

Birmingham site report

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Desktops

- 58 user-desktop PCs running Linux
 - New user-desktops are 3.2 GHz, 1 GByte RAM, running Scientific Linux 3.
 - Phasing out Red Hat 9 on older PCs
- 2 user-desktops running Windows XP
- 12 PCs in labs running whatever experiment requires: Windows or Linux

Linux desktop configuration

- All Linux desktops are loaded via Kickstart from a local mirror NFS server
- %post processing script does *yum update* and hardens the system before its first boot
- Configuration is then done (and afterwards maintained) using rdist via ssh with one distfile
- The rdist distfile has ~200 lines updating files/directories or invoking action scripts

Linux customisation

- A few unwanted packages if you install **Everything** with Scientific Linux 303
- Worth suppressing in the kickstart
- See <http://www.ep.ph.bham.ac.uk/general/support/rhel3custom.html>
- Some other bits of experience listed there for desktop use of ScientificLinux/RHEL

Farm hardware

- Alice Farm: 18 dual 800 MHz PC boxes
- BaBar Farm: 40 dual 800 MHz blades
- Atlas Farm: 38 dual 2.0 GHz blades
- Split into local part with mostly SL3 but some RH7.3, and LCG2 part.

Laptops

- 10 laptops in a group Pool
- ~10 user laptops (mainly students)
- All laptops are behind an extra level of 'firewall' to the outside world

Servers

- Mixture of old and new general purpose Linux servers, newest running SL3.
- Looking at SL4 / CentOS4 for system servers (not user servers)
- Citrix Windows Terminal Server(s) for those required MS applications.

Networking

- Gigabit to the newer servers, 100Mb/s to desktop (but gig interfaces on our new PCs)
- 2 Gbits/s for the dept to rest of campus
- Campus firewall adopting default-deny policy, but Physics has its own firewall
- Connection to UKLight within ~3 months through campus firewall

Grid

- New front-ends hosting CE, MON and SE (UI to come soon) + 13 WN on Atlas farm
- 200 MB storage to be increased to 1.5 TB
- All nodes run on SL-3.0.3 with LCG 2.4.0
- pxe-boot/kickstart installation using yum and yaim
- + some steps to finish off configuration (nfs, cron.allow, ganglia,...)

Grid (future plans)

- Plan to give a new life to Babar farm on the grid
- Ongoing discussions with Bristol about moving their Babar farm to Bham
- This would provide an extra 160 cpus
- Need another CE to advertise these slower cpus – Any thoughts on this are welcome!