

IPBrick, the first Linux able to threaten Microsoft

We have been looking at this new Linux operating system, and we were astonished how easy we could install, configure and recover a server system using IPBrick Linux. IPBrick today is only available for server systems, and is based on Debian Linux. So all the software available inside IPBrick Linux comes from a specific Debian Distribution: IPBrick 5.x is based on Debian Etch. As we were told by the vendor, they are working on two new IPBrick versions for Oracle Enterprise Linux and Ubuntu server. So IPBrick server operating system will be soon available for the three most important Linux flavours.

In our opinion the added value of this IPBrick Linux lays on the fact that it is still a Linux operating system with all the known Linux advantages: open source, robust, secure, and good

performance. But, quite unlike other Linuxes, IPBrick Linux is extremely easy to install and configure. Probably the easiest operating system on the market. To remove any doubt we tested ourselves, the installation in a quite standard server hardware just took us around 5 minutes. After the installation the time required to create a mail server for a company with 10 users just took another 10 minutes, the time to create 10 user accounts. Surprisingly, after creating the 10 users we had far more than a mail system, because a groupware subsystem was already installed and ready for use directly from Microsoft Outlook, Mozilla Thunderbird and most known PDAs, a file server, Domain controller, not counting other available features for Intranet servers like a printer server, a terminal server, and a backup feature; this is immediately able to access a NAS or an ISP backup service. It

is important to note that we are not Linux gurus, and that we installed and configured this powerful mail and groupware system in only a few minutes.

We know that with Linux we can configure almost every service for enterprise usage, if we have the knowledge to do it. Unfortunately not many people are able to do it, therefore Linux servers within the enterprise do not represent more than 5 per cent of the market. Even when we find technicians that can do it, the result is that customers stay too dependent on the person that had configured the server.

This was another important difference we saw in IPBrick Linux, because all configurations, made over a simple and intuitive Web interface, and are



stored in a small database. This database can be used to reinstall the server, and make it an exact replica of the original database in around 10 minutes. Which means if a technician configures an IPBrick server, and two years later another technician needs to reinstall the server, the result after 10 minutes will be a server configured exactly in the same way that the original technician configured it. This is

outstanding in our point of view, because we all know that both in Linux or Windows this is very difficult to achieve.

If you are looking for a Windows alternative, then IPBrick Linux can be the option you really need to evaluate. Visit them in **Hall 13, Booth B32**.

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