

GROUP DYNAMICS

The South West (UK) LUG held its inaugural meeting on 30 November 2001 at The Crawford Hotel, Exeter. David Johnson reports

Around 10 people gathered for the first ever meeting of the South West LUG at the Crawford Hotel function room in November. We had various demonstrations on show covering all things Linux.

We brought along a few demonstration machines for people to mess with: the main one was running Red Hat 7.2 with SuSE 7.3 running in a VMWare Virtual Machine. There was also a laptop running Mandrake 8.1. Demonstrations included using a firewall on Red Hat, VMWare and mail clients in Linux (including Ximian's Evolution).

Various other distributions also put in an appearance and there was loads of information on offer including Linux Certification from SAIR and O'Reilly book catalogues (which we can offer a discount on). By far the biggest attraction of the meeting was the pile of freebies including SuSE 7.1 Professional (of which we brought 20).

There was also a presentation from Rick Timmis, of local company SuperTramp (www.supertramp.co.uk), who told us about his company's ongoing Windows to Linux migration which is underway with the help of ylem (www.ylem.co.uk). Rick explained the pros and cons of Linux for SuperTramp and needless to say the pros rather outweighed the cons. Particularly interesting were the costs of switching the whole company to Linux compared to costs of keeping Windows...

As you might expect, much of the meeting was spent chatting (or rather debating in some cases). The topic of conversation was varied and included Linux, Windows, minimal Microsoft bashing (of course), the pronunciation of Linux (I knew that was going to happen) through to the composition of the universe (no-one knows how that started...).

All in all I think everyone learnt at least something and it was certainly a worthwhile meeting, which has paved the way for many future meetings.

Info

SWLUG – South West (UK) Linux User Group
www.southwest.lug.org.uk