

Tiki Suite Desktop

Client device strategy / goals

- Users are expected to have at least two devices, and often 3 or 4: A smart phone and a laptop for sure. Likely a tablet as well, and perhaps a second laptop. (one laptop could be more of a work horse, and the second, a lightweight device)
- Adding a new client or re-installing a client device should become quick & painless. So we are moving more towards "cattle" in the [pets vs cattle](#) analogy. But our server apps are treated as pets.
- Data should live on the server and the client device may have a copy (depending on data type, disk space, connectivity, etc.)
- Data created on the client device should sync to the server, via ActiveSync or [Syncthing](#)
- Client devices should be encrypted on boot. If lost or damaged, no data should be lost. Client devices become *disposable*
- A client device should have a limited amount of software, as most functionality is provided via the browser by one of the server apps (ex.: Tiki)
- For laptops / desktops, a traditional desktop metaphor is preferred
- All devices should run a supported OS. And we shouldn't be throwing out still functional hardware. Thus, converting PCs that run Windows XP (unsupported since 2014-04) to GNU/Linux is an explicit goal.
- Standards (ex: XMPP) are to be used as much as possible to permit alternate client apps.
- Client device apps should ideally be cross-platform (Windows, MacOS X, GNU/Linux and ideally Android as well)
 - so as to reduce overhead (training, documentation, support, etc.)
 - If a user has several computer with different OSs, or switches from one OS to another, the transition is smoother than having to learn new apps / interfaces
- Software should be easy to install / update
 - It's great if it's possible to move / backup simply by moving the files, as we do with data files. (Such as with [PortableApps.com](#))

GNU / Linux desktop

- While the Tiki Suite client device strategy lets users keep using Windows or MacOS X, if they want to use GNU / Linux on the desktop, we want this to be as smooth as possible. While users can pick among [hundreds of GNU / Linux distros](#), in the spirit of focus, we are recommending a distro. [ClearOS](#) is first & foremost a server OS. However, you can use as a [desktop](#) as well. However, as of 2014-11, it is not mature enough and not much energy is expected in that direction given the DNA of the ClearOS community. An important decision in picking a GNU / Linux distro is the desktop manager. Given the goals above (especially supporting older hardware which had Windows XP, and the traditional desktop metaphor), [LXDE](#) has been picked. Ideally, we would go with [Fedora LXDE](#) to be closer to [ClearOS](#) (both use RPMs), however,
1. It's very rare we need to install the same software on the server and client OS. We need for [Syncthing](#)
 2. As of 2014-11, [Lubuntu](#) better supports the desktop apps of the suite.
 3. Lubuntu offers an LTS version which Fedora presumably never will.
 4. CentOS doesn't have a LXDE "spin" or community
 5. Lubuntu future is bright: http://wiki.lxde.org/en/Merge_LXDE-Qt_and_Razor-Qt
 6. [LXLE](#), an easy-to-use lightweight desktop Linux distribution based on Lubuntu, is looking very interesting

Since client devices are designed to be disposable, it should be easy to revisit this decision in a few years. Will things converge? (likely), but how?

- FirefoxOS, so everything HTML / JS
- Will Android or CyanogenMod become a mainstream OS for laptops & desktops?

<http://www.android-x86.org/>

- Will Ubuntu Phone be able to replace Android? So would a phone edition of LXLE be an alternative to Android / CyanogenMod ?

In any case, adding devices to our mix should be:

1. Set up new client device (apps & data sync)
2. Start using
3. When all is fine on the new device, wipe & repurpose the old one.

In terms of installing / updating apps, Zero Install is on the radar.

Below are some related notes. See also:

Converting

Use case: Old XP PCs that are too old to move to Windows 7

- WinXP support ended in 2014-04
- Convert these live instances to be a virtual machine within a lightweight GNU/Linux distro
- Use GNU/Linux as the main distro but you can fire up WinXP for access to legacy apps

Convert physical to virtual (P2V)

- [virt-p2v](#)
- Get [VMware vCenter Converter Standalone](#)
- http://pve.proxmox.com/wiki/Migration_of_servers_to_Proxmox_VE#Physical_server_to_Proxmox_VE_.28KVM.29_using_Clonezilla_Live_CDs

Reveal software keys

- [Enchanted Keyfinder](#)
- http://www.nirsoft.net/utils/product_cd_key_viewer.html

Check Hardware support for virtualization

- <https://www.grc.com/securable.htm>

UNetbootin

- [UNetbootin](#)

Other tools

- <https://code.google.com/p/touchfreeze/> Really, the OS should handle this... Another annoyance: pop-ups that happen while we type. They could have waited a few seconds instead...
- <http://www.webupd8.org/2009/11/ubuntu-automatically-disable-touchpad.html>
- <http://www.unixmen.com/autmatically-disable-touchpad-typing-ubuntu/>