

# Open-Source Use Is Slowing, Exec Says

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Ron Hovsepian, Novell's new president and chief operating officer, noted that Novell has increased the number of packaged applications supported by SuSE Linux to more than 1,000, up from 42 when it bought the operating system in January 2004. But he also stressed the importance of "driving open source where it is needed and not trying to force-fit it" into user sites.

Although Novell views Linux as a key growth business, Ron Hovsepian, the company's new president and chief operating officer, last week acknowledged that the adoption of open-source technology in data centers is slowing rather than accelerating.

"There's a wait-and-see attitude from customers," Hovsepian said during a speech at the Open Source Business Conference in Newton, Mass., agreeing with similar comments from industry analysts.

Hovsepian says Novell has observed a wait-and-see attitude toward open source.

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