

IAC Unix Advisory Group Minutes - 20110323

8 people:

Ty Boyack
Curtis Brown
James Cizek
Elden Flick
Terry Gray
Diane Noren
Kevin Swab
Wayne Trzyna

Special Guest: Richard Casey

An introduction to CSU's Cray computer, presented by Richard Casey

- Thank you, Richard, for the presentation.
- A meeting by the Allocation Committee on March 29 will be held to determine what applications will be put on the Cray. Any costs associated in licensing the software will have to be paid for by the requesting user.
- One compute blade was brought in for show-and-tell.

Making email and web servers more redundant

- Everyone in the room seemed to be using a single queue on a server for everyone's email
- Ty said he used 'heartbeat' between webservers and had special power outlets that would forcefully power cycle a server that didn't seem respond.
- Ty said he has moved to a central WordPress service for blogging as opposed to letting users run their own blog
- ACNS has been using F5's Biplp load balancers to split the www.colostate.edu web address between different servers. The F5s are expensive, but the feature has shown its flexibility and has been well worth it.
- For RamCT, although there are multiple application servers to handle the load balancing, the only shared storage is the central database.
- Terry noted the Apple cluster has a special SAN attached storage that it communicates with using a special protocol.

Proofpoint

- The contract with Proofpoint expires in the summer of 2012
- Wayne had asked for at least a years worth of notice if there to be any severe changes in central email.

Linux distributions

- ACNS announced it's policy to use Ubuntu LTS unless a specific vendor or application required RedHat. This decision was made based on the

number of different number of distributions currently in use and the desire to reduce them.

- Wayne indicated that the majority of Linux systems in Computer Science is either RedHat Enterprise or Fedora Core.
- Ty said his Linux systems are also either RedHat, Fedora, or potentially CentOS.
- Diane offered to contact RedHat to see what a site license would cost.

Mass Storage update

- James showed a couple of pictures of some new systems made by Supermicro and explained how they seem to be superior in many respects to the current do-it-yourself "Green Machine".