Thin Client Functionality

Ubuntu

Long-term Goal

- Provide thin client functionality, a la LTSP, as an integral part of Ubuntu
- Along the way, address some of the difficulties of the LTSP technology and development model

Background

- The case for thin clients is clear
    - Lower cost
    - Simplified administration
    - Faster deployment
- Tight integration with Ubuntu combines the strengths of Ubuntu with those of thin client technology

Background

- Traditional LTSP provides a thin client runtime, used to "export" applications from the server
- This is built mostly out of core open source packages: Linux, GNU, X.org, Perl...
- LTSP developers package (and compile!) all of this software into a mini-distribution, plus a relatively tiny amount of thin client "glue"
- Estimated 90%+ overhead

Requirements

- Allow LTSP to focus on their core value: thin client functionality

- Leave packaging to those who are already doing it: distributions

- Integrate thin client functionality with Ubuntu "out of the box"

The Approach

- Build the thin client runtime from Ubuntu pack-
  ages
  - Pre-compiled
  - Multi-platform
  - Maintained by a community of packaging experts
- Share infrastructure with Ubuntu
  - Autoconfiguration
  - System initialization

The Approach

- Maintain a useful level of compatibility with traditional LTSP
  - Documentation
  - lts.conf
  - Troubleshooting techniques

Progress

- Working prototype in Ubuntu "breezy" tree
  - Zero-configuration clients (lts.conf is optional)
  - About 25% of applicable traditional lts.conf parameters work
  - Ready for pre-alpha testers
- To be released with Ubuntu 5.10 (October 2005)

Resources

- Matt Zimmerman <mdz@ubuntu.com>

- Linux Terminal Server Project

  http://www.ltsp.org/

- Specification

  http://udu.wiki.ubuntu.com/ThinClientIntegration