

Re: Sweet Success

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/RedHat/2003-08/2155.html>

tomh_at_simas.com

Date: 08/21/03

To: redhat-list@redhat.com

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 2003 10:19:08 -0500

Apparently I'm not doing very well at explaining that there's more to TCO than the face value of the desktop products.

Let's continue to assume that I prefer Windows to anything else (1):

If :

- you work in a Windows-centric organization, and
- your skill set is Windows-centric, and
- the skill set of your internal resource pool is Window-centric

Then:

- it will likely cost your organization MORE to move an alternative OS.

You're right – maintenance, training and upgrades are requirements of any OS and each carries a price tag. If they're considering a change to another OS a sys admin must determine whether those associated costs are justifiable and reasonable, given the pool of resources that they can draw upon.

Flexibility can be good thing, or it can be a bad thing, depending on the situation. From a geek point of view, I don't mind getting in and tinkering with internals, just to see what happens. From an admin point of view, I want a box out there that my users can't change. When they make a change and it screws up the computer, it costs my company money for me to fix it (whether I fix it myself, or hire someone else to do it for me). Some would fire the user, but guess what – it costs money to replace them, too.(2)

Stability – goes without saying.

Security – absolutely. If that is the admin's number one question, then neither Linux (today) nor Windows may be the answer. A better alternative for them may be the iSeries which has had object level security for years, tied in with incremental security levels, at the OS level (maybe at the microcode level, I'm not sure). It all depends on the resource available, and whether the admin can justify the associated costs.

RedHat: Re: Sweet Success

Patches – I don't how many I've installed for any of my systems. A LOT. I check for them in all my OS environments regularly (Windows, Linux, and iSeries). In Windows, I run the Windows Update daily. In Linux, I run 'up2date' and Red Carpet daily. In iSeries, I order the latest cume PTF quarterly if it includes patches for the software on my system (it almost always does) (3).

Allow me to summarize the whole point of all my posts on this matter:

While it may well be initially less expensive to install a Linux-based computer than a Windows-based computer, there are hidden costs associated with that Linux system which many adherents tend to gloss over (if they ever mention them at all). Those hidden costs need to be evaluated BEFORE the computer is installed. In a Windows-centric enterprise where there is insufficient Linux-knowledgeable resource, it makes little economic sense to do that. The same holds true in a Linux-centric enterprise; it makes little economic sense to start installing Windows-based computers if there is insufficient internal resource to properly manage them (or the willingness to acquire the necessary resources).

Tom Hightower
Solutions, Inc
<http://www.simas.com>

(1) Not true. Personally, I think that IBM's iSeries line is hands-down the best server system on the planet. But that's a topic for another mailing list, unless we choose to discuss how it can run multiple copies of Linux simultaneously, along with Windows Server, AIX, and OS/400.

(2) For users who roam where they shouldn't – I have some really scary "You deleted the OS! Press enter to reload from Backup" screens that I can run in their login script. They only have to see those bad boys once to get the idea.

(3) Actually, I have a scheduled job that orders it for me. If the patch is way big, they send it on CD (which I prefer anyway). I review the documentation, and then decide whether or not to install the PTF.

-- Tom

"Eduardo A. dela Rosa" <eadelarosa@smart.com.ph>

Sent by: redhat-list-admin@redhat.com

08/20/2003 07:38 PM

Please respond to redhat-list

To: RedHat List <redhat-list@redhat.com>

cc:

Subject: Re: Sweet Success

Dear Tom,

Re: Sweet Success

RedHat: Re: Sweet Success

A simple response:

"Maintenance, training, and upgrades", needless to say, are factors both present whether you've got Linux box or MS Products. Got the picture? Nope? It's the CO\$T of Ownership having MS Products that counts.

Another great difference and advantage that Linux box can have over MS Products are flexibility, stability, and SECURITY (among others) that MS cannot meet at par with Linux.

How many times in a year that you need to patch your MS Boxes with Bill-provided patch upgrades so that even your most latest Win2K would not be exploited by worms?

It's for wise people like you to evaluate these facts.

Cheers!

On Wed, 2003-08-20 at 21:34, tomh@simas.com wrote:

> *Let me say upfront that I like Linux in general, and RedHat in particular.*
> *And (heresy!) I like MS products.*
>
> *2 questions:*
> *-- what about the architectural/accounting package?*
> *-- who will maintain the OS and other various software updates?*
>
> *As far as dependability – when properly configured and used as intended, MS Servers are _very_ reliable. Cases in point:*
>
> *-- I have a Windows NT Server which has been processing our HTTP, SMTP and POP3 for more than 5 years. Total downtime is measured in hours, all of it in upgrading the web server software (not MS) and MS patches. We don't use it for anything other than what I spec'ed it for – a server.*
>
> *-- I have a Windows NT Server, used for user network authentication and print server. It's been in place for more than 5 years, less downtime than the web server. Again, it's used as intended and for nothing else.*
>
> *-- I have another WinNT Server, used as the Backup PDC, as the system console to our iSeries, and as an FTP server. Similar downtime as our other servers.*
>
> *The only time we've had trouble with any Windows box is because of lame users who install the latest worm or virus. Linux is less prone to that problem for now, but will not remain so as Linux desktops become more prevalent. And unmaintained Linux servers have a big ol' target on them,*

Re: Sweet Success

RedHat: Re: Sweet Success

- > which will only get bigger over time.
- >
- > As for cost: did you (or the admin) consider Microsoft's Partner In
- > Development program? It runs about US\$1000/year, and gets you the
- latest
- > Windows Server software, workstation software (XP these days), Office
- > software, etc. With licenses for multiple installs of the non-Server
- > software. Not a bad way to go, if you qualify.
- >
- > Maintenance, training and upgrades: these are some of the "hidden costs"
- > that the Linux community is too often mum about – and some that you and
- > the admin should have already discussed...
- >
- >
- > Tom Hightower
- > Solutions, Inc
- > <http://www.simas.com>
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- >
- > Stephen Kuhn <skuhn@telpacific.com.au>
- > Sent by: redhat-list-admin@redhat.com
- > 08/20/2003 01:49 AM
- > Please respond to redhat-list
- >
- >
- > To: redhat-list@redhat.com
- > cc:
- > Subject: Sweet Success
- >
- >
- > I just want to relate the happiness I have over the successful
- > installation of yet another RedHat server for a small business customer
- > of mine;
- >
- > They were in need of a low-cost, dependable server machine to be used as
- > a file server and a printer server – a machine on which they could load
- > a high-end architectural/accounting package; originally they were faced
- > with spending upwards of \$6000 (for a MS type box, of course); my total
- > "drop in" cost for the box ended up being \$2200 – loaded with RH9 +
- > updates, Samba, MySQL, using SENDMAIL/FETCHMAIL/PROCMail + SpamAssassin,
- > F-Prot and ClamAV – as well as being the gateway for an 802.11b 2.4ghz
- > network in our area. Actual software load and configuration was one
- > evening here at home – about 2 hours total; drop in on site with client
- > machine configurations was one day. Done deal. No dramas, no sweat, no
- > problems. Even had time to show the admin how to use VNC to access the
- > server desktop; script was setup to backup to CDRW once per week. EZ as
- > pie.
- >

Re: Sweet Success

RedHat: Re: Sweet Success

> *Had this have been a Windows box I would have spent three days with it –*
> *for one thing or another – I'm used to that crap, and the monstrous size*
> *of the patches/updates/fixes.*
>
> *So, for anyone with any doubts, it's really easy – it's really simple.*
> *Plus, the customer was more than happy to know that they have IMAP/POP*
> *functionality, a proxy (privoxy) and a firewall – without license fees*
> *and BS associated. They even have a nice big round RH sticker on the*
> *front door now...(couldn't say "No" to the admin – was her idea).*

>
> --
> *Wed Aug 20 16:35:01 EST 2003*
> *16:35:01 up 2 days, 19:01, 1 user, load average: 0.29, 0.16, 0.05*
>

> | __ __ | illawarra computer services |
> | /-oo /| |- . | <http://kma.0catch.com> |
> | ._/ || || | =====/ |
> | _/`._ _/_-' | stephen kuhn |
> | | / _ . `= . _) (_ | email: skuhn@telpacific.com.au |
>

> *linux user #:267497 linux machine #:194239 * MDK 9.1+ & RH 9*
> *Mandrake Linux Kernel 2.4.21-11mdk Cooker for i586*
>

> ** This message was composed on a 100% Microsoft free computer **
>
> *The Martian landed his saucer in Manhattan, and immediately upon*
> *emerging was approached by a panhandler. "Mister," said the man, "can I*
> *have a quarter?"*
> *The Martian asked, "What's a quarter?"*
> *The panhandler thought a minute, brightened, then said, "You're*
> *right! Can I have a dollar?"*

>
>
> --
> *redhat-list mailing list*
> *unsubscribe <mailto:redhat-list-request@redhat.com?subject=unsubscribe>*
> *<https://www.redhat.com/mailman/listinfo/redhat-list>*
>
>

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EDUARDO A. DELA ROSA
MCOM Department
<http://www.smart.com.ph>
"The reason why evil prevail in this nation is because
good men and good women get tired of being good before
bad men and bad women get tired of being bad..."
-Senator Jovito Salonga
--
redhat-list mailing list

RedHat: Re: Sweet Success

unsubscribe <mailto:redhat-list-request@redhat.com?subject=unsubscribe>
<https://www.redhat.com/mailman/listinfo/redhat-list>

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redhat-list mailing list

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