

The π Workshops on Linux on Notebooks

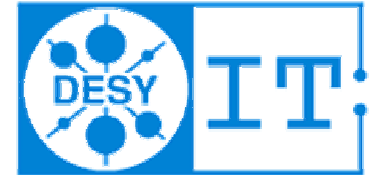
Knut Woller

31st Linux User Meeting

2005-08-24

DESY IT

What we have



- **Installation services for**
 - SuSE 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 (maintained NFS repositories, documented)
 - SL3, SL4 (maintained repositories)
 - **3rd generation of a supported notebook model at Zeuthen**
 - based on SL4 now (2nd generation was SuSE 9.0)
 - see <http://z.ifh.de/Notebook/SL4/RelNotes.html>
 - See Stephan Wiesand's presentation
 - **Support for purchasing notebooks**
 - Standard recommendation (DELL Latitude)
 - The IT notebook and desktop showroom in 2b
 - We can help preparing your BA
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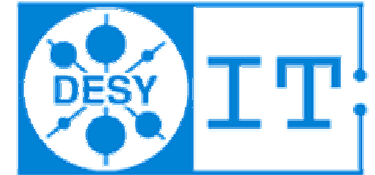
- **Reports from HERA experiments, MPY, -T- and Uni**
 - **Some 20 to 50+ Linux notebooks in each major group**
 - **Sums up to several hundred on Campus**
 - **Often DELL, but about 50% 'private' (Sony, Toshiba, DELL, ...)**
 - **CPUs from Intel and AMD, even with 64bit**
 - **Physicists with Intel notebooks prefer Linux over Windows**
 - **Implies that there are non-Intel notebooks ...**
 - **Mostly SuSE and Debian, some Fedora, Mandrake, Ubuntu, ...**
- **Users are willing and able to help themselves most of the time**
- **Admins see an average notebook once per year**
 - **For upgrades or due to technical problems**

Feedback: Requests (unsorted)



- **Predefined package selections for recent SuSE distros**
- **HEP software packages (cernlib, root)**
- **Installation tools (CDs, partition resizers, ...)**
- **Documentation concerning**
 - **printer setup**
 - **network setup**
 - **USB devices**
 - **vpn, afs, ssh, ...2**
- **Web site,**
- **wiki as community forum**

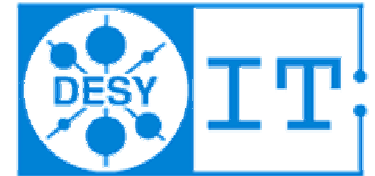
Feedback: Most Problematic Areas



- **Backup before reinstallation, disaster recovery**
- **restoring MBR after XP reinstallation**
- **WLAN with non-standard cards**
- **conflicts between WLAN and Ethernet**
- **modem support**
- **Hardware acquisition (know what works)**
 - **also for add-on hardware (videocams, ...)**
- **Mapping X11 to beamers (DELL D6xx)**
 - **having PCs in the seminar room may solve that as well**

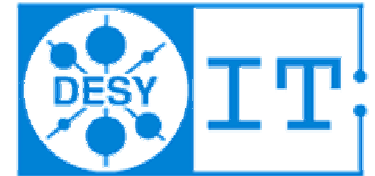
DESY

Our conclusions



- **So far, no request for a pre-fab Linux notebook in Hamburg**
 - **Linux users want control (i.e. root) over their equipment**
 - **We can support the Linux notebook community with**
 - **Pre-installed notebooks for a quick start (we already do so)**
 - **Cookbook recipes for routine use**
 - **Connecting to network and WLAN**
 - **Setting up mail and printers**
 - **Using USB devices**
 - **Preconfigured packages**
 - **AFS client**
 - **VPN**
 - **Much of this has been or still is there**
 - **But lacks a coherent display on our web pages**
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We plan to ...



- **Provide a 'Linux Notebook Focus' in the IT web**
 - Collect links to all available documentation from IT
 - Provide missing pieces of documentation and software
 - We'll not try to be better than linux-on-laptops.com
 - but more specific concerning use within DESY and HEP
- **Set up a broadcast channel to distribute news**
 - E.g. a mailing list for Linux notebook users
- **Set up a community forum for mutual feedback**
 - E.g. a WIKI, because
 - we cannot cover all the hardware diversity within IT
 - We do not want you or us to reinvent wheels over and over