

Re: Absolute Beginner requests assistance

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KuroNeko wrote:

I'm about to start a 6 week trainee program at a local company. I have some experience in PC hardware and software and because of this I've been asked to set up a test Linux server.

Ah, the manager asked who owned a PC and you lifed your hand. You poor slob. ;-)

The idea is to start from a free Suse 10 distribution and install it. Additional services to be installed start with a file server, and we'll see from there. Preferably all this from a graphic user interface (KDE or Gnome)

Do you want to start with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server? If so, see that you can get a one year free licence. If you can not get it free, buy the licence to do the updates for a year.

If your company is notb willing to pay now, they are not committed to it now and won't be committed to it in the future.

I'm to set this up and write a documentation about it for others.

Again proof never to volunteer. ;-)

Since my Linux experience is very limited (I had a small crash course in Linux, on a Debian command-line installation) I'm looking for a place to start.

openSUSE.org is a good place.

Re: Absolute Beginner requests assistance

My search on the net yields a lot of information – too much actually – geared at more experienced users.

Can anyone point me to a website or an old-fashioned paper book that would suit my purpose to get beginner's information on installation of Linux, installing applications and services afterwards, preferably from the GUI, unless this isn't possible?

openSUSE.org boxed version. That will come with a book on how to install. The thing is that I am wondering about, what are the other people going to do with it.

I applaud the idea of a company going to use Linux, but what are the reasons behind it? Why do they use somebody who is so unexperienced? I like it to succeed.

So first a fileserver. I assume then that all the other machines are Windows machines. It makes things a bit more complicated. This is the route I would advise people to take if I were in your case.

0) Start with step 5. ;–)

1) Take a dedicated machine and install openSUSE on it by default. Learn to work with YaST, the installation and configuration tool

2) Work with it dedicated for at least a month

3) Start looking at what you actually want to do with it. How many people will be connecting to the fileserver, what machine will it be running on. What backup (and restore) are you going to do.

4) Run a fileserver for a small testgroup (yourself and a few close coworkers)

5) Do NOT forget to give them tasks. Things to do and test. Not so much as the testing itself, but so it becomes THEIR project as well. They will be the people who will advertise your project to others, including management.

6) Roll out the file and backup server. storeBackup can be ideal. Easy to use for both the sysadmin and the people who have deleted their files by accident. There is zero need for systemadministrator intervention to restore a backup from their own files.

7) Look at what other servers you run at your company and move them over one by one. This is limitless. Some things that might be handy for a company: printserver, faxmachines, phonesystem, scanningserver, mailserver, viruschecker, (intra)web server, taskautomation, reporting, monitoring.

8) Now you can start at what the people are running and using. Many programs can be easily adapted. e.g. firefox can already be introduced. OpenOffice is another. Mailclient is also already possible. Start with yourself (remember step 5 all the time) and then go to other departments.

In all this keep track of real costs. e.g. how much time does it cost. Try to compare it to e.g. installing Vista. And don't cut back on hardware.

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All this can be done with or without GUI.

The first step is to buy the boxed set. It most likely will be deductible as a cost, is not expensive and gives you some paper that you can use.

If you still decide to go with SLES, see that you can take some courses and run openSUSE on the side at home. That will make things a LOT easier in the future. They are very similar.

houghi

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All opinions are not equal. Some are a very great deal more robust, sophisticated and well supported in logic and argument than others.

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