The Red Hat Linux distribution is turning 25 years old this week. What started as one of the earliest Linux distributions is now the most successful open-source company, and its success was a catalyst for others to follow its model. Today's open-source world is very different from those heady days in the mid-1990s when Linux looked to be challenging Microsoft's dominance on the desktop, but Red Hat is still going strong.

To put all of this into perspective, I sat down with the company's current CEO (and former Delta Air Lines COO) Jim Whitehurst to talk about the past, present and future of the company, and open-source software in general. Whitehurst took the Red Hat CEO position 10 years ago, so while he wasn't there in the earliest days, he definitely witnessed the evolution of open source in the enterprise, which is now more widespread than ever.