



Linux “Best Practices” Roundtable

Session L999

David Boyes

Sine Nomine Associates

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 certain 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 performance 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

David Boyes

Sine Nomine Associates

dboyes@sinenomine.net

dboyes@de.sinenomine.net
