



A couple of slides on RAL PPD

Chris Brew

CCLRC - RAL - SPBU - PPD



RAL PPD

About 90 staff, plus visitors

Computing Support is:

- About 2 staff mainly on windows and general infrastructure
 - About 1.5 staff on departmental Linux and Tier 2.
 - Part of one manager
 - ‘Year in Industry’ (gap year) student summer 05 – summer 06.
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Desktops & Laptops

Desktop

- Policy is Windows XP on desktop with access to Linux systems via X-server (eXceed).
 - Windows systems updated using 'Update Expert' 3rd party tool.
- Small number of Linux systems on desktop, some users have two systems.
- Sprinkling of MACs

Laptops

- Standardised on Dell Latitude series. Select model according to users need.



Servers

- Make use of central CLRC services (Exchange, PPTP) as well as AFS cell.
- Windows servers:
 - File, Print, DHCP, anti-virus (Sophos) repository, Terminal Server for some special apps (Citrix), Web (Includes hosting www.particlephysics.ac.uk)
 - Backup via ADIC Scalar 24 loader and SDLT.
- Linux servers:
 - File, web, CVS
 - Backup to RAL tape store

Upgrading main Windows and Linux departmental servers (file and web) to Dell rack mount servers (PowerEdge 1850, Dual 3Ghz Xeon) with PowerVault 220 disk arrays (300GB SCSI disks).



Organisational changes in CCLRC

“Fit for the Future”

Combine departments into “business units”

PPD combined with Space Science.

Business (Windows) computing will be supported by a group at the business unit level.

Two staff moved into this group.



Scientific Computing

- Grid/Departmental Unix
- Combined the General User (heplnx) service with the Grid UIs
 - 3 x Dual 1.4 GHz PIII
- Usual Grid Services:
 - CE, (dCache) SE, RGMA, LFC, NetMON, Kickstart/PXEboot, ganglia and 44 WNs
 - Generally 100% CPU Occupation
 - Disk utilisation currently 10%



2005/6 Grid Purchase

- Quadruple Purchase
 - Delayed 2004/5 Purchase + Lab Infrastructure funds
 - Avoided EU tender by piggybacking the Tier 1 tender
- Order ended up being of comparable size to T1
 - 52 x Dual Core Dual CPU Opteron WNs
 - 8 x 8TB SATA RAID servers (Areca controller)
- Also need power work in our Machine Room
- Order placed 7/2/06 for with target delivery 15/3/06 and a deadline of 20/03/06



Problems

- Slipping delivery:
 - 15/3 and 20/3 missed
 - 10% Delivered 10/4
 - Still awaiting rest
- Hardware Issues
 - Raid Servers: Hot System Disk
 - CPU Boxes: Motherboard/Memory
- Electrical Work Backlog
 - due to end of year spend
 - Should go ahead this week



Room for Expansion

