

This is an edited version ... (to remove unnecessary email addresses and phone numbers and for brevity focus on architectural decision relevant material) of the closed DIAP mailing list run between Dec 2006 and March 20th 2009.

Date: Fri, 8 Dec 2006 22:28:43 -0000 (GMT)

Subject: test

test

From ...sher@int... Sat Dec 09 01:22:22 2006

Dear all

This private mailing list is to provide information about the current progress of interlinux community archive project.

...

There have been many updates on the website www.interlinux.co.uk and now a feature where you can change your password to one that suits you as well as hugely improved security, which is what it is all about.

As ever the ftp address is still ftp:// and if you have forgotten your username or password please email me at ...sher@int....

You can use Internet Explorer to upload and download files or an ftp client such as FileZilla. Details on the website.

Damian

From ...sher@int... Fri May 18 19:21:43 2007

The project has made some more progress. The details are outlined in the new page <http://www.interlinux.co.uk/page02.html>

including defined aims and brief as well as some additional testing with a third virtual server in London's Telehouse North.

Interlinux website has also had an overhaul. ...

From ...sher@int... Sun May 20 10:45:42 2007

Dear Interlinux ftp users.

As ftp access has been static for a long time I am loathed to change the service however I need tighten security by only allowing ftp and password

change access to know ip addresses and ip address ranges. Please could you forward me you ip address if you still want to use the project so I can add you to the list.

I you don't have a static ip address then access via FTPS / SFTP or WebDav will be available as soon as I can - this may need a server re-build.

Damian Brasher.

From ...sher@int... Sun Oct 07 18:49:46 2007

Dear users / testers and interested parties,

I have now shifted activity for the interlinux archive project to a downloaded product designed to help me and the wider Open Source community and described at www.diap.org.uk.

This means that users need to retrieve their data and I will be closing down the user ftp access in four weeks time. Please can you inform me when you have cleared out files.

There are a couple of family members that will continue to ftp access but this will be a reduced ad-hoc personal service.

Thanks you all very much for helping and providing feedback over the last three years, without your help I could not have written the first version of the DIAP package which is in alpha phase and a working utility.

To provide a product is a natural progression to the development and a much safer and less resource intensive method to communicate the ideas the project has let unfold.

This mailing list is being turned over to DIAP development and interested parties if you wish to unsubscribe please use this link:

Damian

--

www.diap.org.uk "X between a data stick / cddvdrw / tape and shared drive"

personal e: ...sher@int...

work e: ...sher@ec...

websites www.diap.org.uk www.interlinux.co.uk

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All mail scanned by clam-av <http://www.clamav.net/>

From ...sher@int... Tue Oct 16 18:50:19 2007

...

DIAP version 0.2.0 released - much increased automation of setup scripts,
smoother install of prototype available.

www.diap.org.uk

personal e: ...sher@int...

work e: ...sher@ec...

websites www.diap.org.uk www.interlinux.co.uk

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From ...sher@int... Fri Oct 19 13:45:08 2007

Dear users / testers and observers,

I have updated the main README.pdf and described the seven days as just a
containment for prototyping as well as another optimization that will
enable the goals outlined to be achievable.

The prototype is now described as a partially working prototype and not
designed to mislead.

I intend to leave as is now for a couple of weeks to let things "ackle" :)

www.diap.org.uk

Damian

Aiming to protect mission critical data: 'You can't afford to lose...'

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From ...sher@int... Sun Nov 11 15:27:22 2007

Dear users / testers and observers,

Here is a summary of download statistics for the Interlinux and DIAP Open
Source offerings:-

#####

Report: dbrasher

Report Name: Downloads

Date Range: 01/05/2007 - 11/11/2007

#####

/files/user_ctrl_scripts.tar	296	(LDAP login kit)
/files/web_template.zip	49	(Website template)
/files/README.pdf	40	(DIAP readme)
/files/dsi-0.1-alpha-src.tar	21	(Space invader clone C source)
/files/diap_v020.tar	20	(Latest DIAP kit - released 16th Oct 07)
/files/diap_v01.tar	12	
/HantsLugTrainingBoF.pdf	10	
/files/dsi-0.1-win-bin.zip	9	
/files/diap_v011.tar	8	
/files/diap_v012.tar	5	

DIAP now has a freshmeat entry:-

<http://freshmeat.net/projects/distributedinternetarchiveprotocol/>

www.diap.org.uk

Damian

Aiming to protect mission critical data: 'You can't afford to lose...'

All mail scanned by clam-av <http://www.clamav.net/>

From ...sher@int... Fri Dec 07 19:12:09 2007

...

DIAP releases have been written in bash script, I am investigating other languages and their future viability, there is a strong chance the project will continue to be written in bash however thoughts on the following languages would be welcome especially for:

- *Portability across platforms
- *Network handling capabilities
- *Handling of native Linux tools
- *Web interface for monitoring
- *Finding other programmers to help with the project

Listed in order of additional learning curve - for me:)

Only: Bash, Perl, Php, Java, Python or Forth

Or perhaps a combination?

Eg. if someone wants to commit to helping out on a particular area of the

project and they know Perl well then I would be happy to use Perl for some or part of the project.

Damian

From ...sher@int... Fri Feb 01 12:44:34 2008

Dear List members

It's been a busy few months and there are plenty of developments that will improve DIAP testing platform and development:

*The DIAP trademark registration has been listed in the online UK IP journal and unless there is opposition then the registration will be complete by the summer.

<http://webdb2.patent.gov.uk/tm/t-journal/t-tmj/journals/6719/domestic/t-tmj-domestic-6719.html>

*ECS have allowed me to use some webspace at <http://www....> which I forward from www.diap.org.uk.

*PIPEX ADSL line I use has been regraded and is now 6Mbps DS and 588Kbs US.

*I have a new VPS (Virtual Private Server) provided a low cost by the ECS postmaster with a huge 111G hard drive and high bandwidth allowance as it resides within the JANET network. I now have three servers across the Internet for 3 node DIAP deployment and testing.

*I am waiting for all my DOMAIN names to be transferred from www.amenworld.com to <http://www.blacknight.ie/> to save money and improve flexibility.

*The project will continue to be written in bash as bash had good prototyping qualities and then gradually re-write parts in Perl.

*I attended 2007 IBM Hursley Lecture: The Many Uses of Images in Healthcare and was interested in the secure distribution of medical images between consultants.

http://www.soton.ac.uk/mediacentre/news/2007/oct/07_128.shtml

*I am attending, for my day job, this Seminar <http://www.ukuug.org/events/seminars/fab/> Unix 'Files and Backup' however it will be useful for DIAP development and good backgrounding.

*So next job is to improve the DIAP documentation and then continue with testing and development.

Damian

www.diap.org.uk

Aiming to protect mission critical data: 'You can't afford to lose...'

From ...sher@int... Mon Mar 03 08:03:14 2008

Dear List members

I gave an informal lightning talk at the UKUUG (UK Unix Users Group) Files and Backup seminar introducing DIAP. The talk was at the end of the two day seminar held in London, attended with a colleague from ECS and speakers included Red Hat, Sun, Novell, Cambridge University amongst others.

My talk as well received, only 3-4 minutes, a couple of nice rounds of applause:) and a book for my trouble as I volunteered this talk.

I also gleaned plenty of very useful information from the seminar.

Day two - voice recordings and slides have not been uploaded to the UKUUG website yet so I have uploaded the slides to www.diap.org.uk. When day two slides and voice recordings have been made available I'll link to them.

Slides (pdf):- http://www.diap.ecs.soton.ac.uk/DIAP_TALK.pdf
UKUUG FAB:- <http://www.ukuug.org/events/seminars/fab/programme/>

The DIAP strapline / mission statement has now been changed to include the mechanical view of what DIAP does, a 'virtual auto-changer'. DIAP is attempting to achieve what large, hugely expensive mechanical tape library auto-changers do.

Damian

www.diap.org.uk

The virtual auto-changer (Aiming to protect mission critical data: 'You can't afford to lose...')

From ...sher@int... Tue Mar 11 17:54:47 2008

...

I have just realised that using 'The Virtual auto-changer' in my strap line / mission statement is not the most accurate description of DIAP's

intentions, the term is also already in use, however the term 'Hyper-virtual autochanger' is not and is in fact a more implicit than the former.

Hyper implying a greater level of virtual or another layer of abstraction built into the tool which is truer in this case than a 'Virtual auto-changer' which still involves tape drives in any case.

I think it is worth having a statement like this to encapsulate the essence of what the prototype tool is trying to do.

So I am using:

"Hyper-virtual auto-changer... and so on

Previously:-

"The Virtual auto-changer... and so on

Damian

From ...sher@int... Tue Mar 11 18:13:05 2008

Dear List members

I have just realised that using 'The Virtual auto-changer' in my strap line / mission statement is not the most accurate description of DIAP's intentions, the term is also already in use, however the term 'Hyper-virtual autochanger' is not and is in fact a more implicit than the former.

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I think it is worth having a statement like this to encapsulate the essence of what the prototype tool is trying to do.

So I am using:

"Hyper-virtual auto-changer... and so on

Previously:-

"The Virtual auto-changer... and so on

Damian

From ...sher@int... Wed Mar 19 13:06:44 2008

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

Hash: SHA1

Dear List Members

The latest, Easter Break, completed tasks for DIAP (c/o. Interlinux LTD):-

* UK Trade mark, DIAP, ownership transfer request to Interlinux LTD from a personal application has been sent, form TM16. I have checked with the IPO and they have confirmed that no opposition to the mark has been filed, currently published since January 18th 2008 in the UK trade mark journal, leaving under 30 days before the Trade Mark DIAP is live.

* Clarification on www.diap.org.uk that all DIAP assets, (IP, Domains, hardware, drawn plans) belong to Interlinux LTD.

* Clarification on www.diap.org.uk that all work has been undertaken so far has been in my spare time...

* The above to ensure that in the future a) the project is accountable in terms of Tax b) To protect past and future earnings for share holders, including myself. c) To protect contributors to the project so that their work is recognised in the correct manner. d) If there was to be partial or full project acquisition by another organisation then their acquisition is fully accountable.

* All Domain information has been verified and updated with Nominet including ownership, Registrars, Registration and TAG TAG is BLACKNIGHT-IE, this information is currently propagating through DNS as I write.

*Blacknight web-hosting purchased, diap.org.uk domain is now residing with Blacknight as well as interlinux.co.uk. Temporary space with ECS in reserve but not used.

* Email MX forwarding has also been adjusted to accommodate the domain ISP and host changes.

* The latest download statistics available on www.interlinux.co.uk front page.

* All project electronic and paper records files and checked, including

accounts, certificates of ownership and registration, company records, paper plans, receipts and so on for easy access and retrieval.

* 'Cite them right' the essential guide to referencing and plagiarism purchased. JISC Plagiarism Advisory Service.

* Recent systems logs recording Interlinux office system and network activity archives created.

Now for a bit of a rest before continuing with technical development:)

Damian

- - -

personal e: ...sher@int...
websites www.diap.org.uk www.interlinux.co.uk
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-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----

Version: GnuPG v1.2.4 (GNU/Linux)

iD8DBQFH4Q/jOJ/AxqomAe0RApIhAJ9PkaBEKfYXcpwgOYZkjM3kE7bdrwCfSYns
Gs2WD/G4Yk0djeiYx6u1zJw=
=MX4q

-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

From ...sher@int... Thu Mar 20 00:27:21 2008

Hi List,

Before I settle down and holiday for the rest of the Easter break I have introduced this paragraph to the DIAP website to explain a trend I have only now been able to test and propose, it's not rocket science but adds more weight to the DIAP proposal:-

"Observing my email archive, at 272MBytes, having never deleted an email permanently and the file, /mail, has been in use for 4 years. During this time my available xDSL line Bandwidth has increased, 2004 500Mbits/sec to 1Gbit/sec, 2007 1Gbit/sec to 6Gbits/Sec this is approx. 150% yearly increase whereas my mailbox has increased yearly by approx. 50%. It is this difference which DIAP attempts to use classing my email record as 'mission critical'. Other record types will increase at different rates but probably less than the average yearly bandwidth increase. This idea needs expanding but forms the foundation for the usefulness of DIAP,

describing a DIAP rule of thumb."

I will slice up my mail box by year to calculate the exact yearly increase, 50% is probably close.

The bottom line is that it can only get better:)

Damian

From ...sher@int... Sun Mar 23 13:21:26 2008

<http://www.diap.org.uk> has been completely revamped with menus etc. I am hoping this is much easier on the eye than the previous page and better organised.

This is in readiness for the next main release which is hoped to be a working prototype, I am currently preparing it for code with the release planned for Wednesday.

Off to peel some veggies:)

Damian

From ...sher@int... Tue Mar 25 17:31:04 2008

Hi List,

- *version 0.3.0 alpha released.
- *latest refined README.pdf worked example uploaded to theory section.
- *website refined after recent update.

The latest version is a theoretically working prototype that should be a useful utility to an experienced Linux/Unix Sys Admin. As the release is fresh full testing will take a ... cover the 30 day cycle it invokes.

Damian

From ...sher@int... Thu Mar 27 21:34:59 2008

Hi List,

- *version 0.3.1 alpha released.

27/03/08 - Fixed trivial error that stopped data transfer, due to incorrect node label in crontabs

27/03/08 - source files not removed for first month, tab_a.sh
--remove-source-files deleted, ensures a FULL backup remains on node A for recovery.

27/03/08 - Test dev switches to speed up cycle to hourly in config.
Crontabs 3 extra variables.

Damian

From ...sher@int... Fri Mar 28 17:39:56 2008

Hi List,

Last of the big missing pieces for the project is the diagrammatic (JPEG not ASCII;)overview.

Can be viewed here:

<http://www.diap.org.uk/diagram.html>

Also an improved title page background image based on the Mancala game - One of my favourites, (Not a replacement to the Logo - that's stays of course).

Damian

From ...sher@int... Mon Mar 31 18:41:00 2008

Hi List,

*version 0.3.2 alpha released.

*Change Log available here: http://www.diap.org.uk/change_log.html

*Website has been updated and the front page is less 'wordy' with an image insert. DVTL has been clarified as an emerging result of this research.

*Freshmeat has been updated and the new release will be posted on the front page tonight or tomorrow.

*Internet activity, downloads statistics, hits visits and page views can be viewed here <http://www.diap.org.uk/awstats/> (as you can see traffic is high for just a week using this website and new Blacknight server!

Damian

From ...sher@int... Tue Apr 01 10:19:21 2008

Hi List,

Just wanted to let you all know that the prototype is **working** in development mode and reflected so on the website.

Tests at home are running successfully.

I am giving a short talk on Saturday about DIAP to Hants Lug then taking a break from development for a couple of weeks, monitoring community feedback before pursuing the next release.

Damian

From ...sher@int... Wed Apr 02 21:47:33 2008

Hi List,

I am really chuffed to say that DIAP has been formally 'boiler plated' and the Internet Draft is now in the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) database. It should be available for search at <http://www.rfc-editor.org/index.html> soon. If not I have a copy on diap.org.uk.

<http://www.diap.org.uk/protocol.html>

There is plenty of work to turn the ID into an RFC (the full IETF standard, request for comments) but this does mean the 'DIAP Engine' is closer to becoming an **industry standard**.

This is the confirmation:-

A new version of I-D, draft-brasher-diap-00.txt has been successfully submitted by

Damian Brasher and posted to the IETF repository.

Filename: draft-brasher-diap

Revision: 00

Title: Distributed Internet Archive Protocol (DIAP)

Creation_date: 2008-04-02

WG ID: Independent Submission

Number_of_pages: 9

Abstract:

A de-centralised, self-contained and managed storage protocol. A system to provide strong storage fail over by using existing

resources over networks distributing vital data evenly. Rapid deployment and high redundancy for small to medium organisations as well as individuals. Designed to reduce dependency on tape backup systems. The protocol also has implications for long term archiving. By classifying data vitality values the limitations in physical space due to bandwidth constrictions can be overcome and the usefulness of DIAP maximised.

The IETF Secretariat.

Damian

From ...sher@int... Tue Apr 08 20:10:11 2008

Hi List,

I presented another short talk for Hampshire Lug group Saturday (after a longer talk about another Open Source backup solution widely in use). It was more in depth than last time and there were some in depth and challenging question afterwards - I believe the answers I gave were complete and felt the audience were left with some though provoking material.

The talks were not recorded as the camera man was away early, new born ...

The slides (much updated from the UKUUG talk) are available from Hants lug Wiki:

<http://www.hantslug.org.uk/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?TechTalks>

I have also updated the credits on the About page of the website, if any contributor thinks these should be adjusted please let me know off list.

<http://www.diap.org.uk/about.html>

Damian

...sher@int...

From ...sher@int... Tue Apr 15 17:43:25 2008

Hi List,

just wanted to make readers and for the record aware of 4 focus areas:

1) To market DIAP to *Accounts* an area that will be explored and

advertised is the *potential reduction* of a target organisations insurance premiums in relation to data protection. Other marketing threads to be investigated.

2) DIAP Trademark will be fully registered Sat 19th, so Monday the 21st for sake of argument.

3) IETF working group (WG) needs to be decided on (which hanger to reside in), there are many to target but this is required if DIAP is to follow a *standards track* to RFC rather than become an experimental RFC.

I am investigating possible WG's and will contact the technical advisers of each to ensure a best fit. Currently DIAP-ID is metaphorically on the taxi/runway waiting to be sent to the right hanger/terminal.

4) Coding in Perl is likely to commence in June; use of SVN through Source Forge will be setup before hand at the same time as real world deployment testing.

NB: Font size on website has been reduced slightly.

Damian

From ...sher@int... Fri Apr 25 15:16:06 2008

Progress has been made in several areas:

*DIAP (R) is now assigned in full No. 2466480 and visible on the website and on the DIAP Logo.

*My line Manager and other senior staff at ECS - Southampton University have given me permission to apply for a ... month development grant with Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) (1-1/2 days per week outside my normal role) subject to the below:

*The above bid is subject to general agreement and clarification of IP (Intellectual Property) rights pre (background IP), during (foreground IP) and post funding (Exploitation rights).

*I have discussed IPR with several people with the correct knowledge and have a meeting with the University Enterprise and Innovation Centre next week as well as a meeting with the ECS enterprise officer.

...

...

*Systems will benefit from the Community product located at www.diap.org.uk as will the Open Source Community and Interlinux LTD as a backup solution.

...

*interlinux.co.uk points to www.diap.org.uk.

*Coding will now continue in Perl with release 0.4 alpha.

Damian

From ...sher@int... Thu May 15 18:14:46 2008

Hi List members

There are a number of items to announce;

* The funding proposal to JISC has not yet been written as I am waiting from CEI (University Center of Enterprise and Innovation) to provide me with a 'Heads of Terms' agreement. I spoke to the adviser Monday and something should be with me soon. This includes and IPR and License evaluation.

* The website has been worked on some more, the graphics and wording now include philosophy behind the latest architecture. The site has been streamlined to stay focused and the main logo has a new strap-line 'robust archive system'. <http://www.diap.org.uk>

* The architecture has been improved to accommodate the above philosophy and released under FDL. You can read the philosophy on the front page of the site.

* The mathematics of the system are now very simple and this is good news as the algorithm that has developed is doing it's job.
<http://www.diap.org.uk/theory.html>

* The website viewing statistics page is now private but I will send a stats report out later this month.

* I have ordered a PO (Post Office Box) for Interlinux LTD to keep my home address private for all further online documentation, Companies House and other correspondence.

* I intend to release a final Alpha prototype to accommodate the recent

architectural enhancements, ver.0.3.3 in bash script then it will be Perl for the next DAIP alpha release series (0.4.0).

* Finally I have been investigating De-Duplication as an extra feature of DIAP. DeDuping has enormous potential to increase the efficiency of DIAP.

Damian

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personal e: ...sher@int...
work e: ...sher@ec...
websites www.diap.org.uk www.interlinux.co.ukk
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From ...sher@int... Thu May 15 18:40:52 2008

Hi List members

I think it is worth adding that the potential *financial gains* made when using DIAP have also been outlined on the front page <http://www.diap.org.uk>

This is future proofing but also relevant I believe, there is a strong chance that DIAP may use a dual or more license model, in other words those that can afford to use the production product will pay for the privilege (i.e. very large organisations) of not having a restricted GPL type license but those that cannot afford to (Charities, Universities and Schools) can without penalty, apart from being legally obliged to make their improvements available to the rest of the community, use the GPL'ed version.

Open Source and Open standards are a way of developing strong security standards based on the principle that many eyes make strong security possible. While DIAP is not a cryptographic algorithm I feel the principle still holds true for backup software.

Here is a quote from the Open Source Watch UK:-

[*] "Trade-secret cryptographic algorithms have a long history of being both weak and leaked to the public. The tendency to weakness is due to the fact that the only known reliable way to determine the strength of cryptographic algorithm is to have a large number of cryptographers examine it which is not possible to do while keeping it a trade-secret."

[*] <http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk/resources/security.xml>

Damian

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websites www.diap.org.uk www.interlinux.co.uk
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From ...sher@int... Fri May 16 20:53:31 2008

Hi List members

Privacy measures have been ...

...

Better to be safe than sorry I think:-)

PO Box is now registered and will be used for:-

Interlinux Ltd
PO Box 1623
SOUTHAMPTON
SO15 9AE

...

Damian

From ...sher@int... Mon May 19 06:04:11 2008

Hi List members

18/05/08 version 0.3.3 Pre-alpha released.
18/05/08 Refined architecture, worksheet amended.
18/05/08 Diagram updated.
18/05/08 Refined architecture, worksheet uploaded.

All available from <http://www.diap.org.uk>

Damian

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work e: ...sher@ec...
websites www.diap.org.uk www.interlinux.co.uk

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All mail scanned by clam-av <http://www.clamav.net/>

From ...sher@int... Thu May 22 20:35:25 2008

...

March: 177 Unique visits, more than one page - non webcrawler or bot

April: 139

May: 175

Total non google bot type (human) hits: 5972

Downloads of 0.3.3 (26) since Monday morning.

Freshmeat 2,341 record hits and 607 main website click through.

DIAP has been registered anonymously to other Linux script watch sites (thank you however that was:) including <http://www.linuxlinks.com/>.

Damian

From ...sher@int... Mon Jun 02 21:33:57 2008

Hi List

(Survey designed for Hants Lug forward to DIAP (R) list members.

Following on from 'Big home backups' thread and the continued DIAP (R) effort to which I will continue to feedback into the OSS communities - I invite Hants Lug members to complete a 4 question, generic and anonymous survey; IP's are not stored and more than one survey per IP is allowed.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=YgorpQ5jv9FNNfBw_2fsnu0Q_3d_3d

password: *****

Identifying what data is important to you as an individual or your organisation is *hard* and [organisation (individual) specific] therefore the answer needs a some thought. Depending on 'value' placed on data and the 'value' if the data was completely lost; financial cost of recovery, time, damage or emotional cost or a mixture of these are the consequence.

For the sake of this survey I assume you decide the value of data and it's relative importance.

The survey may help you to rationalise your own backup requirements. You will need to read question 3 carefully and may need a pen and paper to follow through.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=YgorpQ5jv9FNNfBw_2fsnu0Q_3d_3d

password: *****

Thanks for your time and I will post an analysis of the results in a 7-14 days or as soon as I have a good data set.

Please forward this link to whoever you think may be interested including other lists.

--

Damian L Brasher
<http://www.diap.org.uk>

From ...sher@int... Thu Jun 19 19:52:46 2008

I have now received the voice recording from the lightning talk I gave on the 20th February 08 in London at the UKUUG Files and Backup Seminar.

About 4 minutes and 4MB to download here is the link for the mp3:-

http://www.diap.org.uk/files/talks/ukuugfab_diap_lightning_talk_20th_feb.mp3

This is talk pre-recent developments but projects the essence of DIAP.

Perl learning ongoing and I expect the first alpha-development version to be ready by the end of the summer.

Damian

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personal e: ...sher@int...
website <http://www.diap.org.uk>
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From ...sher@int... Sun Jul 06 21:02:44 2008

Version 02 of the ID for IETF has been released.
<http://www.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-brasher-diap-02.txt>

Apart from some minor adjustments to the acknowledgments to bring them

inline with the website: <http://www.diap.org.uk/about.html>.

...

Damian

personal e: ...sher@int...
website www.diap.org.uk
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From ...sher@int... Fri Aug 15 13:30:23 2008

The summer period has been filled with holidays and a bit of rest however I have a few pieces of news:

*I now have a straightforward generic sentence to describe what DIAP does:

"Quick and low-cost way to make an environment more robust by backing up data in multiple places."

...

Damian

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personal e: ...sher@int...
website www.diap.org.uk
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From ...sher@int... Wed Aug 20 12:15:50 2008

Pilot survey results:

Following on from a survey I posted back in June, see below, designed to help make decisions about data vitality and importance to individuals and organisations, as well as find out a little bit more about the relationship between the importance of data types and their size, I have some results to publish. The survey was exclusive to Hants Lug and deliberately kept low key and has been a very useful exercise even though the number of participants has been relatively small - but very good for such a small readership, quality not quantity.

Results analysis:-

*So from just this small pilot survey I can deduce qualitatively with reasonable certainty that importance of data, subjective to the individual or organisation, does not depend heavily on the data type.

*That importance of data in relation to file size is loosely inversely

proportional. So the most important files are generally the smallest in size. This is very encouraging information for the DIAP (R) project.

6 Participants:

Question 1)

Rate FIVE of these DATA TYPES if they were lost completely how best describes the effect to your users (and or yourself) organisation or home occupants.

Results:

*total damage - cost crippling - traumatic

2 [participants specified] Documents
1 Presentations
1 Photographs
1 Email boxes on a server
2 Code repository
1 Website code

*massive damage high cost - devastating

1 Spreadsheets
1 .txt files
1 Email boxes on a server

*major damage very costly - extremely upsetting

1 pdf documents
1 Photographs

*significant damage - significant cost very upsetting

1 Spreadsheets
2 Accounting Software data
1 Photographs
1 server configuration files
1 music files
1 Virtual machine images

*damage expensive - annoying

1 Documents
1 pdf documents

- 1 MS .pst file
- 1 Email boxes on a server
- 1 music files
- 1 ISO images
- 1 Virtual machine images
- 1 Code repository

Question 2)

Size the FIVE choices you made in the previous question

Results:

1-100 MB	8 items
>100 MB - 500 MB	1 item
>500 MB - 1 GB	8 items
>1 GB - 10 GB	8 items
>10 GB - 50 GB	0 items
>50 GB - 100 GB	2 items
> 100 GB	1 item

I thanked those that took part and those that provided feedback and constructive criticism also thanks to HL ML readers for living with the thread. I will now design a new survey with some sort of incentive and float this to a much larger audience. The results I have are enough to incorporate a DIAP (R) decision matrix on the project website.

-----snip June 08-----

- > Identifying what data is important to you as an individual or your organisation is *hard* and [organisation (individual) specific] therefore
- > the answer needs a some thought. Depending on 'value' placed on data and
- > the 'value' if the data was completely lost; financial cost of recovery,
- > time, damage or emotional cost or a mixture of these are the consequence.

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Damian L Brasher

<http://www.diap.org.uk> - Quick and low-cost way to make an environment more robust by backing up data in multiple places.

Damian

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personal e: ...sher@int...
website www.diap.org.uk
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From ...sher@int... Thu Oct 16 23:35:59 2008

I have deployed some SourceForge facilities to assist with development:

SVN - Subversion for version control and consistent source repository.

Checkout for read only non-members:

All one line:-

svn co <https://diap.svn.sourceforge.net/svnroot/diap/> diap

More SVN information:

<http://www.diap.org.uk/download.html>

Additional mailing lists at:

(This list will remain as it is for the time being)

...

More information:

<http://www.diap.org.uk/lists.html>

Damian

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From ...sher@int... Mon Oct 27 11:37:06 2008

Regarding collaboration between Interlinux LTD, and it's sole product, DIAP(R), and recent attempts to build a funding initiative and collaboration with OMII-UK within ECS, Southampton University.

After meeting with the collaboration support manager from the Universities Research & Innovation Services and revisiting the Heads of Terms document, originally drafted early 2008, designed to allow funding collaboration to take place using a formal in-licence on receipt of appropriate funds.

Interlinux LTD board decided with a 100% majority to proceed and accept the revised terms. This effectively means a ... funding application bid can be submitted.

Damian

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From ...sher@int... Fri Oct 31 17:18:35 2008

1) New introduction title.

...

1) Advanced backup volume management is the new introduction title of the DIAP project. <http://www.diap.org.uk>.

Advanced backup volume management is a technically accurate and meaningful to the average systems administrator, a subset of the target market, I believe. The distributed nature of the system is still and will remain as crucial function of the project and is reflected so in the acronym and trademark DIAP(R).

2) After a recent meeting with an academic on behalf of academics interested in archiving within the IAM group we clarified areas of interest then placed them into distinct subsets of the much broader area of repository preservation environments, archiving, backup and distributed storage.

DIAP(R) clearly exists in distributed backup and archiving space where the academics within IAM are heavily monitoring and researching the area of distributed storage working with several companies, academics and organisations in the field. Distributed storage in this sense is aimed towards a different but possibly overlapping market than that of DIAP.

Convergence in our interests could occur in the future at the abstract management layer of policy making. DIAP is a package and structure in the sense that a product/system is being designed and built to satisfy the immediate needs of the problem binding native tools and existing technologies. We discussed why DIAP is not re-inventing the wheel and why it is a hybrid machine.

We will meet again at the end of November to ensure our funding proposals are complementary ...

DIAP then deals with compression, encryption, error checking, long term, robust and secure management and retrieval of the volumes and subsequently

data objects within them.

Damian

--

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From ...sher@int... Wed Nov 05 17:43:06 2008

I have created an improved diagrammatic overview of DIAP - the previous was out of date. This version says a lot more and provides the reader with essential information as well as being prettier and anti-aliased.

<http://www.diap.org.uk/diagram.html>

or

<http://diap.svn.sourceforge.net/viewvc/diap/diap/docs/overview.jpg?revision=18&view=markup>

-- Damian.

From ...sher@int... Fri Nov 21 21:43:13 2008

DIAP website has a new logo design, many thanks to Stuart Mackenzie (Step Son) the 'Mac Man' for his work on this, a big improvement on the previous but a variation on the original design nonetheless.

<http://www.diap.org.uk>

-- Damian

From ...sher@int... Tue Dec 02 21:05:33 2008

Hi List,

IETF contribution draft-brasher-diap-03.txt, has been released. This, importantly, includes the architecture reworking completed earlier in May this year.

<http://www.diap.org.uk/protocol.html>

There is plenty of work to turn the ID into an RFC, nothing is set in stone yet but the structures and design is solidifying (RFC, the full IETF standard, request for comments) but this does mean the 'DIAP Engine' is closer to becoming standard.

Here is the IETF link:

<http://www.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-brasher-diap-03.txt>

This is the confirmation:

A new version of I-D, draft-brasher-diap-03.txt has been successfully submitted by
Damian Brasher and posted to the IETF repository.

Filename: draft-brasher-diap
Revision: 03
Title: Distributed Internet Archive Protocol (DIAP)
Creation_date: 2008-12-02
WG ID: Independent Submission
Number_of_pages: 12

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From ...sher@int... Fri Dec 05 16:45:22 2008

The process to obtain government funding to further the technical development of DIAP has commenced. Intellectual Property sharing provisional agreements have been accepted by all collaborative partners.

I will now cease (public) development during the application bid process to avoid muddying the waters, to keep the goal posts in the same place for the executives and all partners involved.

I'll inform this list of the result of this funding bid around January/February 09.

Have a great Xmas and New Year.

-- Damian

From ...sher@int... Fri Dec 26 16:41:59 2008

In preparation for submission of a JISC grant funding application I have updated the project credits - if there are any one mentioned...

Damian Brasher

RHCE BSc (Maths-IT) MBCS - Engineering, research, design, code and author of Internet Draft for IETF. DIAP is developed in my free time, I am a full

time systems administrator on a ... term contract to OMII-UK at ECS Southampton University. Damian is also studying at systems architect grade with Red Hat GLS.

Marisa (wife) MSc-Professional Studies, and many thanks for fantastic support. Marisa works as a skills development leader for Learning Curve.

Myles McClelland MSc-Management FBCS - Part sponsor, involved with early conceptual design, project management advice and valuable technical reasoning as well as physical server maintenance, data storage and transfer tests. ...

Richard Brasher Financial Advice. Richard works for a large multi-national.

Stuart - (BTec Design) DIAP B.Tree Logo.

Stephen Pelc Small business consulting. Stephen runs and owns MPEForth.

Other individuals Thanks to a number of individuals from various groups for their advice and constructive criticism.

Assets and Intellectual property

Are owned, managed and registered in the name of Interlinux LTD in turn owned by the named partners above apart from Stuart - Trading services can be put in place when necessary. This is a part-time project and will remain so for the foreseeable future. Delivery is and will remain Open Source.

- <http://www.diap.org.uk/about.html> -

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From ...sher@int... Thu Jan 01 21:55:35 2009

Developing this distributed project, DIAP, in conjunction with the OMII-UK <http://www.omii.ac.uk> brand here is a fuller explanation for the record; Please forward to associates or colleagues if relevant.

DIAP's association with OMII-UK will help mitigate unforeseen large and minor technical difficulties and therefore reduce the overall project risk. DIAP technical development will share some of the problems distributed software writers and maintainers face, importantly; openness,

network agility, deployment in heterogeneous environments, using network links of varying latencies therefore unpredictable failures in the network.

Association specifically means access to technical resources both electronic and human. OMII-UK is an organisation with deep understanding of the nature of and difficulties faced by, open distributed systems - DIAP aims to be transparent, open and scalable. OMII-UK are also experienced maintainers of Open Source software and adhere to Open Source development methodology, including licence management and integration, which will be of value to DIAP development. Security within distributed computing can be very difficult and another area where OMII-UK has been successful in overcoming specific problems for the GRID and eScience communities.

DIAP is a generic project in a sense of the intended user base but to spend some development time as a GRID/eScience satellite project is taking advantage of the distributed computing mindset, the specific benefits of doing so are outlined above, that OMII-UK has fostered over the years. Even if DIAP in years to come does not retain strong links with OMII-UK.

Damian

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From ...sher@int... Wed Feb 11 12:02:24 2009

Submission of a funding proposal for six months part-time (day time) DIAP development beginning in April and ending in September for JISC has been approved by Southampton University (ECS) and successfully submitted last night.

I expect the result at the end of March.

-- Damian

From ...sher@int... Fri Mar 20 11:04:49 2009

I'm very proud and grateful to have the opportunity to further technical development of DIAP(DIASER-Distributed Internet Archive System for Educational Repositories) with a small team within (OMII-UK)ECS for the next seven months. ... My role within OMII-UK will be split between my normal duties as a systems administrator.

The collaboration will continue the endeavour to deliver a valuable product to the relevant OSS communities by November.

This list is **now closed** and I invite you to join any of these lists:

<http://www.diap.org.uk/lists.html>

www.diap.org.uk

Thanks you for your readership and look forward to your continued involvement as the project matures.

Damian Brasher