

Novell Empowered Engineering with Linux Web Seminar Series

Q&A Session

"Novell SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for engineering workstations" featuring Qualcomm Incorporated

Questions to Qualcomm Incorporated

Q: I assume you are also running some RedHat. Do your engineers notice a difference between one and the other?

A: We are still running RedHat on our 32 bit installs. I think the number is 2:1 SUSE (64 bit) to RedHat (32 bit). Probably 95% of the time they don't notice a difference. The only time they notice a difference is if the rapper script from the company looks at the files and says this is a RedHat machine and doesn't support it and it is easy enough to change those. Once in a rare while we have an application that isn't standard, most of the time we have been able to script that. Worst case we have copied the library to KFS and set up their rapper to work there. Basically in the end the users don't notice and don't care they just want their application to run.

Q: Does Qualcomm use single-core or dual-core Opteron chips and why?

A: Here in San Diego we don't have any dual-cores yet. We haven't made the purchase. I believe one of our remote sites have and we are looking into them. We are somewhat restrained right now and would like to see the application people get credit first. But at the same time for the jobs that need less RAM we can cram that many more jobs into the same space. We have done some demos and looked into purchasing some but haven't done so yet.

Questions to Novell, Inc.

Q: Can you compare YaST and ZENworks and explain where ZENworks would be needed? Is ZENworks included in the SUSE license?

A: YaST is a tool that is part of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server and part of any other Novell product that is based on the SUSE Linux distribution. ZENworks Linux Management is technology that is a separate product and is designed to be an enterprise management system for managing multiple machines out there. So the difference is YaST is going to be on the machine and allows you to go to the machine and do most of the operations that would normally require to stop a service, edit a configuration file and restart the service. It helps to put the cosmetic interface on there that makes it much easier to use. But what YaST doesn't do is when you are dealing with multiple machines it doesn't make it easy to push configuration changes to multiple machines. It has some basic features, such as the on line update utility to push out patches, but it doesn't have facilities such as locking down a desk top or pushing out a specific configuration to various parts of the interface. It is not included in the server license for the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server. It is actually an additional product. We put it in the mix on this presentation for those people listening in who have 10-100+ machines that need to be managed in a more uniform and consistent way than just YaST and SUSE Linux alone.