

Reneal Team Meeting 6 December 2025

Topics Today

- Reneal Website Update (Erick)
- Making the Student List from Test Results
- Reneal Team US Update
- Replacement of Dead Laptops
- Open Discussion
- Schedule next meeting

Making Student List from Test Results

- Review steps

Making Student List from Test Results

- 1 Open the Excel file with the school test results from last year
- 2 Delete the rows above the header row
- 3 Delete the rows after the last student name
- 4 Rename the column “Student Name” as “Last Name”
- 5 Sort the data by “Last Name”
- 6 Insert two blank columns after the “Last Name” column
- 7 Type “Form” and “Stream” in the top row of the new columns
- 8 Type **this year's** “Form” in the row with the first name
- 9 Add the “Stream” based on the first letter of the name [AE, FJ, KN, OZ]
 - Only need to type it for the first student in that group (A, F, K, O)
- 10 Save as .csv file in /client_home/share/student_source_lists/2025

Reneal Team US Update

- Completed bash script file to update National Exam test and solution papers (this will be sent in January, along with the school visit checklist) – almost all servers will receive this update
- Received 2025 Phase 2 equipment from Apto Solutions
 - 204 laptops: 8 new schools and 44 spares

Reneal Team US Update

- Problem observed with laptop models with newer network interface (i219-LM/V) – initrd/vmlinuz files received, but couldn't bring up network interface to receive amd64.img – would hang during boot
 - Affected models included Dell 5300/5400/5500 and others (both legacy and UEFI boot) – have newer drivers
 - Used DKMS to update e1000e driver file in client image – this solved the problem

Reneal Team US Update

- But then new problems observed: track pad wouldn't work and laptop wouldn't do a clean log-out – probably also related to outdated drivers
- Challenging to update drivers in the current system because the server (4.15.0-142) and client (4.4.0-210) use different kernels
- I have decided to try to update the client kernel to 4.15.0-142, which should solve the current driver issues

Reneal Team US Update

- Updating the client kernel is a major project, so I have asked Apto Solutions to replace the 60 laptops with newer drivers with laptops that we know will boot with the current client image
- Once I get these 60 units, I can finish the shipment (hopefully still December, but depends on when I get the units)

Reneal Team US Update

- I met with my brother Randy and his colleague Scott last week (both experienced software developers)
 - Scott may be interested in helping me with Reneal work since he is now retired
- My sister-in-law's company is replacing their Dell Wyse AiO (All-in-One) Thin Clients, and they have offered them to Reneal (about 40 units)
 - These units can PXE boot and connect to the server
 - Somewhat slow but usable

Dell Wyse All-in-One Thin Client



Full-up system includes monitor, adapter, keyboard, mouse

Reneal Team US Update

- Updated monthly amounts will be sent starting 15 December, based on your new assignments
- Please, no more reminders from me on monthly reports – they are due on the 11th of each month

Replacement of Dead Laptops

- I have added a column to the file “Tanzania Project Summary.xlsx” for replacement discussion
- https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NbuqEQ_3eYNGb9pIVK5yAqBSnyxCljkf/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106667574719411153799&rtpof=true&sd=true
- We can use this to share information about what schools need replacement units – we will need to work together to keep this file and the Laptop Details file updated

Open Discussion

- Other topics?
- Next meeting in late January – final preparation discussions and checklists for February beginning-of-year school visits