

Putting the theory into practice

Network Options

Networking can cover a very broad range of subjects and techniques. Are your systems wired, or have you moved over to wireless communications? Do you use file and print servers, or are you more interested in mail solutions? This month we cover a wide range of subjects from the popular Postfix to using Windows drivers under Linux. **BY JOHN SOUTHERN**

Whenver you mention networking to someone, they start thinking about a particular topic that they are currently interested in. This can encompass a very broad spectrum of subjects. Many will start to think about hardware issues such as trying to get the underlying technology to work, when the manufacturers do not supply the necessary information. Others will think about the applications that make networking essential. System administrators will begin to talk about handling their users' needs with discussions on practical matters, such as setting up file servers, and handling user authentication to a system.

All connected

All of these topics, although unique in their own individual way, are connected at their base level as they handle communication from one client to another. Rather than just head in one direction, we cover these differing aspects of the networking world, to be all inclusive.

In our first article, we examine the problem that not all hardware manufacturers are Linux-friendly. Fortunately, there is a recent solution that helps Linux devotees avoid having to live with outdated wireless cards. The NdisWrapper project lets you use the manufacturer's Windows drivers while still operating under Linux.

After NdisWrappers we continue with wireless networking as we look at the configuration options are available for setting up a Linux-based Access Point with HostAP. All you need is an old PC, and a suitable WLAN card, to make an Access Point that is far superior to an out-of-the-box station. You also get the chance to say how much security and control you want, using free and Open Source software.

We then take a look at migrating an NT4 domain over to an Open Source Samba solution. There are plenty of good reasons for doing this, but is it always worthwhile knowing about the potential pitfalls that may occur along the way. Ensuring everyone knows what to expect will help you achieve a successful project and everyone involved feeling happy. We discuss the changes to the config file, and the order in which you need to complete each step of the migration.

Finally, we examine the various practical scenarios in which the popular Postfix mail server can be deployed within an enterprise. As Mail Transfer Agents begin to gain a foothold everywhere, we take the time to explain their potential and discuss their configuration. This can range from a typical dialup host configuration to a simple relay or DMZ sectioned setup. ■

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Using Postfix as a mail server is gaining popularity. We look at the typical scenarios that you might encounter.

