

MS-373
Advanced Unix & Systems Administration
Term Paper Report and Presentation

During our course-long investigation into the many facets of the Unix and Linux open source operating system, you will, no doubt, come across many interesting packages and applications that you would like to pursue further. This term paper assignment presents the opportunity to do just that; pursue a topic of interest and report your findings to the class.

Each term paper topic must come from the Unix or Linux operating system realm and have something to do with managing, administrating, or otherwise care and feeding of a Unix or Linux system. This encompasses many broad topics including:

Network Management – Naggios project
Network Security – Nessus project
Revision Control and Versioning Systems – CVS and Subversion projects
Application Management – RPM, DPKG, APT and other packaging toolkit projects
Email Security – PGP and other encryption projects
and on, and on, and on ...

There are a plethora of packages that have been developed for Unix and Linux. On Debian, for instance, you could use the Synaptic Package Manager to find out what packages are available, along with a brief description of what the package contains. Find a topic that interests you and pursue it further to discover how it works. Install it on your system. Test it out. Develop sample uses or applications of your project to demonstrate to the class. Use this project to expand your own knowledge of one aspect of Unix and Linux systems; and then share that knowledge with others.

Each student will submit a ten-page written report (complete with examples and bibliography) and present the work to the class. To make your presentations effective, use the Open Office equivalent of PowerPoint in your talk. Have some demonstrations ready at hand to show, in real-time, how the system works. Be sure your laptop doesn't suffer the same hardware problems mine seems to have by testing that it drives a VGA display like our projectors **BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR CLASS PRESENTATION.**

Don't wait to get started. As soon as you are ready, let me know and we'll schedule your presentation. You can get your presentation done before the final weeks of the quarter (when everything else is due too). As a last resort, I'll be sure to insist on the remaining students to present their work during the last week of classes.