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Week 2 – Eli Linux Track – Summary of First 3 videos

Installing Linux and more

Eli has many wonderful video series which I have watched before such as Windows Server Administration series. The Linux track was recorded 7 years back focusing on Ubuntu Distro, and most hands on demonstrations were done using a Ubuntu Server.

Video 1: Linux Introduction

The first video in the series in a nice introduction to some of the core Linux concepts. It also talks about the origin of the Linux and how it is different from the Unix world. Eli stressed on the positive and negative side of the Linux as well. For example, in his view Linux is phenomenal as a server operating system but not so great as a desktop system. Personally, I think that Linux has improved very much since the recording of the video in 2010 and I use Ubuntu and CentOS without any issues for the last two years. Eli also talked about the robust security in Linux and went over various licensing issues that may arrive in a open source software use.

Video 2: Linux Installation

In the second video of the Linux track, Mr. Eli showed us how to install a Ubuntu Server as well as a Ubuntu Desktop in a virtual machine. I personally use Ubuntu at home and use both CentOS and Redhat at work. I also use vagrant, docker and even Linux containers (lxe’s) for various tasks. Since I manage a private cloud, I use Esxi hyper-visor and often use PXE boot to install Linux servers. At home, I like to have a root partition , a swap partition and a home partition for my Ubuntu laptops.

Video 3: Basic Linux Tasks

The third video was the most useful one among the first three. Eli went over several commands such as man, sudo, apt-get, tasksel etc. He did not go over all of the different options that can be used with the commands, but showed the most common usages. He went over man command that stands for “manual” and is available for all Linux commands. For example, we can write:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Man man | Use this learn about “man” command |
| Man ls | Use this to learn about ls command |

Eli talked about software installation in Ubuntu that uses the apt-get system. He did not mention other package management tool such as dpkg or yum available to other distros.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sudo apt-get isntall httpd | Installs httpd web server |
| Sudo apt-get remobe httpd | Removes httpd server |
| Sudo apt-get upgrade | Upgrade software packages |

Eli also mentioned about the tasksel command that is unique to Ubuntu systems. However, the tasksel utility is not installed by default in a Ubuntu desktop. We can install it by running “sudo apt-install tasksel”. Interestingly, although I have been using Linux for several years, I have never used this command before.

Finally, Eli went over some of the service management commands in Linux using /etc/initd. I have rarely used /etc/initd for starting, stopping or restarting services. I prefer using “service httpd start” over “/etc/initd httpd start”