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Operating Systems Common on the Internet

The Internet is a wide and vast mixture of computers on both the client and server side of the operating systems. If one was to look at the Internet as a hole and try to look at the different operating systems it would be a collage of all the operating systems currently available to day.

For the client side of operating systems, people who log onto the Internet and request web pages to be displayed on there own personal computers, of the three most common operating systems of MAC, Microsoft, and Linux the most popular operating system is Microsoft. Now within the Microsoft operating systems family you have currently on the Internet Microsoft Windows 95, Microsoft Windows 97, Microsoft Windows ME, Microsoft Windows 2000, and Microsoft Windows XP. Now out of those operating systems the most common operating system is Microsoft Windows XP. The reason for this is the gamming industry. In today's market of computers there are two power houses that drive people to buy new computers the first power house is the newest and lasted games in the market place and the second power house is people trying to keeping up with the Joneses. The reason that the gaming industry is the biggest power house is every person that buys a computer will buy some type of game for that computer and with the gamming industry pushing the envelope of processors and video cards consumers want the most realistic games they can find. This includes every thing from a simple yet complex chess game Fritz 7, who by the way tied the world's chess champion last year in a seven game match, to the newest flight simulator and even a first person shooting games.

Now on the server side of the Internet, the computers who store the web pages clients request to see, the operating systems are Microsoft, MAC, UNIX, and Linux. Out of these four families of operating systems the most common operating systems is a coin toss between Microsoft

and UNIX. In the Microsoft server operating systems you have Microsoft NT 4, Microsoft NT 5, Microsoft Server 2000, and Microsoft Server 2003. Now out of the family of Microsoft the most common operating system for web page deployment onto the Internet is Microsoft 2000. The reasons for this is with Microsoft 2000 companies are able to employ a tool which was not available in earlier versions of Microsoft Servers and because of this tool most Microsoft servers are now Microsoft 2000 servers. The tool I am talking about is Active Directory. Now this tool has nothing to do with the Internet but the benefits from this tool made everyone change the operating systems from Microsoft NT 4 or Microsoft NT 5 to Microsoft Server 2000. Now onto the other side of the coin the UNIX family of computers. In this family you have MAC server X, Linux, Digital UNIX, HP UNIX, Berkeley UNIX, and AT&T UNIX. Berkeley UNIX, and AT&T UNIX are the core UNIX of a several different flavors of UNIX but these two UNIX operating systems are the parents of all the different flavors of UNIX on the market today. If I was to pick the number one operating system in the UNIX family that is on the server side of the Internet I would pick the Berkeley UNIX operating system because it is the most popular UNIX operating system out today. With the Berkeley UNIX operating system you have a few children that use this as the core to there own company operation system I am talking about HP UNIX and HP UNIX is used in a lot of companies for there main computer and there web server.

With all of the different operating systems for the server possible one starts to wonder what makes companies decide between a Microsoft Server and a UNIX Server. One possible reason is for security concerns because with a Microsoft Server one must remember to install patches when they are released or there server my become under the control of a Hacker but with a UNIX Server the likely hood of this server being broken into from the stand pointy of a weakness in the security of the server is significantly reduced because the UNIX operating system has been around for a very long time in the life of the Internet where as the Microsoft Server is still a child when it come to the

life of the Internet. A second possible reason for choosing a Microsoft Server over a UNIX Server is the fact that Microsoft has a GUE environment for the System Administrators as with a UNIX server being a command line operating system. System Administrators today are not as comfortable working in a command line environment as the System Administrators of the past and for this one reason Microsoft Servers are becoming more dominant on the Internet and over taking the UNIX Server as being the number one server chosen for the web page server.

With the Internet being such a collage of different operation system on the server side and on the client side one starts to wonder how anything can happen on the Internet and it also makes one relies how important having a simple standard like TCP/IP can make all of the different operating systems work seamlessly behind the curtain of what people call the Internet.