



Queen Mary, University of London

HEP Group Desktop Computing
Site Report 2006

Alex Owen



Hardware

- 20 Linux Workstations
 - Various Intel/AMD hardware
 - 5 Linux Servers
 - Pair of “high availability” servers for file/mail store
 - Web server, Boot server, Print server
 - 15 Windows Desktops
 - Various Intel/AMD hardware
 - 15 Laptops
 - Windows or Dual boot with Linux
-



The Last Year

- Alex Owen filled vacancy of Chris Williams.
 - Tony Hartin left leaving a vacancy...
 - contact s.i.lloyd@qmul.ac.uk if you want the job!
 - Problems with DRDB and failover of “High Availability” servers.
 - Cyclades Serial Console Server and iPDU.
 - Boot Server / SL4 Mirror / Local Repository.
-



Current Status

- Backup to RAID disk array.
- Workstations cross mount NFS data disks.
- No consistency of installation/configuration management.
- Problems with Mailstore (qmail/courier).
- Replication and Failover don't work.

Nightmare!!!



The way forward...

- LTO2 8-way AutoChanger for backup with AMANDA.
- RAID retasked as single NFS data disk.
- Netboot installation of Windows and Linux:
 - Kickstart + cfengine
 - Unattended + group policy? (cfengine on windows?)
- Migrate Mail to Exim and Dovecot (integral to SL).
- Fix Failover/Replication:
 - Use protocol builtin failover where possible, consider manual failover.
 - Re-evaluate DRDB, consider reverting to rsync replication.



Tips & Questions

-
- CfEngine
 - Amanda Backup
 - Unattended
 - CUPS + Turboprint
 - LDAP ?
 - SNMP ?
 - Windows admin from Samba server ?

- Debian

<http://lists.debian.org/debian-science/>



That's All Folks...

The End

Alex Owen
r.a.owen@qmul.ac.uk
