Open Source Case Study

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The Proposition

- Using proprietary software was causing more problems than it was solving.

- Moving to open source solved those problems.

- And no new problems were created in the process.

The Starting Point – The Company

- Privately owned computer book publishing
- Contractors worldwide for writing, editing, layout
- Local part-time employees for office work
- Files sent electronically to printer
- E-commerce website for retail sales direct to readers

The Infrastructure

- A dozen workstations running Windows 2000 or Windows 98
- A Primary Domain Controller file server running Windows NT4
- Two Web servers running Windows NT4
- One email server running Windows NT4
- Network and local printers

The Problems

- Security vulnerabilities
- Daily monitoring required
- Weekly patching and updating
- Occasional maintenance and reinstallation
- Software at end of life cycle

The Options

- Upgrade software on workstations and servers (requires upgrade/replacement of matching hardware)

Or

- Convert to Open Source (Linux, OpenOffice.org)

The Costs to Upgrade

- Cash
  - **Software (OS + Office + utilities)**
  - **Hardware (memory, disk, CPU, total replace?)**
- Time
  - **Format and install from scratch**
  - **Learn new versions**
  - **Rewrite some applications**

The Costs to Convert

- Cash
  - **Software (OS + OpenOffice.org + utilities)**
  - **Hardware (can use same hardware)**
- Time
  - **Format and install from scratch**
  - **Learn new versions**
  - **Rewrite all applications**

The Long Term Ramifications

- Upgrade Proprietary:
  - **Locked into continual upgrade cycle (both hardware and software)**
  - **Same problems are liable to continue**
- Convert to Open Source:
  - **Upgrades not required**
  - **Inexpensive**
  - **Keep hardware longer**

The Plan

- Strategic approach – servers or workstations first?
- Migrate desktops (with printers)
- Migrate network printers
- Migrate file server (and PDC)
- Migrate Web server
- Migrate email server

Strategic Approach

- Pros and Cons of Servers first
- Pros and Cons of Workstations first

The Implementation - Desktops

- Identify applications to be replaced
  - **Functionality**
  - **Data compatibility**
- Find application replacements
- Identify hardware to be connected & test
- Connect to existing Windows networks
- Printing

The Implementation – Network Printers

- How network printers differ from shared printers
- Connecting to a print server

The Implementation – PDC/File Server

- Do you need to replace domain management?
- Migrating user accounts by themselves
- Setting up user directories
- Setting up common directories
- Moving & converting files

The Implementation – Web Servers

- Identify applications
- Identify domains
- Parallel development of applications
- Testing applications
- Flipping the switch

The Implementation – Email Server

- Identify functionality and load
- The contenders: sendmail, postfix, qmail
- Set up parallel server
- Switch primary MX record and test

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Q&A

Thank You!

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