

Open Source Client-Management-System opsi



opsi Linux Support

A Management Tool for Windows and Linux

The goal behind extending opsi with Linux support is to provide a comprehensive Client Management system to support heterogeneous environments. The focus is on the complete integration of both worlds into the same management process with one single tool.

This allows handling Linux installations the same way as Windows installations. The Linux opsi-client-agent is based on the same code as the Windows opsi-client-agent and uses the same commands.

Linux Distribution independent

The opsi Linux Support is distribution independent. The currently supported distributions are:

- Debian
- Ubuntu
- OpenSuse / SLES
- RedHat / CentOS
- UCS

OS Installation per Netboot

The installation of the Linux Operating System starts per Netboot at the Standard opsi-linux-bootimage (the same as the one for Windows installations).

The bootimage creates a distribution dependent answer file for the unattended OS installation. This answer file with some additions for the client-agent installation will be integrated in the ,initial ramdisk (initrd)‘.

In the next step the distribution kernel with the modified initrd is booted and the installation runs completely unattended and fully controlled by the distribution installer.



After the automatic OS installation the opsi-client-agent is now ready for the tasks of software deployment and configuration management on this client.

Based on the generic OS installation, as an option, additional opsi packages can be installed to turn the new system into an opsi-server (a new depot server for instance).

The opsi netboot products for Linux installation are released as Open Source.

opsi-client-agent for Linux

The opsi-client-agent for Windows has basically two components:

1. the opscientd service
2. the action processor opsi-winst / opsi-script

Both components work in the same way you may be used to from Windows.

The opsi-client-agent may become active at the following system states:

- System startup
- Push installation (activation via network)
- Timer controlled

The details may be configured to match your personal needs.

The Linux action processor is named opsi-script and is built from the same sources as the Windows opsi-winst. That means that for Linux, the same script language is valid with the same syntax as on Windows. Furthermore all the standard functions and commands are available, for instance:

- File handling
- string and string list functions
- executing external scripts and programs
- communicating with the opsi-server
- patching configuration files

Of course the Linux version requires no functions for patching the registry, but there also are some new Linux specific functions, like:

Software Installation and Configuration

For Windows can be said, that the installation of software is as important as the subsequent configuration of the software.

For Linux, most packages are available from the distribution repositories. So the installation part brings less work, though the configuration part stays the same.

Furthermore there are applications, which are not available through standard repositories. So eventually additional repositories or installation sources are added to the system. This can also be easily done by opsi.

The important feature is, that all installation and configuration tasks, including logging, are managed by the opsi-server.

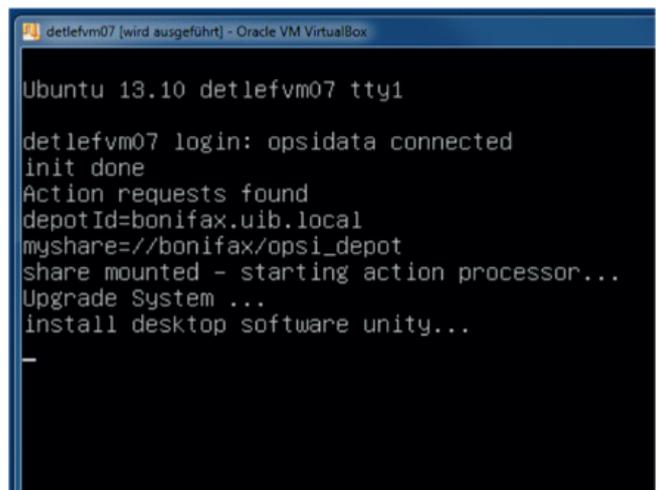
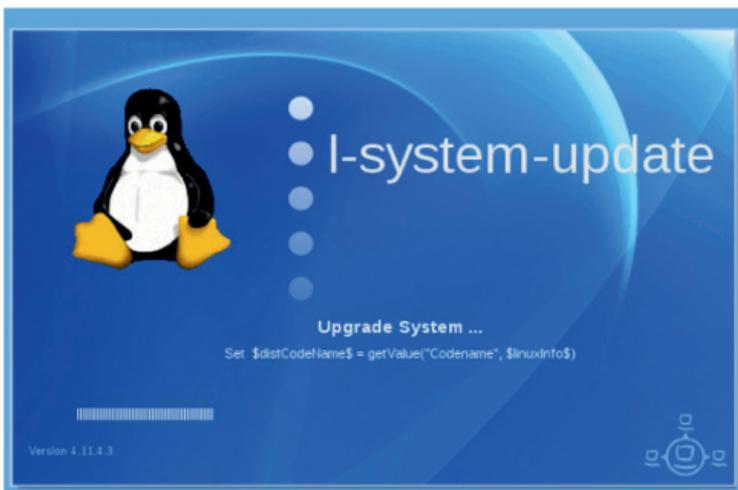
feature, in order to continue taking advantage of its benefits. The opsi-client-agent for Linux is part of the co-financing project ,Linux Agent' and liable to additional costs.

Inventory

To create and manage inventories, the inventory data is sampled by the client agent and then sent to the server. The hardware inventory is based on the methods implemented on the bootimage. The software inventory is based on the package management data of the respective distribution.

Roadmap

The opsi Linux support is subject of continuous development in order to match the development of the supported distributions. Also the functionality will be extended on demand.



- getLinuxDistroType
- getLinuxVersionMap

Logging features of the opsi-script are comparable to the logging of the Windows version.

Still different from the Windows version, the opsi-script is available as a GUI version to work under X-Windows, and a noGUI version for command line systems without GUI.

Co-financing project Linux Agent

The opsi-linux-client-agent includes 15 free starts on which the agent can be used without any activation.

This gives you the possibility to set a Linux computer with the corresponding opsi-products for the configuration needed.

For a long lasting maintenance of the installed Linux computers after the 15 free starts, it is recommended the activation of the

The opsi Linux support is used by us internally not only for the client management but also as a central part of our quality assurance infrastructure.

If you want to test the restricted modules, please contact info@uib.de and ask for a temporary activation file for evaluation.