



The Road to EPEL 10

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What is EPEL?

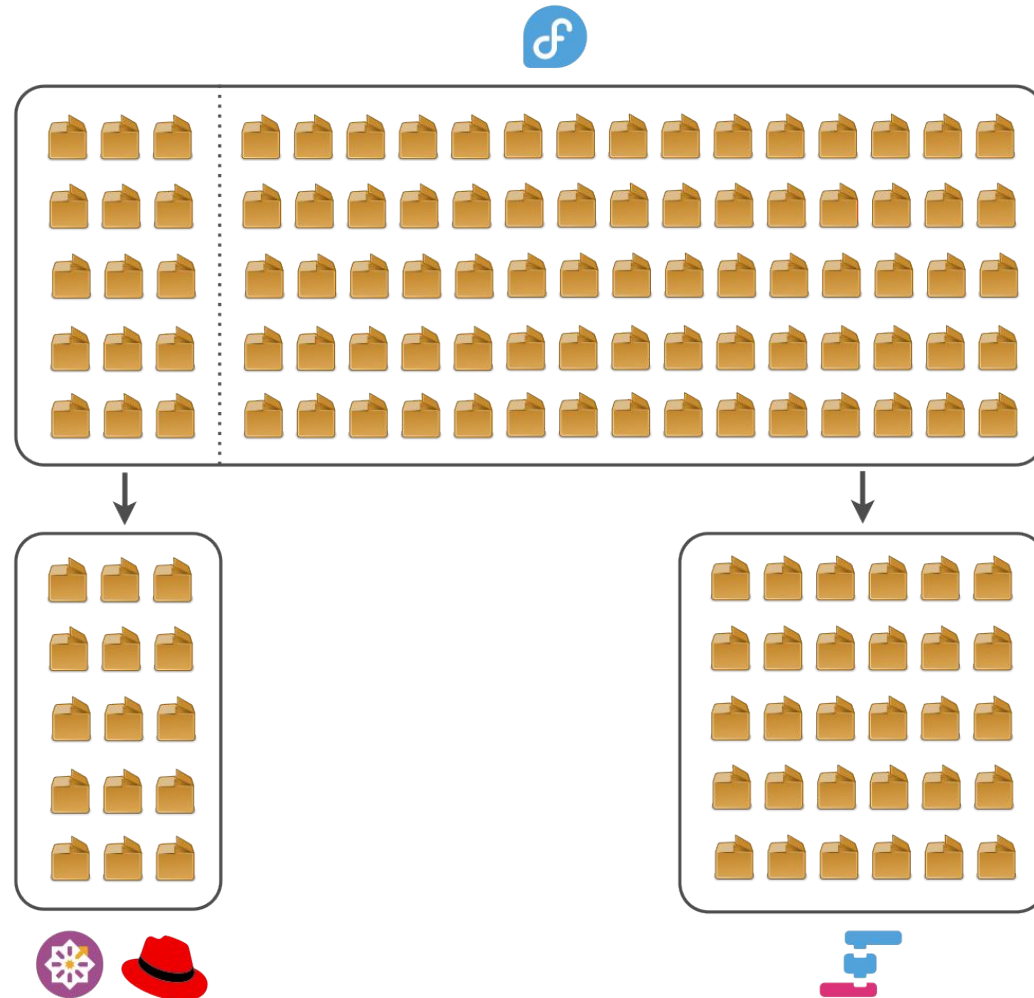
Extra Packages for Enterprise Linux is an initiative within the Fedora Project to provide additional packages for CentOS and Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL). The goal is to enhance the base distro without replacing or disturbing stock packages.

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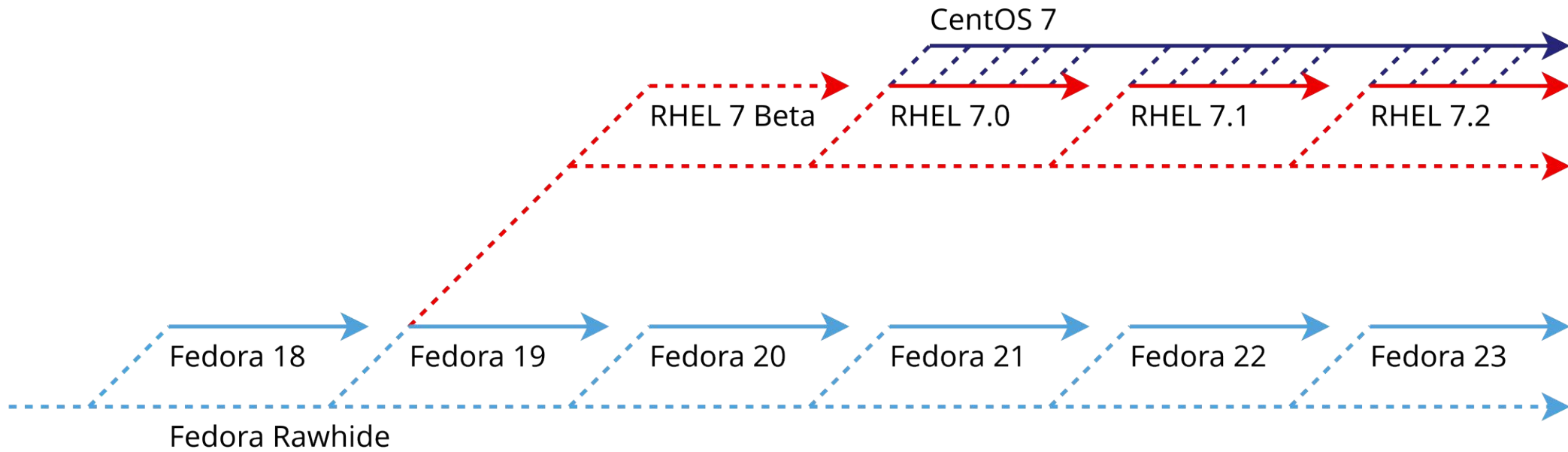


Where do the packages come from?

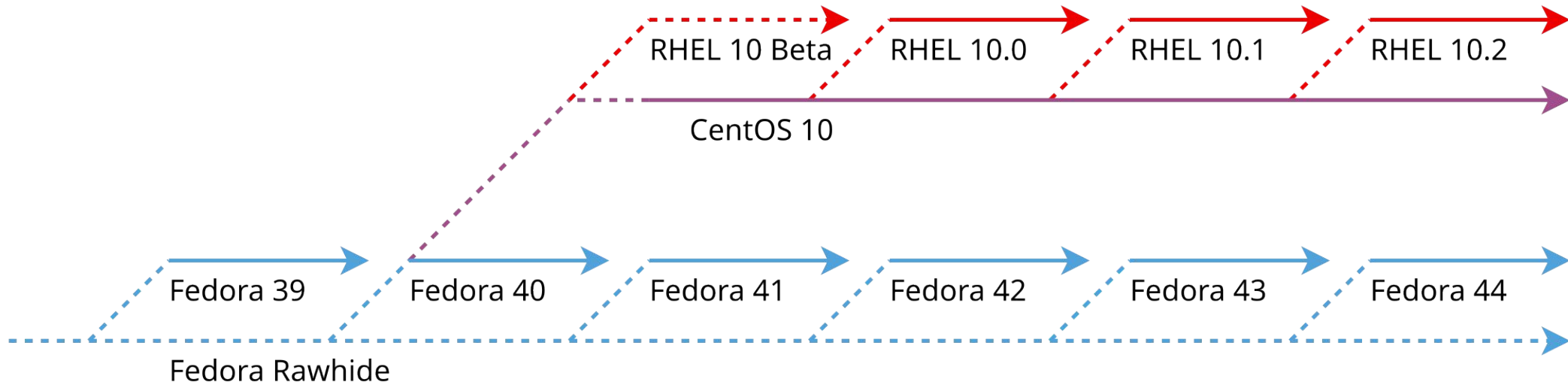
CentOS and RHEL are created from a subset of Fedora. Fedora packages that are not in that subset are eligible to be included in the EPEL repository.



Legacy relationship



Modern relationship

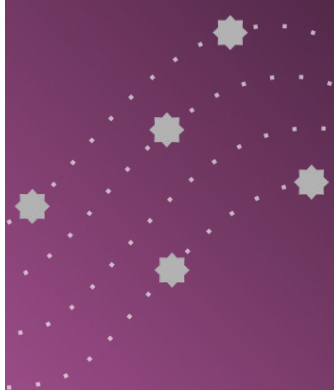
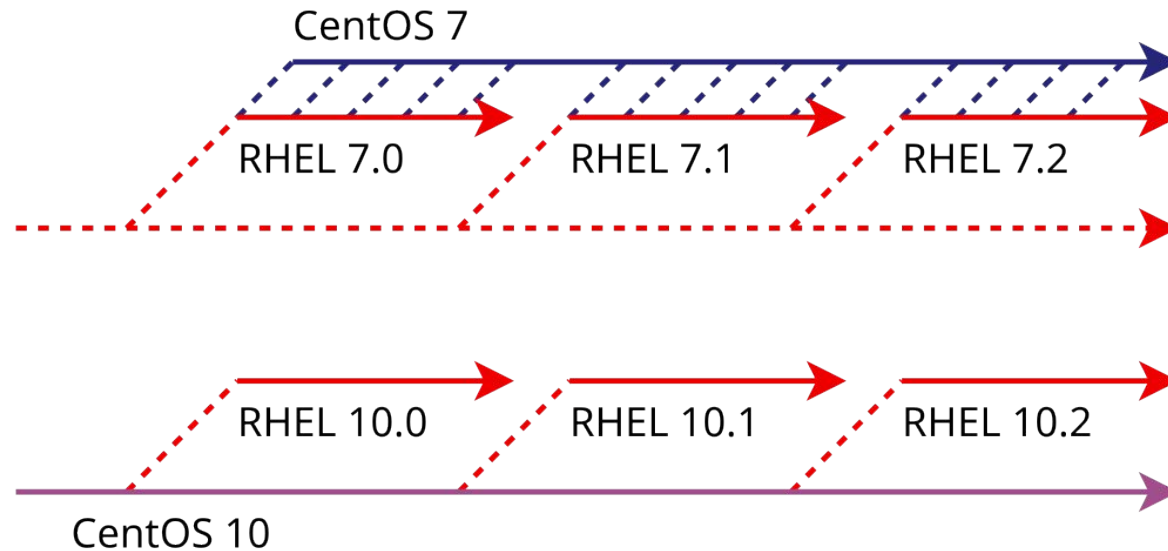


EPEL problems

Minor version problem

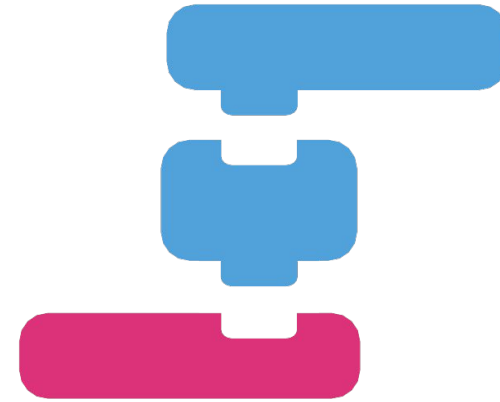
RHEL minor version library changes

RHEL minor versions can contain library changes which requires rebuilding EPEL packages. These are now available in CentOS about three to six months before RHEL.



EPEL Next

EPEL Next allows maintainers to build select packages against CentOS, while most are still built against RHEL. It isn't a complete duplication of EPEL, just an alternate build target and repo for the small number of packages that need it.



EPEL



Major version problem

RHEL major version migrations

CentOS and RHEL users often depend on packages from EPEL, and won't start deploying the next major version until those packages are available in the corresponding EPEL repository.

RHEL 7 → RHEL 8

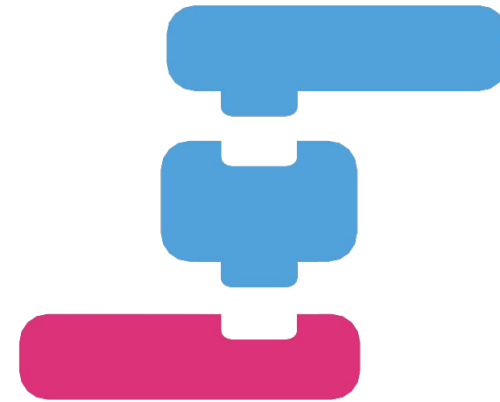
RHEL 8 → RHEL 9

RHEL 9 → RHEL 10



EPEL 9

EPEL 9 launched about six months before RHEL 9, giving package maintainers a significant amount of time to add their packages. This resulted in 5,764 packages being available on the RHEL 9 launch day.



EPEL






EPEL 10

EPEL 10 planning





The current EPEL structure mostly ignores that RHEL has minor versions, resulting in a subpar experience for users and maintainers. EPEL Next was a partial fix, but the path forward is to fully embrace minor versions.

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EPEL 10 proposal

[Project Discussion #epel](#)

 **Carl George**  carlwgeorge 2  6d 

Nov 23

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Nov 22

8h ago  

Now that EPEL 9 is in [full swing](#), I'd like to start planning ahead for what comes next. CentOS Stream 10 is expected to be available in 2024. We should be able to start EPEL 10 around the same time. Until then, we have the opportunity to evaluate what we can improve in EPEL.

I am proposing a new workflow and structure for EPEL 10. The high level summary is for EPEL 10 to have unique branches, build targets, and repos for each minor version of RHEL 10, including CentOS Stream 10 as the upcoming minor version. This would be a significant change from how EPEL works today, but I think it would address several pain points for maintainers and users. I am opening this topic for discussion as early as possible before the EPEL 10 launch to gather feedback. Please note that this is currently just a proposal and has yet to be voted on by the EPEL Steering Committee.

Before getting into specific details, let's recap how things currently work in EPEL.

The current EPEL model

In the past (EPEL 7 and earlier), EPEL only targeted the current minor version of each major version of RHEL. Once a new RHEL minor version was released, the corresponding EPEL buildroot would switch to using it more or less immediately.

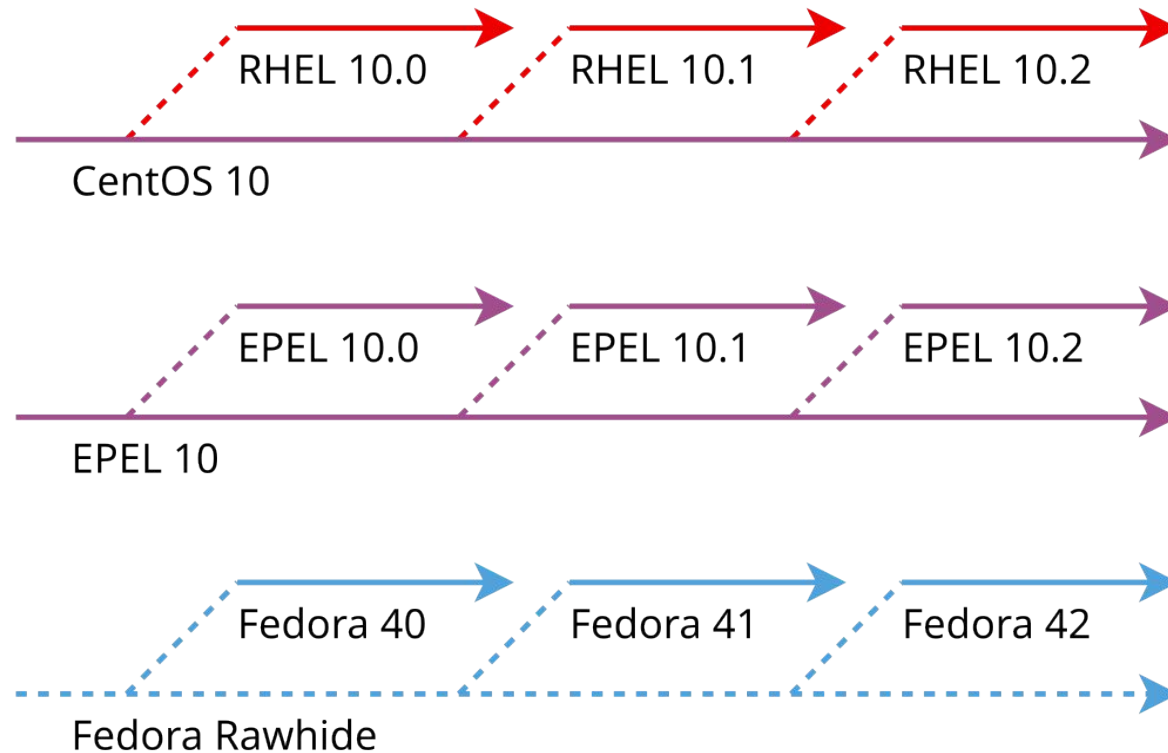
branch	built against	dist tag	repo
epel7	RHEL 7.x	..e17	/pub/epel/7/

Now RHEL has a separate stream for each minor version, including CentOS Stream 10. This means that EPEL 10 will have a unique buildroot for each minor version of RHEL 10, including CentOS Stream 10. This would be a significant change from how EPEL works today, but I think it would address several pain points for maintainers and users. I am opening this topic for discussion as early as possible before the EPEL 10 launch to gather feedback. Please note that this is currently just a proposal and has yet to be voted on by the EPEL Steering Committee.



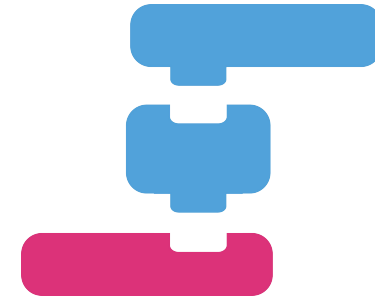
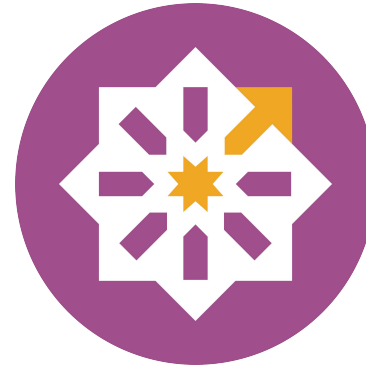
EPEL 10 branches

EPEL 10 is designed to resemble both the Fedora and the CentOS/RHEL branching relationships for a more intuitive maintainer experience.



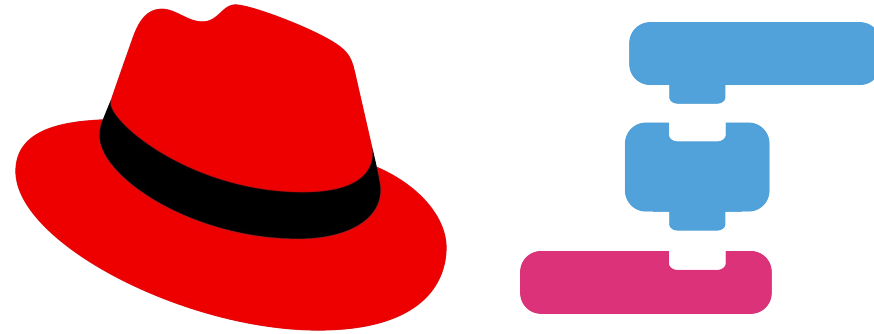
Prioritizing CentOS

EPEL is a community repository, so it should work best on CentOS, the Community Enterprise Operating System.



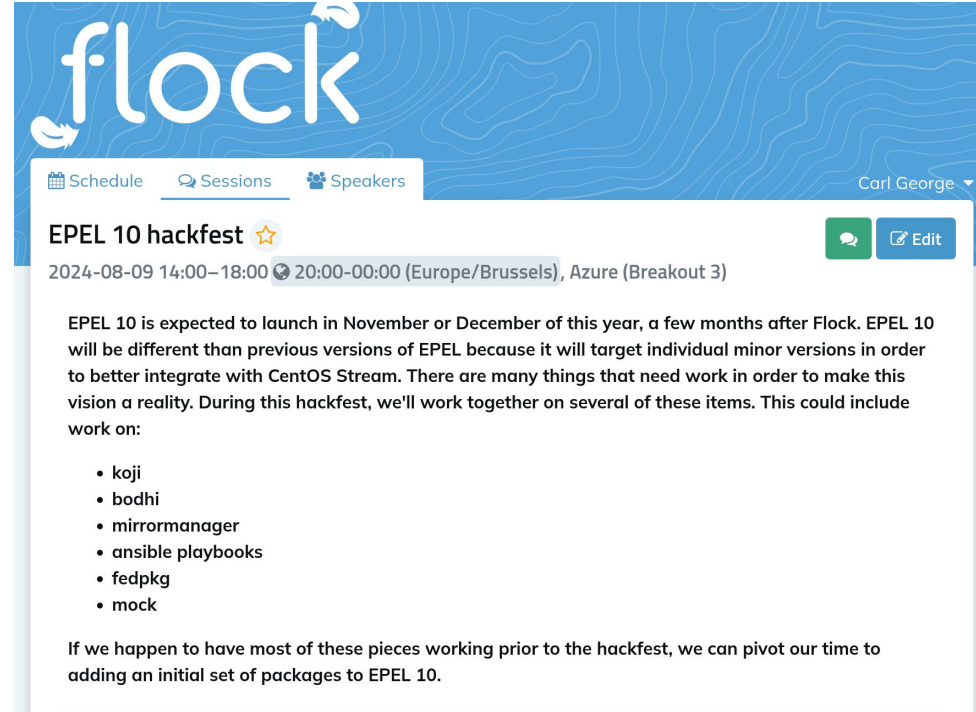
RHEL readiness

Improving readiness for RHEL is also a priority. EPEL 9 prepared for RHEL 9.0 by using CentOS 9 as a build platform. EPEL 10 extends this approach to all RHEL 10 minor versions.



EPEL 10 soft launch

To give package maintainers even more time to prepare packages, EPEL 10 started with a soft launch period. This kicked off with a hackfest at Flock last August.

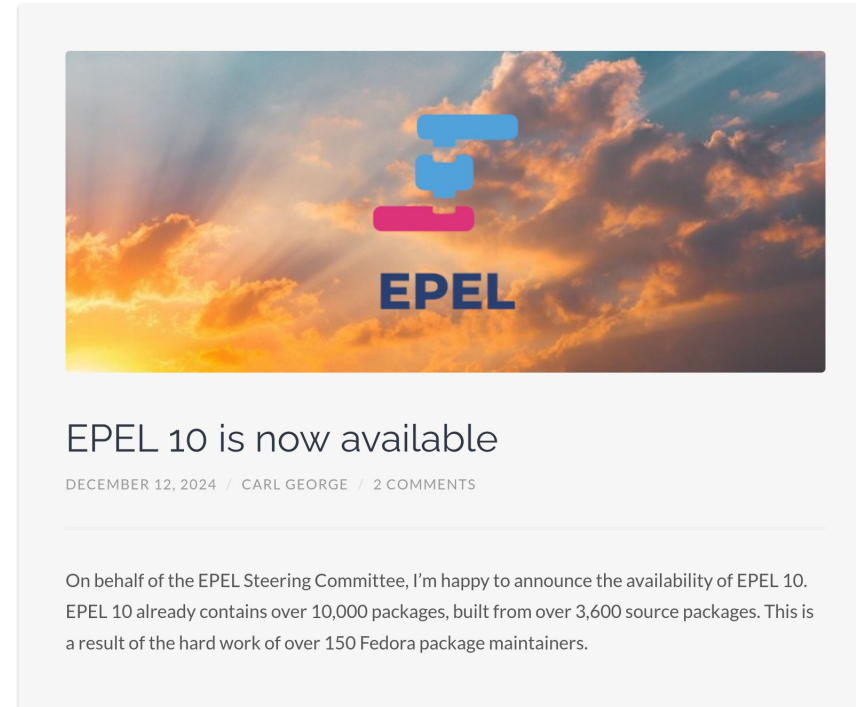


The screenshot shows a web page for a 'flock' event. The header features the 'flock' logo in white on a blue background with a topographic map pattern. Below the logo are navigation tabs for 'Schedule', 'Sessions', and 'Speakers'. The user 'Carl George' is logged in. The main content is a post titled 'EPEL 10 hackfest' with a star icon and an 'Edit' button. The event details are: '2024-08-09 14:00-18:00' and '20:00-00:00 (Europe/Brussels), Azure (Breakout 3)'. The text of the post states: 'EPEL 10 is expected to launch in November or December of this year, a few months after Flock. EPEL 10 will be different than previous versions of EPEL because it will target individual minor versions in order to better integrate with CentOS Stream. There are many things that need work in order to make this vision a reality. During this hackfest, we'll work together on several of these items. This could include work on:'. A bulleted list follows: '• koji', '• bodhi', '• mirrormanager', '• ansible playbooks', '• fedpkg', and '• mock'. The post concludes with: 'If we happen to have most of these pieces working prior to the hackfest, we can pivot our time to adding an initial set of packages to EPEL 10.'



EPEL 10 official launch

After a few months of the soft launch period, EPEL 10 officially launched last December with over 10,000 packages.



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Upcoming events

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- 2025 Q1
 - Mass branching for EPEL 10.0
 - Start of EPEL 10.1
- 2025 Q2
 - Expected release of RHEL 10.0
 - EPEL 10.0 switches to building against RHEL 10.0



Upcoming events

- 2025 Q3
 - Mass branching for EPEL 10.1
 - Start of EPEL 10.2
- 2025 Q4
 - Expected release of RHEL 10.1
 - EPEL 10.1 switches to building against RHEL 10.1



Q & A

THAT'S ALL FOLKS

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