

Why do I need it: To inexpensively add more functionality to your network

What does it do: Everything, VPN, Mail Servers, Web Servers, Firewalls

What it cost: It's free

Where do I put it: On your servers

Open Source applications and operating systems are hot term with mixed emotions to a lot of CEO's. Its free software and CEO's would love to use it, but its free and they can't find the catch. A lot of CEO's stay clear simply because they don't understand the pricing model.

Think about this though, you open PDF documents in Adobe Reader. Adobe Reader was free you didn't pay for it, Adobe worked out another way to make money that includes offering free software. The same could be said about Mozilla or a lot of other companies including those in the Linux world.

The key thing Linux is in my mind is a server operating system. It can do anything a Microsoft Server can do and it's truly an open license you don't have to pay for the operating system or client licenses. This opens up a lot of possibilities to IT departments on tight budgets.

The catch, its not Microsoft it can't run applications created for Microsoft. That being said just about every Microsoft program has its Linux counter part. Microsoft has a web server called IIS, on Linux its called Apache, Microsoft has a mail server called Exchange, on Linux its called Sendmail. Are they exactly the same no, but they do the same things.

Most companies are running Microsoft Server everywhere they can; if this sounds like your company you can add a little more functionality by introducing some Linux. It doesn't have to be one or the other the 2 operating systems will work together. Linux has a reputation of being more secure and stable than Microsoft. Microsoft has a reputation of integrating better with the desktop operating systems (that are also Microsoft).

So try some Linux where the security and stability come into play, your Firewall and VPN's for example. Linux also is great for utility services. For example a Linux server can scan all of your email for viruses and spam before they go to your pc. Services like Cacti or MRTG is great way to monitor your equipment and servers and be notified if an outage occurs. Linux is a great addition to any network that provides a lot of functionality which is often overlooked do to cost concerns.

Choosing how Linux can be used for your network can get tricky. Give us a call at 1-877-884-6626 or email me directly at preston@allsystemsup.net , for a quick conversation over the right solution for your network. We can install these for you with both an onsite visit or remotely with our preconfigured services.

Look into the right technology for your network. Look into ASU to deploy it.