



Centeris® Likewise™ Helps Omneon Lower the Cost of Managing a Mixed Windows/Linux Network

Established in 1998, Omneon is a worldwide provider of cost-effective and flexible networked media servers for broadcast and video. Omneon's open and advanced architecture minimizes customers' upfront and ongoing expenses, while enabling them to capitalize on emerging opportunities. Omneon differentiates itself from competitors by allowing customers to work with any media editing suite, rather than requiring them to use Omneon software.

→ Centeris Likewise Advantage

Berg said the greatest benefit for Omneon is the cost savings. "It's the ability to leverage our existing investment in personnel rather than having to go out and hire someone. It also gives me the confidence to push out more Linux machines, knowing we'll be able to manage them."

The company is considering bringing DNS/BIND in-house on a Linux machine, and the Likewise solution will allow them to do that. Berg said that is also a key benefit—the ability to extend Linux in their network.

"Other companies are reluctant to do this because they don't have the right people to manage Linux and restore outages—that's IT management's big concern," said Berg.

"Companies will instead roll out more expensive, Windows-based solutions because they feel they're better supported. With Likewise, they could leverage a cheaper Linux alternative that does the job just as well."

Last but not least, the solution has been easy to use and hassle-free. "Everything has run very well," Berg said. "I haven't had to call tech support at all."

Quick Facts

- Ability to leverage existing Windows staff/skills to manage Linux servers
- Confidence to increase number of Linux servers
- Cost savings through simplified management and ability extend Linux in the network
- Easy-to-install, easy-to-use, hassle-free solution

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→ Business Challenge

Omneon's primary IT infrastructure is housed at company headquarters in Sunnyvale, CA. The network includes 25 servers, four of which are Linux systems—one file server, one Web server, one running an in-house IT ticketing system and one running intrusion detection software. Omneon has a staff of four administrators, and all but one are Microsoft® Windows® experts. The one Linux expert, Steve Berg, had his hand full managing both the IT department and the four Linux servers.

"We wanted to be able to leverage our investment in Linux," said Berg, Omneon's director of IT. "It was tough with me being the only one having any kind of administrative knowledge on these servers. Even on vacation I was called to take care of problems. Then I discovered Centeris and we decided to give them a go."

→ Solution

Omneon chose the Centeris Likewise Management Suite, which provides tools that make it easy to configure and manage Linux servers within a Windows network. Likewise enables administrators to use familiar Microsoft Management Console (MMC) tools for day-to-day management of Linux servers. And the Likewise Console provides more advanced functionality, like the ability to configure Linux servers and join them to Microsoft Active Directory — tasks that required Berg's level of Linux expertise before the Centeris solution.

"It has helped me leverage my investment in Windows administrators to do rudimentary administrative tasks, health checks on the boxes, and all the stuff I don't want to be stuck doing," said Berg.

Broad support for Linux distributions was also important to Omneon, which runs both Fedora and Red Hat.

About Centeris

Centeris Corporation is a Bellevue, WA-based software company funded by leading venture capital firms Ignition Partners, Intel Capital and Trinity Ventures. Centeris has experienced management and engineering teams in place and is led by senior executives from companies such as Microsoft, F5 Networks, EMC and Mercury.