

DESKTOP STRATEGY.

Rethinking the Linux Desktop Strategy and its IT Support Model

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SLD Enterprise Linux Desktop

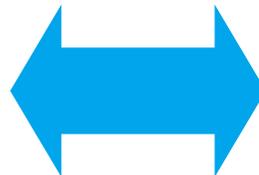
> Good because of

- multi-year stability
- long support life
- vendor updates
- 3rd party certifications
- certified hardware platforms
- compatibility with farms
- long migration windows

> Bad because of

- lack of latest features
- lack of new software
- lack of new hardware support
- conservative updates
- numerous boundaries
- missing packages
- not being up to date

Enterprise Client



Personal Computer

> Ubuntu Creep

- Due to limited hardware support, non standard notebooks won't run SLD
- People use community distributions instead, often Ubuntu
- We delivered Ubuntu ourselves as intermediate OS on very new notebooks

> Paradigm Change

- Data center facilities (PAL, BIRD, NAF, GRID, ...) become heterogeneous
- Users are increasingly mobile, work in different projects
- „Personal Computing“ wins over „farm compatibility“
- Increasing demand for multimedia support (videoconferencing w. camera + sound)

> New communities

- Photon Science users take a different approach to computing than those inHEP
- Explicit requests for a more modern desktop linux in Infracit



Possible Options (in alphabetical order):

- > Debian GNU/Linux - <http://www.debian.org/>
 - The volunteer distribution

- > Fedora - <http://fedoraproject.org/>
 - RedHats community Linux

- > OpenSuse - <http://www.opensuse.org/>
 - Novell's community Linux

- > Ubuntu - <http://www.ubuntu.com/>
 - Canonical's value added Debian

- > Whatever – gentoo, mandriva, ...



Considerations

What should we look for? Examples:

> Release cycles

- Reliability, frequency

> Support life

- Duration, bugfixes vs. new features

> Software packaging tools

- RPM, Debian packages, sources

> Compatibility

- Can we benefit by reusing existing tools/packages/programs?

> Completeness

- What's in – and what has to be added?

> ...



Integration Levels

> Deployment Support

- Installation services, configuration management
- Updates and patches

> Software Support

- Packages coming with the distribution
- Community Add-Ons
- DESY Add-Ons

> User Support

- Expert staff
- Experience – Need to use it ourselves
- Vendor support?



Selected Third Party Software

> Oracle

- Supplies clients for most distributions

> Matlab and other Mathworks products

- Supported on recent Debian, RHEL, OpenSuSE, Ubuntu and others in 32 and 64 bit

> Mathematica

- *„fully tested on all major Linux distributions based on the 2.4 Linux kernel“*

> Labview (National Instruments)

- Supports Mandriva, RHEL, SuSE, 32bit only.

> Intel Compilers

- Standards compliant, including Debian, Ubuntu 8.04, Fedora 9

> Open Source Packages

- Shouldn't be a problem unless professional support is needed



What are others doing?

Fermilinux STS (Short Term Support)

- > Is based on Fedora
- > Offers some site integration
 - Kerberos, Security, Desktop Tweaks, yum autoupdates vs. FNAL mirror
- > User installs from DVD
- > Quarterly updates issued
- > For more, see Connie Sieh's presentation at the Spring 2009 HEPiX
 - Via www.hepik.org

CERN and SLAC do not offer alternatives to SL
ESRF/Linux is RHEL under Tivoli management



How do we proceed?

- > We are opening the discussion now and listening to your needs
 - Today is only the start, no decisions yet
- > Will approach individual groups and admins to gain insights
 - Contact us if you like to contribute
- > Will report to CUC
 - Talk to your representatives!
- > Would like a decision in Q3/2009
 - Based on requirements and available resources

