NCHC's DRBL/Clonezilla Project

■ http://drbl.nchc.org.tw/en ■ http://www.clonezilla.org

Project Overview

Diskless Remote Boot in Linux (DRBL)

DRBL provides a diskless or systemless environment for client machines. It works on Debian, Ubuntu, Mandriva, Red Hat, Fedora, CentOS, Scientific Linux, and SuSE. DRBL uses distributed hardware resources and makes it possible for clients to fully access local hardware. It also includes Clonezilla, a partitioning and disk cloning utility similar to Symantec ghost. DRBL took home first prize in the "Public Sector Applications" category at the French "Trophees du Libre" (a.k.a. International Free Software Contest) held December 2007.

DRBL Features:

1. Peacefully Co-exists with Other OSs!

DRBL uses PXE/etherboot, NFS, and NIS to provide services to client machines so that it is not necessary to install GNU/Linux on the individual client hard drives. Once the DRBL server has been established, the client machines can boot "disklessly" via PXE or Etherboot. DRBL doesn't touch the client hard drives, therefore, other installed OSs (e.g. MS Windows) are unaffected. This is useful, for example, during a phased deployment of GNU/Linux where the user wants the option of booting into MS Windows.

2. Simply Install DRBL on a Single Server and all your Clients are Ready To Go!

Using a standard PC, you can transform a group of client PCs into a working GNU/Linux network in two simple steps:

- *Download the DRBL package*
- *Run the scripts*

In only 30 minutes, all client machines will be ready to run GNU/Linux and all associated packages. No more cloning of client machines one-by-one; just use DRBL!

3. Save on Hardware, Budget, and Maintenance Fees!

Hard drives are optional with the DRBL client. If a hard drive is present, the client can be configured to use it as swap or data space while GNU/Linux is installed and configured on the centralized boot server. A lot of time can be saved by configuring the client settings at the boot server when using the DRBL centralized boot environment. This gives the system administrator more control over what software configurations are running on each client.

More info →→→

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