

FC5 Desktop Project

Summary

This project covered the deployment of FC5 on staff/student desktops. Essentially it took an lcfg controlled FC5 and added the Ed and DICE levels along with any specialised research and teaching software.

Observations

- Bugzilla is good for tracking bugs it's not project management software and it's particularly clumsy when you wish to manipulate large numbers of bugs.
- Keeping track of rpm version changes is difficult and ideally should be automated, quite often you would get an upgraded packages as part of FC5, then it would be updated again through the FC5 updates then a final version change (possibly a downgrade) when Ed or DICE specific rpms were submitted to the repository.
- This is primarily an admin type task and no particularly deep knowledge of linux was required to manage the project.
- The majority of the admin work was in trying to make sure that the bugzilla tree and other web pages matched what was happening in the repositories. The reorganisation of the COs into units highlight the difficulty in tracking who is responsible for each package but didn't significantly delay deployment
- We missed upgrading software in the case of a small number of specialised desktops (scanners and local printing) and the responsibility of who managed the software upgrade was unclear.

Recommendations.

1. Fresh eyes may bring a better insight as to how to proceed during the next upgrade.
2. We need to find something better than bugzilla to track package updates. Having something that would automatically highlight major version changes to core software/libraries would help both the COs and staff during the initial deployment.
3. Having a repository database which would allow us to find out who is responsible for a piece of software (and possibly why a particular version is being used) would have reduced a lot of admin time. I suspect that it would be useful in helping support to direct queries as well.