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LINUX

16 MAY 2000

PRODUCT NEWS

Manage Large-Scale Linux Systems

VA SystemImager automatically installs, configures, and updates large numbers of Linux systems.

A new product from VA Linux is meant to automatically install, configure and update large numbers of Linux systems in Internet server farms and clusters.

The VA SystemImager 1.0 software, once installed, lets systems be incrementally updated with one command, while new security patches, software and configuration files are deployed on the "master image".

The company says this means users can easily distrbute and sync content on Internet server farms, which can change rapidly. VA SystemImager, which doesn't need a specific package format, grants users flexibility when using software, says the company.

One user, Bristol-Myers Squibb, says its Applied Genomics Department has been using VA SystemImager to update and maintain the configuration of a cluster of 32 VA Linux servers, which it uses to support genetic sequence analysis.

"The VA SystemImager tools have significantly reduced the amount of energy we need to spend administering our Linux cluster," said Nathan O. Siemers, senior research investigator in Applied Genomics at Bristol-Myers Squibb. "The ability to modify the configuration of our cluster nodes on the fly and distribute those changes easily

http://systemimager.sourceforge.net/

has turned what could have been a full-time administration problem into a manageable situation."

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