

Addressing Cultural Barriers Faced When Deploying Linux on z/VM

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Metropolitan VM Users Association

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Outline

- Roles
- Values
- Typical complaints
- Suggestions

Generalizations

- Grouping people isn't an exact science
- We can all identify exceptions

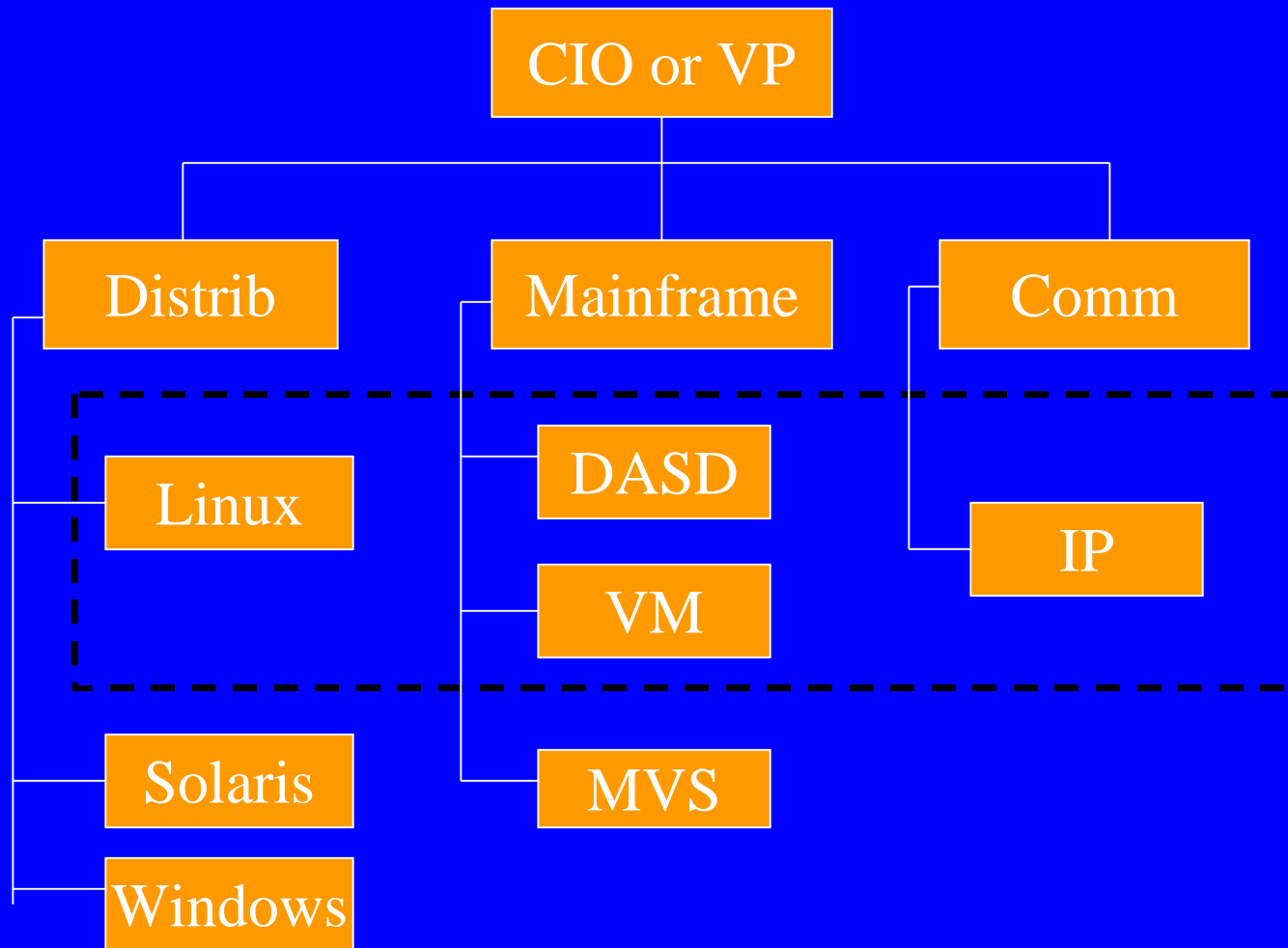
Roles in a z/VM implementation

- Primary
 - VM
 - Linux system administrator
- Secondary:
 - Networking
 - DASD management
 - mainframe resources

Motivation for Working Together

- The choice is typically done by business decision makers
- The common manager among teams becomes moves lower and lower

Typical Hierarchy



The Value of Community

- Community can greatly help solve problems others have already addressed
- Both z/VM and Linux communities are driven by technical goals, although those goals are different
- Neither community is artificial

z/VM Community

- Few people have a mainframe in their basement; VMers do it at work, then take it a step further
- Built upon many decades of experience
- Lots of appreciation for software vendors
- You know about community, it is here at MVMUA!

Linux Community

- Young people and a young community
 - often inexperienced
 - has a lot to learn from the z/VM community
 - little experience with software aging and backward compatibility
 - Doesn't always have respect for older technology
- Myths:
 - Linux is only developed in basements
 - Everyone has a common view on licensing

Types of Linux Communities

- There are now two different communities
- Community of Developers
 - programmers who created Linux
 - often don't understand software vendors
 - now, generally sponsored by a corporation
- Community of Users
 - people trying to do real work
 - often sys admins with a history on other UNIX platforms

Tough Times

Both communities have been through difficult times:

- VMers
 - decline of IBM support for z/VM
- Linux:
 - hurt by failed startups and tech market
 - damaged by hype and being naive

Small Differences

- Terminology is different
 - disk vs. DASD
 - memory vs. storage
 - operator vs. sys admin
- Editors
- Terminals

Different Values

- Values are fundamentally what define each community

Comparison of Values (1/2)

	VMers	Linux people
Performance	Total utilization	Maximum speed
Departmental	Many people that focus on a little	Few people that focus on the whole picture
Reliability, Availability	Critical	Misunderstood
Process	Very structured, focus on predictability	Adventurous

Comparison of Values (2/2)

	VMers	Linux people
Hardware	Few but expensive	Many but cheap
Backward compatible	Critical	Not yet significant
Applications	From vendors	Free (like beer)

Typical complaints from Linux people

- “This platform is too slow”
- “This process is too slow”
- “How could you not know about TCP/IP?”
- “These guys do not understand security”

Typical complaints from VMers

- “These punks know nothing about software development”
- “There’s no measurement tools”
- “I don’t know who to buy Linux from”
- “These guys do not understand security”

A bit about networking

- Networking causes a lot of unexpected stress
- GuestLANs are great, but:
 - closed source drivers mean not all Linux distributions can ship the right drivers
 - configuration of VM TCPIPis alien to many

Networking is getting better

- Documentation really is improving
- Hipersockets work much better with newer distributions

How Linux on z/VM is adopted

- Existing VMers using existing hardware
- Linux people using z/VM for the first time
- VMers and Linux people with the goal of true, departmental consolidation
- People with MVS experience entering a totally new space

Linux on z/VM Community

- Extensions of both Linux and VM communities
- Still developing
- The excellent Linux on VM mailing list
- SHARE's VM and Linux program

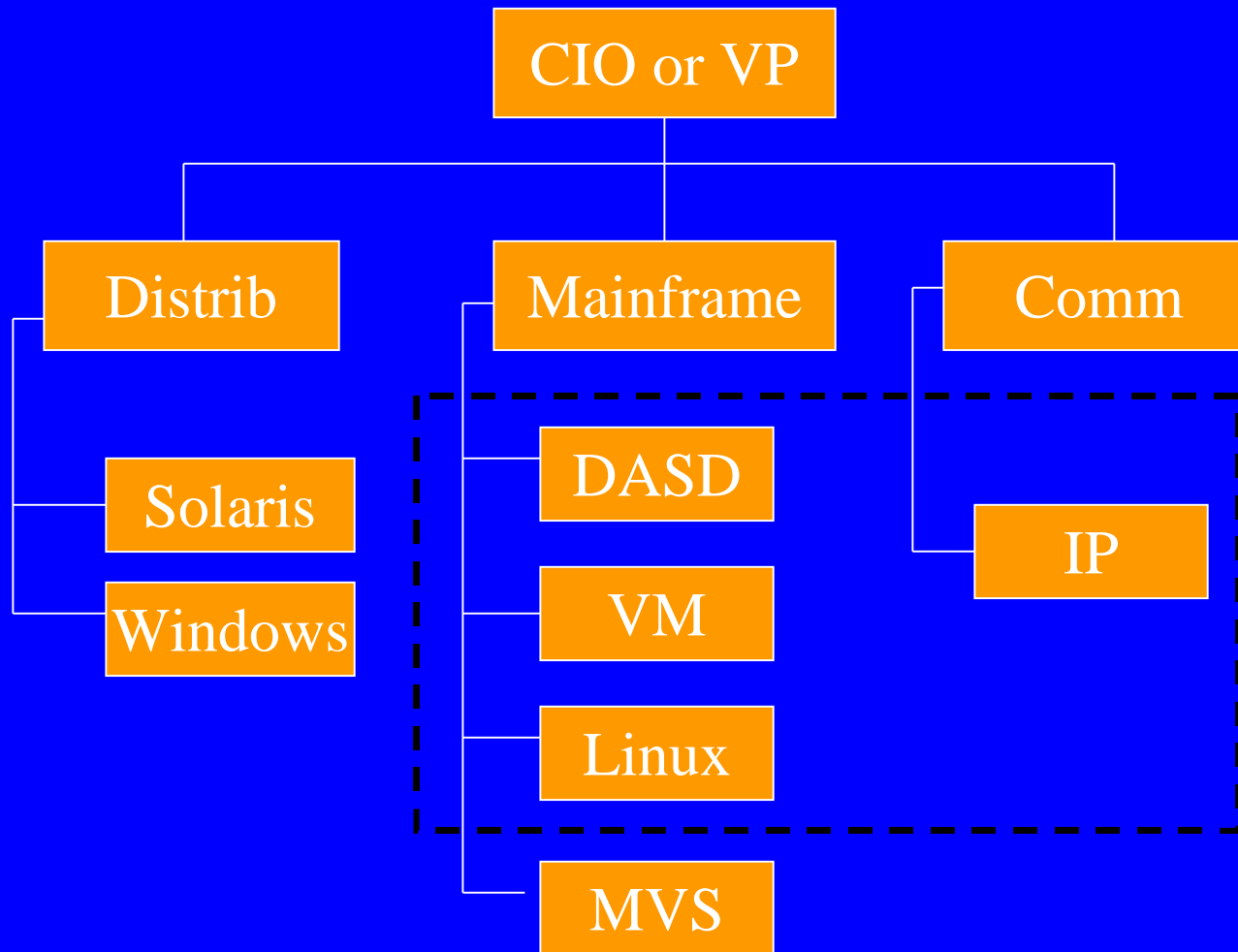
Easing the pain

- Try it first. Start a pilot and play with it.
- Linux users can use IBM's Linux Community Development System
- Grow the community

Some suggestions

- Expect some culture shock
- Plan on having network problems
- Don't sweat the small stuff
- Spend time and play before you actually use it
- Consider the team impact as well as the technical problems
- Be patient with people from the other world

Ideal Hierarchy



Questions?

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