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Topic III: Object-oriented technologies, component architecture

Experience of building a network based on the Linux operating system

Supporting paper

SUMMARY

Submitted by the Azerbaijan State Statistical Committee[1]

1.   Making a sound choice of network operating system is an important and responsible task, as it will shape the course of and policy for the development of information technologies in an organization for a long period of time. When we first had to make such a choice in 1992 we decided in favour of the Novell NetWare operating system, which was virtually the only computer network operating system then available. The last version of this product we used, until the end of 2000, was Novell NetWare 5 Intranetware. For a variety of reasons, however, continued use of Novell NetWare as the base operating system in our network proved to be impractical. The main reasons are as follows:

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[1] Prepared by V.A. Allakhverdiev and F.A. Dzhalilov.

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- The product never really functioned as a full-fledged applications server, providing only dependable file service and a secure platform for applications developers;

- Basic Internet/Intranet services are not included as part of the distributed product package. These have to be looked for and obtained elsewhere;

- Poor system support from independent applications developers.

2.   Despite steady and reliable performance, Novell NetWare is obviously outdated when compared with other operating systems and further use of this system is not, in our view, the best solution because it gives rise to technical problems and is rather costly.

3.   Various UNIX, Windows 2000 Server and Linux dialects were considered as candidates for a replacement. After experimentation we settled on the freely available Linux operating system. Intranet organizations are now run entirely on this system. The paper we have contributed describes in detail the work carried out, evaluates the system and outlines the prospects for development of the Azerbaijan State Statistical Committee's information systems.

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