardware. We are also using them for automation.

Chef is a configuration management tool.

I can recommend Chef to others who want to start using it. I can also recommend other products, e.g. Ansible, but most of the tools which are competitors of Chef and have the same functions are also good.

I'm giving Chef a rating of seven out of ten.."

Murat Gultekin   Read full review ↗
Presales Consultant - Solution Architect at Hewlett Packard Enterprise

"Make sure when you are tooling that what you are trying to create is functional within the product. Don't try and make it do something that it's not technically, nor architecturally, designed to do. While there are corner cases for things like that, if you're going to start to wander down that road, maybe you better take another look at a wider set of tools rather than just the one that you've got your eye on or the one your executives have their eyes on.

The product is functional. The ease of setup for almost everything that we did tooling-wise was straightforward. We didn't have too many issues which were out of the ordinary, corner case scenarios when using the product. That's always a bonus. Especially in ease of the installation and configuration, it is always a good thing when you're dealing with a product like this.

It integrates with softer packages, modern packages, alerting packages, etc. Aside

from the base infrastructure, there are a lot of Chef tooling and plugins which make it a rather straightforward addition to the tool set. Almost everything was off-the-shelf or out-of-the-box. We did not have to configure or rewrite it ourselves, which was a big bonus. Most of these products are usually commercialized and available with ready support and tooling.

There was a migration that we were moving to the AWS sphere, but I was only doing that in the migration phase, never into the full operational phase. Comparability-wise, you do have a more control over your on-premise stuff because you can customize it to your needs. There is plenty of functionality that you can get in when you have on-premise. Though, you have to follow the standards when you're dealing with a vendor provided service.."
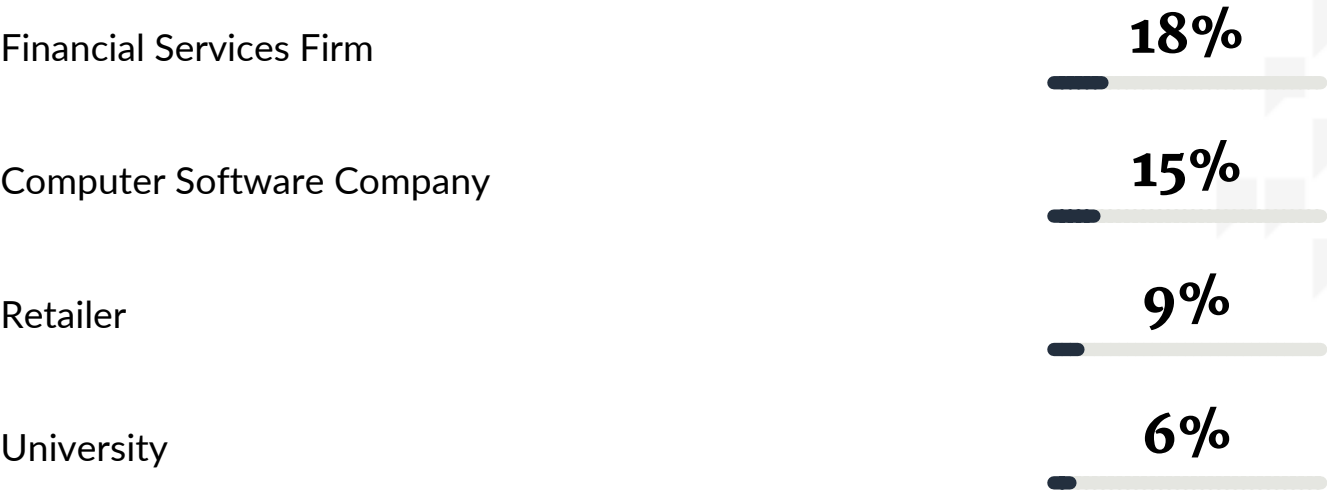
Mike Silva
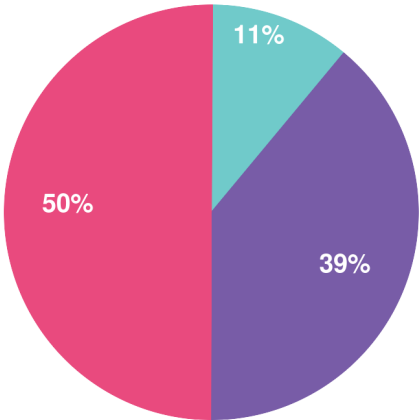Senior Operations Engineer at a retailer with 10,001+ employees

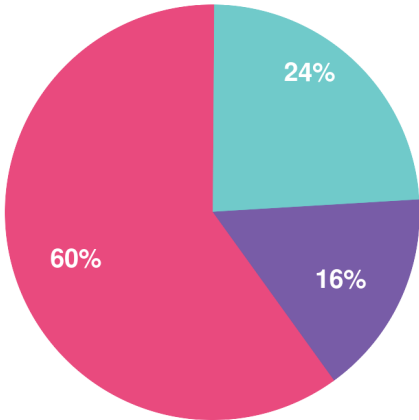Read full review ↗

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