

FOSS
BACKSTAGE



Relax and Recover (ReaR): The Open Source Project

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HEY, STUFF THIS!



STEINFELD





Who is Gratién?

Gratién was already working and promoting Open Source projects since the 90s for the Belgium Unix Users Group (renamed to Open Technology Assembly).

My first big Open Source project was “Make CD-ROM Recovery”, the predecessor of “Relax-and-Recover”.

Daily activities: Linux SE, kubernetes management, and SCM using Chef, ansible, python, and bash scripting.



Who is Schlomo?

Thought leader, team player and motivator. Change agent reducing systemic complexity. Balancing business goals, IT and sustainability. Tech enthusiast with deep technical and analytical understanding. Innovating a better world for the open knowledge society.

25 years of Linux & Open Source experience

Wrote multiple Open Source projects around Business Continuity, ReaR is most important one.

Worked in various roles in Platform Engineering.

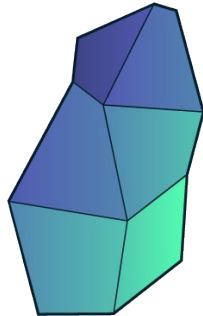
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TEKTIT

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Open Source project Relax-and-Recover (ReaR)

Linux Bare Metal Restore

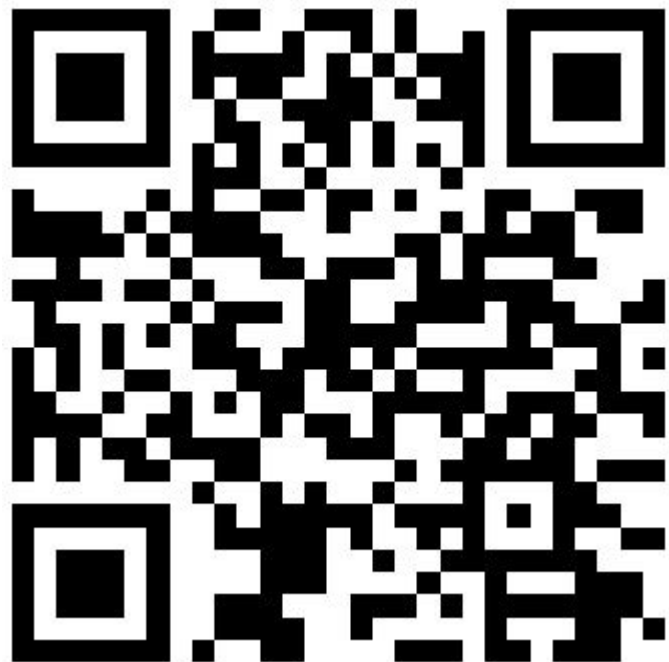
Linux Disaster Recovery

 relax-and-recover.org

7 ReaR maintainers:

- Schlomo Schapiro
- Gratién D'haese
- Johannes Meixner
- Vladimir Gozora
- Sébastien Chabrolles
- Renaud Métrich
- Pavel Cahyna

193 other contributors





Intro ReaR

De-facto standard tool within Linux community

Easy to use and adjustable for sysadmins (Bash)

100% Open Source code (GPL v3)

Create bootable rescue media:
ISO, USB, eSATA, PXE, OBDR

Has plenty of backup plug-ins:
TAR, RSYNC, Micro Focus Data Protector,
FDR/Upstream, CommVault Galaxy 5,7,10,11,
Symantec NetBackup, IBM Tivoli Storage Manager,
EMC NetWorker (Legato), Dell PowerProtect Data
Manager, EMC Avamar, SEP Sesam, NovaStor DC,
Rubrik Cloud Data Management, Rsync Backup
Made Easy, BAREOS, BACULA, DUPLICITY,
BorgBackup

Business Value for ReaR Users:

- Pay 20 k€ for ReaR integration instead of 100.000€ / year for commercial BMR tool
- Supports most commercial backup tools
- Complete end-2-end automation
- Easy configuration management

Ecosystem Integration based on ReaR:

- [System Recovery](#) on Red Hat Enterprise Linux
- [Disaster Recovery](#) on SUSE LINUX Enterprise
- [DRLM](#) - Disaster Recovery Linux Manager
- [SEP SESAM](#) uses ReaR for BMR



ReaR History

Make CD-ROM Recovery (mkcdrec)

Started 2000 - ended 2012

Predecessor of ReaR

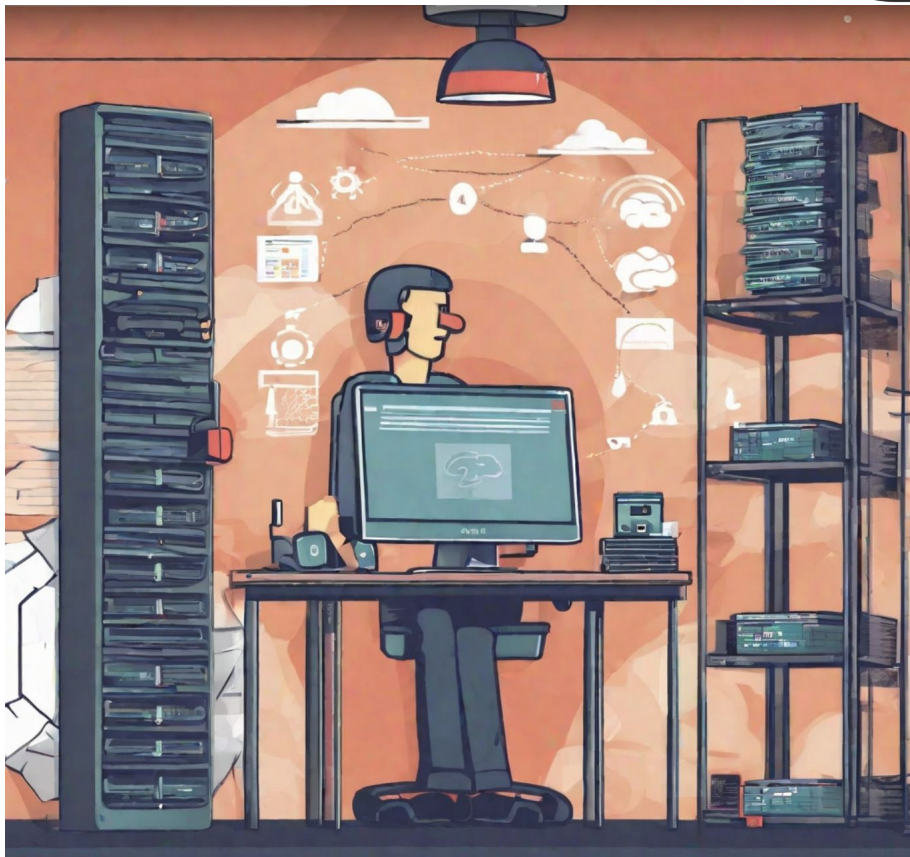
Relax-and-Recover (ReaR)

Started 2006

In 2010 Suse added it to their HA portfolio

In 2015 RedHat added it in their main repository

2026 - 20 years ReaR 🎉🎉🎉🎉





What goes actually well?

User Support (via GitHub issues)

End-users submitting issues **and smaller contributions** on GitHub

Interaction with major Linux vendors (SUSE, RedHat)

Code cleanup and bug fixes

Mature code base

Deprecating ancient legacy, e.g. Bash 3 for new releases



What doesn't go well?

Documentation in general

ReaR User Guide

Not enough capacity needed to add new features

Not enough capacity of developers to assist end-user support

Cross-architecture support & testing:
i386, x86_64, ia64, ppc64, s390, (arm)

Automated testing of new releases of ReaR
on different distros and platforms



Relax-and-Recover (ReaR) Automated Testing

<https://gdha.github.io/rear-automated-testing/> or <https://github.com/gdha/rear-automated-testing>

- Sponsored project
- Project on *pause* due lack of sponsoring
- RedHat tries to bring some live into <https://github.com/rear/rear-integration-tests>
- Low activity (and limited to RedHat's testing platform)
- SUSE does manual testing



Issues we maintainers are facing

Keeping contributors active and engaged

Lack of sponsoring to add new features

Lack of ReaR service contracts to pay for regular maintenance

Release management



What we are trying to do about it

- Point to Snapshots as “rolling release”
- Getting the "ReaR User Guide" on rails
- Find sponsoring
- More workshops?

Merge with similar projects?

Talks on-going with DRLM project





What would you suggest?

relax-and-recover.org

schapiro.org tektitconsulting.com it3.be