

(Some) News from IT and Linux

Yves Kemp
Linux User Meeting
12.3.2015

LDAP and group ID

> Introduced LDAP as replacement for NIS

- Well working e.g. on bastion, PAL, BIRD ...
- Will gradually migrate groups from NIS to LDAP
- Start with groups where NIS is problematic ... remember 1024 character limit of group definition ...
- Separate discussions with M because of special NIS and LDAP setups

> We announced a change of Linux Group IDs

- Because of clashes for $GID < 1024$
- Unfortunately, the migration scheme showed deficiencies
- Need to wait until LDAP migration is done
- ... ypcat and the like will not work anymore!



Mail migration ... and effects Linux?

> Mail migration consolidation

- Migrate Microsoft Exchange 2003 and Linux Mail Services Dovecot into Zimbra
- Windows and Linux users on one mail system when done

> Zimbra more than mail system

- Calendar probably the most noticeable other tool ... also here consolidation (well, maybe the first calendar system at DESY usable by Linux)
- Zimbra offers good webmail client ... independent of client OS

> Currently one of the biggest projects within IT

- ~3000+ mailboxes migrated to Zimbra



Microsoft license policy

- > Past: DESY had a Microsoft Select contract with rather good conditions (“Forschung&Lehre”) ... as did many other Helmholtz centres
- > Microsoft canceled contracts ... newer contracts more expensive
 - Microsoft Windows slightly more expensive
 - Microsoft Office and other applications much more expensive
- > Looking into alternatives for Microsoft products
 - ... but sure not everything can be superseded by Linux and OpenSource software



DESY and the Cloud

In a nutshell:

- > Combine OwnCloud

- Good and well known interface

- > With dCache

- Good and stable storage backend

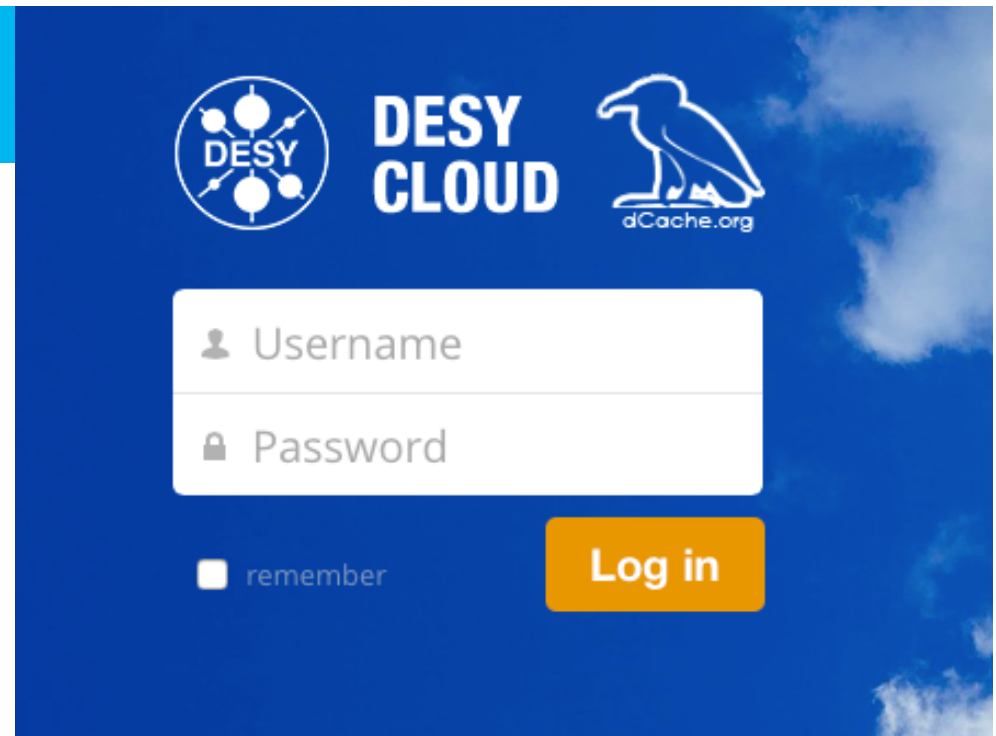
- > To offer a Scientific Data Cloud

- Hosted in DESY Computing Center, regulated by German laws

- > Status: Fighting with some (hopefully last) minor problems, otherwise whole IT (plus some brave other people) as test users, soon expanding test phase

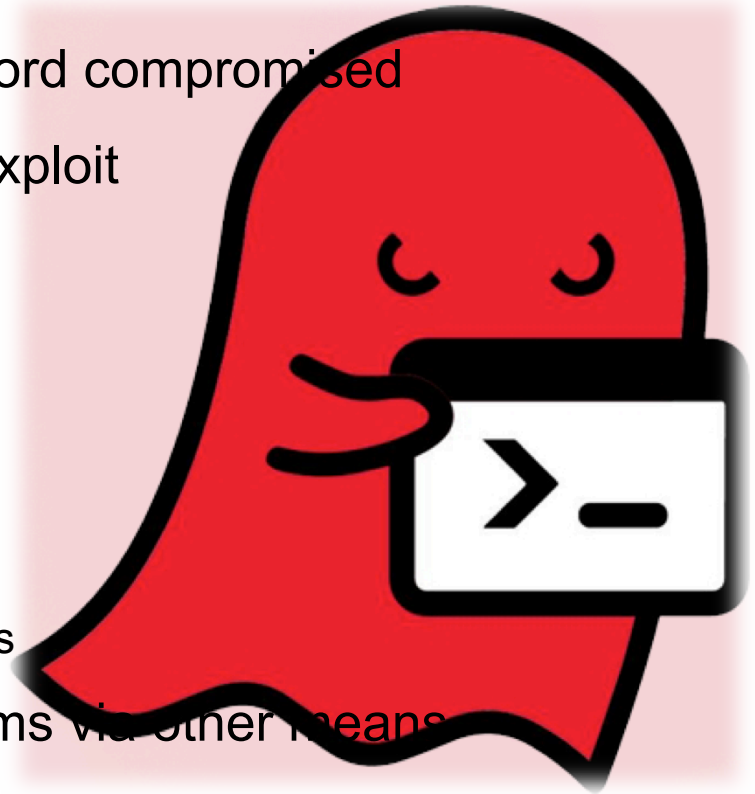
- > See presentation of Patrick Fuhrmann in last CUC

- <https://indico.desy.de/getFile.py/access?contribId=4&resId=0&materialId=slides&confId=11482>



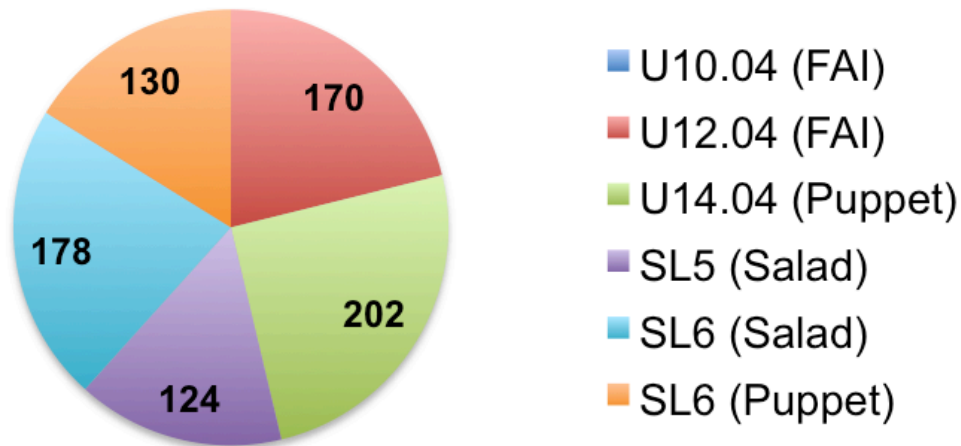
Security: Rather busy times for Linux and open source

- > Heartbleed Openssl vulnerability, password compromised
- > GHOST ... glibc bug, potential remote root exploit
- > ... and some more
- > Some personal notes
- > Need good workflows to take large actions
 - E.g. Inform users and groups to reboot their systems
- > Need good update policy ... or protect systems via other means
- > Live-Kernel patching methods will not always help, and might introduce other risks ... so do not forget the “shutdown –r now” command



Current installations of Ubuntu and SL (active 11.3.2015)

Desktop (Tot 804)



Server (Tot 2588)

