Dolphin
DOLPHIN SERVER

The cost of running your own email and Web space server has been prohibitive to all but the most committed of businesses. The **Positive Internet Company** hope to have found a niche in the market, with the "Dolphin Server", which is aimed at businesses who have low capital cost and efficiency as one of their priorities as well as filling the requirements of the high end home user.

For £159 a month (plus VAT, if that sort of thing is of concern to you) you get your own dedicated server, locked away in a server room with all the climactic control and conditioned air that you would give to your own much loved equipment.

What you get for your money?

The Dolphin Server is made up into a 1u rack-mounted 19" case which contains an Intel PIII-933 MHz processor, 256 Mb RAM and two 20Gb E-IDE hard drives, with a 10/100 network card giving you voice to the outside world via a dedicated 100Mb/s switch port. This configuration will provide enough power for process-intensive sites.

There is a generous monthly allowance of 40Gb data transfer to take advantage of, via high quality networks with multiple international bandwidth providers. This would allow you to make maximum use of the server, giving it the opportunity to get its teeth into something regardless of where in the world your customers might be.

The second drive in the server allows for daily backups, so you can rest assured that, in the unlikely event of a drive failure, you'll have a recent set of data to rebuild from.

Because this is a dedicated server you have full control over what runs there and you have the ability to furnish your server with whatever you need, should there be anything that is not included already. The server includes the SSL-ready Apache Web server with PHP and Perl. Having full access to Java servlets and Java Server Page support means you can run rings around your Web visitors, or more hopefully, guide them towards the information they want with some carefully crafted Javascript.

Also included in Dolphin is the MySQL database server, a must for e-commerce, as is reliable processing of email through your site – achievable with the use of the Qmail mail server, which is reliable and secure. You even have full control over your DNS management as BIND is also installed by default.

How is all of this possible?

And more to the point, what's all this got to do with Linux Magazine? Well, that's the clever thing: to give you all of this flexibility Positive Internet give you a server with a full implementation of Debian GNU/Linux on it.

Debian has a very long pedigree: the project started out in August 1993 and has followed a most methodical and cautious development, making it very stable and secure. Debian has not seen the need for advanced graphical installation interfaces, which can be off putting for first time Linux users. Once running, though, Debian comes into its own being one of the simplest Linux distributions to maintain and upgrade thanks to the apt-get feature, which gets applications, either upgrading them or adding something new for the first time, looking and solving any dependency problems it might find as it goes. This can be done from the command line, or some

clever person can write a graphical front end for those that prefer to point and click.

Don't let stark installation processes put you off, because, if you are going to be using Debian on a Dolphin server, then the installation will have been done for you, and yes, the guys at Positive Internet have been wise enough to write the graphical interface to make upgrading a point and click affair, if that's what you want.

Full control

As an example of how far Positive Internet are prepared to go to give their customers as much control as possible, the Dolphin Server comes complete with a "Zero Delay Reboot" feature. ZDR will enable you to power cycle your server whenever you want to, via a secure Web-based switching utility. You may never want to tinker with your Dolphin Server, in which case you may never have need for this feature, but should all that application getting get the better of you, then it might just save the day.

Should you be in the market for a good value dedicated server for a range of Internet requirements, then the Dolphin Server from The Positive-Internet Company may be what you are looking for. Colin Murphy takes a closer look

Dolphin Server	
Supplier	The Positive-Internet Company
Price	£159.00 per month
Web	www.positive-internet.co.uk
For	Value for money
Against	No full RAID
rating	★★★★★★★☆