Linux “Best Practices” Roundtable

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My “Top 10” Best Practices

- Note that these are my experience. Your experience may vary, use at own risk, etc.

Number 10: Know Thy App

- Before you start a Linux for S/390 migration, be <u>certain</u> you have performance instrumentation and data for the applications you intend to migrate.
  - Successful migrations depend on understanding the way applications use the system, not the physical resources on the original system

Number 9: Smaller Is Better

- Assigning the same virtual machine size as the physical size of the original machine is usually a mistake.
  - Start with about half the resources, and pare down to what the application actually needs, rather than overallocating and hoping for the best.
  - It’s wise to invest in some perfomance tools up front…

Number 8: Guest LANs

- Use guest LANs whenever possible. They vastly simplify the networking process and are much easier to sell to internal groups.

Number 7: The Network Is the Solution

- Network design makes or breaks a Linux on S/390 solution.
  - Note that *in most cases*, the logical network design will be identical to the way you would do it with discrete networking components.
  - Powerful friends:
    - Zebra
    - Advanced IP Management RPM

Number 6: Document, Document, Document

- Document assumptions, configurations, etc. In a world without the traditional 390 documentation sets, documentation is survival.

Number 5: Cooperate, Not Replace

- Linux is best positioned to work together with another operating system.
  - Reduces tension, and gets open systems and mainframe people talking to each other for the first time in years

Number 4: Horizontal Apps

- The best choices are applications that scale horizontally, not vertically.
- Target mixed workloads rather than compute-intensive processing.

Number 3: VM: Just Do It.

- Except for very specific cases, Linux in an LPAR isn’t a viable solution.
- Use z/VM – the guest LAN support alone is worth the cost

Number 2: High-Return Apps First

- Easy targets:
  - Windows file/print
  - IP utility servers
  - Mail
  - Development/test servers

Number 1: Remember It's Supposed to Be FUN!

- This is all about making solutions work.
- Enjoy it – we're back in the mainstream world!
- Look for new and even greater things to come!

Contact Info

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