

aws marketplace

Rocky Linux

# Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



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# Product Recap



Rocky Linux

# Rocky Linux Recap

Rocky Linux provides enterprise-grade stability and seamless Red Hat compatibility, coupled with extensive community support. Known for easy setup and minimal maintenance, its open-source nature ensures cost-effectiveness, making it ideal for critical systems.

Rocky Linux is an open-source operating system valued for its compatibility with Red Hat Enterprise Linux, making it an attractive choice for organizations migrating from CentOS. It focuses on stability, security, and long-term support, crucial for critical systems. Users benefit from seamless integration with automation tools and its strong community backing. While it offers ease of setup and package availability, areas like software availability and faster updates need enhancement. The system's UX design supports productivity, with potential improvements in documentation and security integration helping to maintain competitive advantages.

## What Are the Key Features?

- **Enterprise-Grade Stability:** Designed for reliability in mission-critical environments.
- **Red Hat Compatibility:** Ensures seamless integration with existing Red Hat setups.
- **Community Support:** Backed by a strong, active community providing assistance.
- **Ease of Setup:** User-friendly installation process for quick deployment.
- **Minimal Maintenance:** Requires reduced effort for upkeep.
- **Security and Clustering:** Advanced features for enhanced system security.

## What Benefits Should Users Expect?

- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Open-source status reduces overall costs.
- **Improved Productivity:** UX design and package availability streamline workflows.
- **Scalability:** Supports growing business needs with long-term support.
- **Seamless Integration:** Compatible with automation and monitoring tools.
- **Migration Ease:** Smooth transition for CentOS users.

Rocky Linux is widely implemented across numerous industries as a server platform and backend OS, supporting web hosting, big data projects, and cloud infrastructure. Companies in IT environments like Nutanix data centers and high-performance computing choose it for its compatibility with open-source tools, making it favored for automation with Ansible and monitoring through Prometheus.

# Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- ✔ “Rocky Linux has impacted my organization very positively because we migrated everything from CentOS and Windows servers to Rocky Linux, everything is clear, with good packaging, and now it's version 9.6, which is very important for us due to security problems since we are in Europe.”



**Massimiliano Adamo**

Linux architect at European Commission

- ✔ “When we moved from Red Hat to Rocky Linux, we saved around 70% of the cost which was used for subscriptions, and that money is now used for other things such as middleware applications and monitoring applications including DataDog and Dynatrace.”



**BasilJiji**

System Engineer at a retailer with 10,001+ employees

- ✔ “Rocky Linux provides us with extended maintenance, security patches, and support lifecycle aligned with RHEL, making it highly reliable for critical systems.”



**Verified user**

CloudOps Engineer at a computer software company with 10,001+ employees

- ✔ “Rocky Linux performs excellently in low-latency live streaming and content packaging workflows, as we use it for optimizing compatibility with the streaming platforms, utilizing an optimized kernel for networking, tuning profiles, IRQ affinity, security, reliability, and hardware and driver support.”



**DILIP BHARADWAJ**

Senior System Engineer at Al Jazeera Media Network

- ✔ “Rocky Linux is suitable for our needs... we have a very good team with high skills in Linux and development, and it works correctly with no enterprise cost or enterprise license.”



**Walid Alioua**

Network Infrastructure Manager at SAGEMCOM

- ✔ “Rocky Linux has positively impacted my organization by allowing us to migrate away from CentOS 7 as a result of the end-of-life for that operating system and then the end of CentOS 8, so we were able to move away from it without losing data and without having to rebuild VMs from scratch.”



**Verified user**

System Administrator at a computer software company with 5,001-10,000 employees

✔ “Rocky Linux has been a major driver for our cloud migration strategy and has proven to be one of the most cost-effective solutions for us, allowing us to save huge revenue while maintaining fantastic consistency with updates.”



**Verified user**

Technical Manager at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

What users had to say about valuable features:

“The most valuable feature of the solution is its stability. The tool's stability is similar to CentOS. The project for CentOS is not functional as of now, a reason why I moved to Fedora and Rocky Linux by another distributor..”

**Maresh Pansare**

Linux Administrator at Magna International

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“The platform's ease of setup, reliability, and minimal maintenance are valuable features. The custom install scripts streamline the setup process, making it straightforward..”

**Tony Williams**

Managing Director at Midgard IT

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“The experience of working with Rocky Linux is the same as with other Linux distributions; there was no difficulty for me in learning how to work with it.

Rocky Linux is similar to other distributions. I did some research on Google, and then it was manageable without needing documentation..”

**KRISTOF Laenen**

Senior Network Engineer at KLC bvba

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“The UX design, the user front end, and the user GUI are very well done on the GNOME and KDE platform side. It's very simple to work with, easy to learn, and know where things are. I have worked with a lot of different solutions like Debian, Ubuntu, Red Hat, and CentOS.

Rocky Linux is very easy, and if you switch from one to the other, you can easily detect your tools in the front end. Since it is very similar to the file system breakdown of downloads and documents, it's very easy to show users where things will be..”

**Dominique Locksley**

Linux System Administrator at Adapt IT

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“We have a lot of PostgreSQL databases in our development work within our organization. Many of the tools and packages we need for this are readily available and easy to install and configure. The flexibility and availability of software packages make our workflow faster and more adaptable. It provides extensive community support and makes seeking recommendations, assistance, and access to software and settings easy. This supportive community aspect significantly simplifies our work in various environments, and it's something we greatly appreciate as developers..”

**JohanWiklund**

System Administrator at Maxar Technologies

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“In my opinion, the best features Rocky Linux offers are stability, compatibility, and community support, all of which I think are extremely necessary and essential for the distribution, and I find that all three pillars are very supported by Rocky Linux.

The big difference was the compatibility, one-to-one compatibility, and packages and repos, and that was the main thing that helped us significantly after all.

Rocky Linux has positively impacted my organization, specifically through cost savings, because we did not have to buy any licenses or extra licenses of other distros, such as Oracle or RedHat, and that helped significantly, giving us independence in this project without needing a budget specifically for it. This helped tremendously..”

**Rafael Dina**

IT / IAM Senior Specialist at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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# Other Solutions Considered

“We previously used CentOS, and we switched because their release politics were not really going into the stable way that we always thought CentOS was praised for, which is why we chose to migrate..”

**Rafael Dina**

IT / IAM Senior Specialist at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“I am not sure what solution we previously used before Rocky Linux, as I am new to the organization. I think they might have used VMware, but those were not on Rocky Linux, and the licensing cost was likely higher, which is why we changed to Rocky Linux in the Nutanix environment..”

**Verified user**


Junior IT Infrastructure Engineer at a hospitality company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“We checked some enterprise-level OSs such as Debian before choosing Rocky Linux, but we found we were more inclined toward Rocky Linux as it gives LTS support and stability, so we moved to Rocky Linux..”

**Verified user**

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Software Engineer at a comms service provider with 10,001+ employees

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“Before choosing Rocky Linux, we evaluated other options including Ubuntu, Oracle Linux, and a few other flavors, but since Rocky Linux has one-to-one binary compatibility with Red Hat, it was the best fit..”

**Verified user**

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Technical Manager at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“Our decision to use CentOS, and now its successor, Rocky Linux, was rooted in the desire to stay close to the Red Hat ecosystem. We have continued this approach by selecting distributions that are as similar as possible to RHEL. The aim is to ensure that our development and testing process aligns with the standards of the industry and our customer base. We want to maintain a consistent and reliable development environment, which is why we choose distributions like Rocky Linux or AlmaLinux..”

**JohanWiklund**

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System Administrator at Maxar Technologies

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“When evaluating a replacement for CentOS 7, we initially had to consider certain specialized requirements before making a decision. Regarding the choice between AlmaLinux and Rocky Linux, both options were strong contenders due to their close alignment with the CentOS path, which we were transitioning from. We conducted testing and analysis on both AlmaLinux and Rocky Linux. Initially, it was challenging to determine which one to choose, but we opted for the distribution that appeared to have a more significant user base and community support. This decision is often crucial, especially in open-source environments, as a larger user community can provide valuable assistance with development, information sharing, and problem-solving..”

**JohanWiklund**

System Administrator at Maxar Technologies

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# ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“I have seen a return on investment since there was definitely money saved at the time due to the lack of need for licensing since Rocky is available openly..”

**Verified user**

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System Administrator at a computer software company with 5,001-10,000 employees

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“ROI has been good as we have significant open source community involvement. In fact, we have increased our footprints, allowing us to onboard more resources or employees, which is a positive sign..”

**Verified user**

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Technical Manager at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“When it comes to return on investment, a lot of money is saved since we moved from a purchased license to the open source provided by Rocky Linux. Time is also saved since whenever an issue arises, we get resolutions from the community without needing to raise a ticket with the support team..”

**BasilJiji**

System Engineer at a retailer with 10,001+ employees

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“Regarding return on investment, we have chosen the same exact resource that we were using earlier, so there is no immediate return on investment. That needs to be identified if we can cut down our resources with a smaller instance, but that has not yet been figured out.

“I notice money saved as a return on investment..”

**Verified user**

CloudOps Engineer at a computer software company with 10,001+ employees

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# Use Case

“We work with a diverse set of tools and systems. We often need to experiment with various products and utilize standard development tools like compilers and debuggers to streamline our workflow..”

**Johan Wiklund**

System Administrator at Maxar Technologies

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“I use the solution in my company to do some automation stuff to run Ansible, and it has an administration server to provide all the Linux control like a client node can be connected to that master node. Basically, it is an administration node, and I can manage all of the on-premises machines. Basically, it acts as a bastion host or jump host for me..”

**Mahesh Pansare**

Linux Administrator at Magna International

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“We tested Rocky Linux as a replacement for CentOS. It was a drop-in replacement that worked as advertised out of the box. However, we decided to go with another solution. We felt Alma Linux was a better fit for us than Rocky Linux. .”

**Mark-White**

Principal Consultant at Dev One Pro Services

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“My typical use case for Rocky Linux is that it's the backend operating system for managing where we have a lot of scripts managing networks.

I don't have a use case for AI integration yet because we simply did not look into it, so I don't know if it's there or not..”

**KRISTOF Laenen**

Senior Network Engineer at KLC bvba

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“I'm currently running the solution at home to teach myself all of the flavors of Linux. If a new one comes out that I don't know or haven't worked on, I'll install it and see how easy it is to configure and set up. I evaluate it for users who don't have very strong computers and want to move away from Microsoft because they don't want to upgrade.

I evaluate Linux as a recommendation so that users can get away from Windows because Windows is so memory-intensive. For people who have an older machine and can't necessarily run Windows 10 or Windows 11, I usually recommend a Linux flavor based on the hardware they're running..”

**Dominique Locksley**

Linux System Administrator at Adapt IT

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“My main use case for Rocky Linux is that we had some web servers that we used as internal web servers on a LEMP stack with Nginx for some internal websites and systems. At the time, they ran on CentOS, but we felt it would be better to migrate them to Rocky Linux. I remember we had a script to migrate those servers and it worked very well. Since then, I have left the company, but my colleagues who are still there are using it with no problems so far..”

**Rafael Dina**

IT / IAM Senior Specialist at a tech vendor with 10,001+ 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.

“It is a straightforward setup, serving as a direct replacement for Red Hat Enterprise Linux or CentOS. Rocky Linux requires standard maintenance similar to any other Linux distribution, without any unusually heavy demands..”

**Mark-White**

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Principal Consultant at Dev One Pro Services

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“The product's installation, setup, and deployment are easy to manage.

The solution is deployed on an on-premises model. My company also uses AWS, Ubuntu versions, Amazon Linux versions, and Red Hat, so the images are used by opting for a cloud provider..”

**Mahesh Pansare**

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Linux Administrator at Magna International

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“The implementation process is relatively straightforward. We typically start by cloning the repository, which contains various configurations and packages. Since we have a considerable number of workstations, specifically around eighty, we find this cloning approach to be efficient. Once the repository is cloned, the system can be set up to automatically perform updates and package installations..”

**Johan Wiklund**

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System Administrator at Maxar Technologies

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“The setup is straightforward, with minimal manual intervention. Depending on the customer's requirements, it is deployed on cloud-based systems or on-premises hardware.

The deployment typically takes about an hour. Virtual machines can be set up in this timeframe, with additional time needed for specific customer configurations.

I rate the process a nine and a half. .”

**Tony Williams**

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Managing Director at Midgard IT

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“Rocky Linux is a product of CentOS, and I have experience using CentOS as well. I think CentOS and Rocky Linux are similar to each other, with almost all of the features being similar.

“The pricing, setup cost, and licensing for Rocky Linux are favorable because they come bundled with the Nutanix environment, making the costs and licensing cheaper than the VMware environment, which is why we chose the Nutanix environment..”

**Verified user**

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Junior IT Infrastructure Engineer at a hospitality company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“I decided to migrate those web servers specifically to Rocky Linux instead of another option because I actually tried both distributions, Alma and Rocky Linux, and I believe that the one that was most similar to how we used CentOS was Rocky Linux. This was the best choice after all.

If I recall correctly, I had some problems during the migration process, but it was not with Rocky Linux; it was with AlmaLinux installation. That was one of the main factors as because we had some bugs. Rocky Linux was a very good choice in the end and it is working efficiently..”

**Rafael Dina**

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IT / IAM Senior Specialist at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

# Customer Service and Support

“We take customer support from Nutanix, and I think Nutanix support users are familiar with Rocky Linux, so I find the customer support to be very good..”

**Verified user**

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Junior IT Infrastructure Engineer at a hospitality company with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“We haven't encountered any major problems with the operating system itself. Our primary challenges typically revolve around software-related issues, especially when it comes to third-party software or our in-house applications..”

**JohanWiklund**

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System Administrator at Maxar Technologies

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“I have not had any experience with customer support so far because I usually research things on my own, and the documentation and community help significantly in those cases..”

**Rafael Dina**

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IT / IAM Senior Specialist at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“I have not reached out to customer support for Rocky Linux. This has not yet been discussed with my security team, as this is recent, and the security team started checking on this..”

**Verified user**

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CloudOps Engineer at a computer software company with 10,001+ employees

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“Rocky Linux is up to the mark; the solutions are really customer-focused and revenue-oriented, and the support level is extraordinary, providing on-time assistance, making it commendable..”

**DILIP BHARADWAJ**

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Senior System Engineer at Al Jazeera Media Network

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“First of all, there is in-house knowledge for handling technical support or community issues.

If I have specific issues that couldn't be resolved by myself, I either contact an outside ICT company with specialized engineers or contact the vendors.

We have not yet needed to contact a vendor regarding Rocky Linux..”

**KRISTOF Laenen**

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Senior Network Engineer at KLC bvba

# Other Advice

“The solution allows us to quickly set up multiple virtual machines, reducing costs and requiring less management than other systems.

It is a robust solution for various server needs. I rate it a nine. .”

**Tony Williams**

Managing Director at Midgard IT

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“I would advise others looking into using Rocky Linux to try it out, especially if they have servers on CentOS, as it is very valid for an upgrade. I know a lot of CentOS servers have already reached the end-of-life state, with no more updates or security updates, so I would recommend a migration to Rocky Linux. I rate Rocky Linux 10 out of 10..”

**Rafael Dina**

IT / IAM Senior Specialist at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“The package management system requires attention when working with Rocky Linux.

“There can be some issues with scalability that need consideration.

“I would rate Rocky Linux an eight out of ten..”

**Jetsada Malaisirirat**

System Engineer at clusterkit

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“There is a wealth of valuable information available online when it comes to using Rocky Linux. It provides clear guidance on the initial setup steps to get your system up and running for experimentation. Once the system is up and running, you'll notice that, as a user, the experience is quite similar to using other Linux distributions like CentOS or [RHEL](#). The primary differences tend to surface when it comes to system management and administration, where you may notice distinctions between Rocky Linux and other distributions. However, with the available resources and documentation, navigating these differences becomes manageable. I would rate it eight out of ten..”

**JohanWiklund**

System Administrator at Maxar Technologies

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“I'm just using tools, so I'm not in any decision making.

The decision is made at the customer, so it's not my decision. I'm not in any decision maker role.

All these decisions have been made. I'm just following it, and for me, there's no real preference between A or B.

I switched less than a year ago from my previous company, and I think they have been using it for one or two years.

It's a hard question to determine the most helpful or useful features in this tool.

I rate Rocky Linux eight out of ten. An eight means that I'm satisfied with it; a product having a ten never exists because things can always be better.

I have nothing really in mind that could make Rocky Linux a nine out of ten..”

**KRISTOF Laenen**

Senior Network Engineer at KLC bvba

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“For a Windows migration, I'll do a full backup to external, set up Rocky Linux, and bring it in. Then, I'll just import all the relevant files. Most solutions like Rocky Linux and Ubuntu have a downloads folder or documents folder. I try to recreate the user experience from a UX perspective to be the same.

One of the other Linux tools I'm currently evaluating is Zorin. Zorin looks almost identical to Windows. When you log in, the interface and everything looks very similar to Windows 11. CentOS, Rocky, and Zorin are three solutions that I recommend for users who want to move away from Microsoft but keep the same experience. I can make it look and feel the same way it looks and feels on Windows.

So, migrating a user from Windows is easy because as long as it looks the same, they don't really care what happens in the backend. They don't really care what happens when they click on a button. They just want to see what they saw when they worked on Windows.

I set Rocky Linux up to update once a week with the package management. It does

its own updates, and as long as there's internet, there are no problems.

The transition to Rocky Linux wasn't as difficult as I had expected, but it wasn't as easy as I had expected because Rocky Linux is one of the lesser-known versions of Linux. When I had trouble with my audio drivers, very little information was available on resolving the issue. That was a little difficult, but it was purely because Rocky Linux is not as well known as Ubuntu, CentOS, or the bigger versions of Linux.

From that perspective, I struggled a bit. Otherwise, it was quite smooth. The only problem I had was on the audio side.


The solution's deployment time was very much dependent on the hardware that I was running it on. Depending on the hardware, it's quite simple because it has the same features as all the new Linux. I can also configure and run a little LVM installation.

I like the fact that, in a lot of ways, it's still the same as the old Linux and all the other Linux you know. It looks very similar, but it adds little tweaks, and it still looks like Rocky Linux when you're inside it.

Overall, I rate the solution ten out of ten..”

**Dominique Locksley**

Linux System Administrator at Adapt IT

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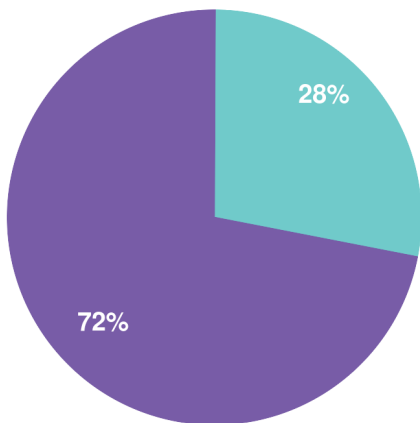
10%

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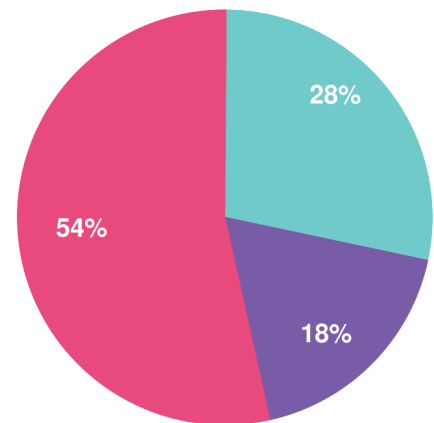
9%

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