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Putting the Pieces Together for Workgroup Computing - A Review of Choices

OVERVIEW

The recent emergence of Microsoft NT server into the workgroup as a viable platform for running business applications has led to a heightened level of interest in how to integrate NT server, as well as Microsoft desktops, into the HP-UX environment. Additionally, many organizations that have successfully integrated Novell NetWare into their HP-UX environments would like to understand the role of NetWare Directory Services (NDS) within their broader environment.

This paper will touch on the six key areas of integration between HP-UX and NT, NetWare and Microsoft desktops, the benefits of integration, and review some of the principle integration alternatives within each of the six areas.

AREAS OF INTEGRATION

The core set of areas to address for integration between HP-UX and NT, NetWare and Microsoft desktops are:

- Systems management and administration
- Network Operating Systems (NOS), and directory services
- Messaging and Groupware
- Security services
- Enterprise networking
- Distributed application access

These six areas represent the core of the middleware services that are needed to deliver functionality between mixed environments. With these services in place, users can benefit from an infrastructure that gives them access to resources across the organization, and the IT organization has the freedom to implement the server and operating system that is most appropriate to the applications environment.

WHY INTEGRATE ACROSS MIXED ENVIRONMENTS?

Among the many potential benefits of integrating an HP-UX server with NT or NetWare servers, as well as Microsoft desktops are:

- Systems management
 - Single point of management
 - Choice of servers and desktop clients
 - Common management and administrative processes
 - Reduced administrative and training expenses via use of one, instead of many, management frameworks
- NOS/directory services
 - Choice of NOS
 - Applications and file/print available in a single box

- Identify and utilize resources
- Alternate growth path
- Messaging and Groupware
 - Desktop user retains client of choice
 - Management of the messaging system integrated into overall systems management environment
 - Enterprise wide scaling
 - Internet/Intranet support
- Security services
 - One security framework for enterprise
 - Single sign-on to multiple systems and applications
 - Choice of servers/clients
 - Consistent application authorization policies
- Enterprise networking
 - Choice of protocols
 - Links to NOS of choice
 - Gateways from desktops to all enterprise assets (e.g., mainframes)
- Distributed application access
 - Enterprise applications to desktop
 - Choice of servers/clients
 - Object integration

The presentation will review the alternatives currently available to implement integration in the above topic areas.