Gendarmerie nationale

Linux on desktop : a success story

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http://www.gendarmerie.interieur.gouv.fr

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GendBuntu

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Some background details

- 95,000 users

- 65,000 covered computers and 20,000 older ones (without warranty and with reduced QoS)

  - distributed over 4,300 worldwide LANs

    - French metropolitan area & overseas

    - An average of 10 users by LAN

    - A thin 1 Mbit/s link to the centralized datacenter for most of the LANs

  - Including 37,000 Linux Ubuntu at this time

    - Target : 72,000 Linux Ubuntu

Some background details

- 2004 : the beginning of a major challenge

  - each user must have an access to our private network (and ressources) with a minimal investment

    - From 20,000 users to 95,000

    - Mail, calendar, internet access...

- The direct impact of new laws on the IT organization

  - The IT is now one of the means to achieve the CEO's goals

    - Ever-growing importance of IT on business-cases

    - Nonetheless, each euro spent by IT teams must be fully explained

Our main strategy

- A full centralized system

  - Data & business applications

    - Access control

    - Central management and development

    - Knowledge concentration

    - Local developments are granted on specific demand

- A modular approach

  - Constraints beetwen applications and OS are banned

- The use of open standards

  … leads to …

Our main strategy

… a massive use of Open-Source Softwares and a centralized supervision of the life-cycle of desktops

- … incited by our Prime Minister *(NOR : PRMX1234912C)*

- A life-cycle desktops central management

  - Centralized purchases

  - Limited technical referential

  - Tracking and treatment of main & residual constraints

  - Choice of Internet technologies (web standards)

  - Supervision of a decentralized architecture

  - ITIL-compliant qualifying process

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The migration to Linux Ubuntu

- A progressive migration during several years

    - 2004 : the office suite (OpenOffice)

        - 20,000 Microsoft Office suites replaced by 90,000 OpenOffice softwares

        - OpenDocument (XML) became the base for our internal official reports software

    - 2006 : the web browser (Mozilla Firefox) and the mail client (Mozilla Thunderbird)

    - 2007 to 2008 : other softwares follows (VLC & Gimp)

    - 2008 : the french Gendarmerie is able to deploy Linux on desktops !

        - The choice of Ubuntu LTS

        - 5,000 new computers first... (hand-crafted phase)

        - Then a large-scale deployment (industrialized phase)

The migration to Linux Ubuntu

- 2011, january → 2011 december : delivery of 25,000 new GendBuntu computers to end-users

- 2012, december : a total of 35,000 GendBuntu

- 2013, march → 2013 june : WAN migration of GendBuntu 10.04 to 12.04, using the standard CANONICAL Ltd tool

- 2014 january : the last main constraint disapears

  - Beginning of the end of the migration : residual Windows XP are massively replaced by GendBuntu

  - Target : 72,000 GendBuntu computers (until the end of the summer)

The benefits

- To stay independant from commercial decisions of software editors is priceless !

- Direct benefits (licence costs) are only the tip of the iceberg :

  - An industrialized Open-Source Desktop is a powerfull lever for IT governance

  - The desktop's TCO is lowered :

    - By a ratio of 40 % between 2008 and 2014

      - Licences cost
      - Centralized reduced teams (easier management)
      - Huge decrease of local technical interventions on Ubuntu's desktops

The benefits

- The capability to deploy new technologies under a controled cost

- A controled risk taking counterbalanced by a cheaper and closer premium level of care (by Canonical Ltd)

Finally...

- It is possible to deploy thousands of Linux computers on desktops (we did it !)

- ... but the way to achieve such a goal is long and difficult (*« chinese saying »*)

- Fortunately, the efforts made for the Desktop management help the CIO to structurate its IT organization and thus save time, HR and money

  « What is important is not the choice you make, but the capability to have the choice ! »

Some questions ?