



LXCERT meeting 07/02/2006

- SLC5 delay impact - discussion, new plan.
- SLC4 certification status
- SLC4 roll-out planning
- SLC3 support lifetimes



RHEL5 delay

- RHEL5: “we do not expect a release before the end of 2006”
 - (removed)
 - Fermi: “told you so” (not really, but joint statement at <https://www.scientificlinux.org/distributions/roadmap>)
- Recap: LXCERT deadline was October 2006 for “LHC” release (mostly driven by *-online groups, but *-offline probably doesn't want gcc-4 either by then (?))
- SLC5 isn't going to happen before 1Q2007
- SLC5 isn't going to be the “LHC startup release” ?



(From Oct. meeting) Latest rumors:

RHEL5 may come out “late” (4Q2006),

>> 18months after RHEL3 (Sep 2003).

(some sources: up to 27 months, tied to slower (9months) FedoraCore release cycle?)

- review “lockdown” timeline?
- review stability requirements **per environment**
- proposal: certify anyway, but carefully plan deployment.

(impact on # of concurrent distributions -> Linux support)

“[..] Original certification planning still holds: try to certify until the end of 2005. Currently the LCG application area software (blocking LHC experiments) and ORACLE client (blocking AB/CO) are on the critical path. [..]”



Impact

Assume: will have lots of SLC4 production systems in 2007

- No reason to wait for SLC5
- Can roll out SLC4 on all services → plan
- Need to involve GDB for Grid-wide roll-out coordination
- SLC4 becomes less urgent, but more important:
 - Already slippage: “end of 2005” → “end of January 06” → “after RHEL4U3”
 - IT isn't the only one being late with SLC4 –
 - 0 (zero) pressure from experiments until now...
 - But: will need to work. SLC4 would be the LHC release
 - No “second chance” to get it right..



Alternative: stick to SLC5 plan?

Stick to original plan, or certify a beta?

- Would have a few online farms on SLC4, rest on SLC5
 - Unrealistic! SLC5 too close to LHC startup
 - Little to be gained If SLC4 is around as well (have 2.6 kernel, don't foresee immediate requests for Xen)
- But: SLC5 will come anyway (newer hardware support etc)
- May get used behind the scenes on hidden services
 - May get used on individual laptops/desktops
 - Some services will/may try to skip SLC4
 - But can discuss release/certification schedules later..



SLC4 status – IT view

○ Have:

- “onlycern” repository (JDK, ORACLE Instantclient)
- Kerberos 5 configuration
- Most of IT tools “*work_for_us*” (even if not fully certified)
- But: most tests done only on i386

○ Still need:

- Kerberos 5 + OpenSSH (“getting rid of Heimdal”)
- Formal CASTOR release
- Lots of pending updates (U3 in beta)
- 64bit architectures need more tests
- Instantclient not used everywhere yet



SLC4 changes(IT)

- Update system goes from apt to yum on all architectures
 - Apt(-rpm) is dead (0..1 active developers, no distribution)
 - Yum is the future (Fedora, integrated with Red Hat tools)
 - GUI: yumex (still “improving”)
- Kernel updates are now fully integrated, treated as any other update by default
 - too many “old” kernels otherwise
 - Can turn off / configure
- Other changes as announced.
 - But nothing on the “physics” packages integration (yet?)



SLC4 status – rest of you?

- LCG: ported to SLC3/gcc-3.4, need recompile?
- Experiments: waiting for dependencies?
- EGEE/ETICS – just setting up build servers...

“low priority” for everybody until now?

This ought to change...



SLC4 plan (proposals)

Suggest to

- wait for RHEL4 U3 release (~ 2 weeks)
+recompilation / integration: ~mid-march.
Will experiment code be ready by then?
- Certification deadline: **end of march** (2006).
- hand over roll-out planning & coordination to GDB
(next meeting: tomorrow), discuss at HEPiX
- expect: public production services (PLUS/BATCH) on
SLC4 in ~October



Lifetime for SLC3

Propose:

- ia64 SLC3 support: end December 2006:
Affects CERN-IT only, experiments: “we don't care” 😊
- x86_64 SLC3 support: end December 2006
Avoid widespread migration to SLC3 on 64bit HW,
currently <15 machines (per apt/yum statistics)
- i386 SLC3 support: still end **October 2007**
(in line with Fermi plans for SL, see [SL roadmap](#))