

# Re: Comparing update systems

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  - *Date:* Wed, 2 Jul 2008 10:48:45 +0200
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Günther Schwarz wrote:

Not sure about acrobate reader with the update. The kernel indeed not. I am confused as to what you want exactly. You run cron-tab at certain times (say at night) and then what happens?

It checks for updates at the repositories, downloads and installs them. There is no magic involved. It just works nicer than the tools I have at hand with SuSE.

- 1) it is openSUSE or if you run SLE it is SUSE.
- 2) I am completely baffled with the fact that the two things do the same in the background and still you [prefere one over the other

I looked a bit at the source and it is basically just a script that runs apt-get if I am not mistaken. Just like you can make a script that does about the same for zypper with very little effort.

Well, the difference is that cron-apt is available in the first place. So I do not have any work to do myself other than a little configuration.

From what you seem to want to be doing, configuring the updates via YaST should be all that you need.

It would be nice this way. But your example is with 11.0 obviously. The 10.3 systems here won't be retired until 2009, and I have to find a solution for this. Otherwise they do run nicely, so I have no intention to go to kernel 2.6.25 anytime soon. It is either parsing the nasty output to a readable form or switching to smart like I already did with 10.2 where zypper has proven to be plain horror. I would like to stay

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with the default updater, so I'm working now on the parsing problem.

I agree with you on the output. Perhaps if somebody files a bugreport, they repair it. It might be worth a try.

As I said there is nothing special about it: it simply works without annoying bugs and is easy to configure. That makes it superior to a tool that is still buggy and harder to work with. But I'm repeating myself here.

Apart from the email that looks like shit, I do not see where the tool is buggy. So we must have a different opinion there. I use the automated updates since 5.4 or so and I have never seen anything that I would call 'buggy'.

I am sorry, I fail to see where it does anything that would relate to a networked environment.

Think of a small system with several servers and PCs which share big parts of their configuration. Maintenance work has to be restricted to the absolute minimum possible without compromising security and availability. Automatic updates are vital for such a system as is a configuration tool like cfengine.

I understand what a network is. I fail to see what extra cron+apt brings to the table that does things specifically for a network environment.

How would you do this in a openSUSE network environment (non SLE, but openSUSE)?

- 1) Have one machine fetch the updates for all the versions of openSUSE, SUSE and SuSE and even S.u.S.E. you are running. (Might need to make some updates yourself for certain systems)
- 2) Have each machine do the automatic update (either with YOU or with sypper) point to your server.
- 3) Done

You might think that part 2 is very difficult, but it isn't. If there are not too many machines, you can do it during installation. Takes about 30 seconds.

If there are many machines you might need to write a small script that you need to run once from each machine (wget server/script.sh && sh script sh) for already installed machines.

If you need to install many machines, you install once, configure it, save that configuration and open it with each installation. This will

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give you similar systems even on non-similar hardware.

If you need to install a shitlead amount of machines, you make your own installation disk where you have in the beginning e.g. a selection between student, teacher, server, portable and on each machine you just click once on your selection and go to the next.

There are many options possible depending on the amount that are already installed, amount of types and who is doing the installation and how different you want them to be.

That part about the GUI is bull and you know it.

No, it is not ;- ) The default installation results in a GUI updater that pops up a window if updates are available while the CLI tool for automatic updates is buggy (which might have been fixed in the most recent release).

I have never seen that. Also I know that they do some work on it, but you make it sound as if that is all they care about and that is the bull part.

It has, as time spent on making a system user-friendly for the isolated desktop easily results in time missing for development and testing of tools and procedures to do remote administration. This is basically what I'm complaining about.

And again I ask you what the cron-apt tool does specifically network related, meaning a network of computers. It must be there as you keep saying, so I must be overlooking it.

So this is good, right?

This is interesting if a company wants to write software for mixed environments. But it is also challenging and might result in more complex software with questionable benefits.

Almost all networks are in a mixed environment. Be it Windows, Mac or other Linux distributions or versions. There are not very much non-mixed environments.

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Editing files is much simpler and safer than using scripts which call complex commands like zypper or yum.

Why would it be safer? Simpler? No.

Oh yes, it is. Show me a complete list of possible outputs of these two commands. This does not exist. It is a try and error procedure to get a working script that does automatic updates with these commands and informs the sysadmin what has been done in a comprehensive and reliable way.

Uh sorry? Trial and error? I just put it in YaST and that is it. No trial, no error, no scripting. It just works. The fact that you and me are talking about underlying stuff does not mean that automated updating is not very easy.

You can make it more complicated if you want and there might be specific cases where that might be, but it is not needed.

houghi

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It's people. Source code is made out of people! They're making our source out of people. Next thing they'll be breeding us like cattle for code. You've gotta tell them. You've gotta tell them!

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