

Migrating from Novell/DOS Based applications to MARS_NWE/Linux with LTSP

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History

Here a long time ago was using and maintaining an old DOS/CLIPPER based system, a Novell file server with DBASE files, and DOS/Win based thin clients, we started to migrate the file server to Linux using the MARS_NWE it had been accessed concurrently about 70 - 90 DOS/Win clients some booting NBI DOS images and some with hd terminals while we were going to move the office too and release the new office using Linux with LTSP, while that we followed migrating the source code in CLIPPER to FlagShip and the migration of DBASE to PostgreSQL like is working today.

Why use MARS_NWE

Why we decided to use the NETWARE EMULATOR if we could acces the dbase files through another way like NFS, SMB or LOCALLY in the server?, basically because in any other way rather than mars the file lock simply didn't worked, the index files(idx,cdx) usually more than 5 times a day were damaged and we had to reindex some dbfs suddenly.

Setting up MARS Netware Emulator (MARS_NWE)

Simply follow the steps in the README ;), it has not science to install, just consider if you need more than 10 connections you have to recompile from source changing it, look for more info in the MARTin Stovers's page at http://systemhaus.gkdmedien.de/mars_nwe/ whose is the author and don't forget read the IPX HOWTO at <http://www.tldp.org/HOWTO/IPX-HOWTO.html>

Using IPX with LTSP

There are some steps to perform before you can access a Novell/IPX server.

○

Recompile your LTSP kernel with ipx enabled support, if you like you could try mine from here.

○

Config your *lts.conf* to load the ipx.o module in the thin client.

Runnig your old DOS program with LTSP

In order to run your DOS based program, you can use the DOSEMU that can be found at <http://www.dosemu.org/> just install it and set all of your things as you normally set in DOS, consider your *files*, *buffers* and so on, also if you have so many clients i recommend you install the dosemu as a local app.

Last Notes

Well, as my personal opinion i widely recommend the usage of this tools, i used it here and in every one of our branches and works all ok =), regards and if anybody likes to add some comments suggestions or something e-mail me at jramirez@chicolinux.com.mx

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