

Conclusions of the survey (34 answers representing at least one thousand of PCs)
A. Empain

Individual usage of Linux

1. more users are using Linux 'always' than 'never' (11/9)
2. the vast majority of the users are using Linux 'sometimes-to-always' than 'never-almost never' (24/10)

Current percentage of Linux usage

1. The sites are distributed from 0% to 100% , with the better penetration at the server level
2. Five sites are using exclusively Linux at the server level and one at the desktop level

Year of Linux introduction for production works

1. as soon as 1994, Linux was used in some places for production duties
2. many sites are using Linux since at least 4 years
3. more and more sites are converting

Trend from 2000 to what is planned for 2004

1. at the server level, the progression crossed the 50% line in 2001, rising to an estimated percentage of 63% in 2004 (some sites are already at the 100% level, so the evolution is progressively saturating)
2. at the desktop level, the growth seems rather linear (doubling in 4 years), crossing the 25% line in 2002
3. knowing that some sites are using Linux rather exclusively, it is safe to say that it is ready for the individual work.

REM: the trend is roughly linear within the limited time span (2000-2004) ; however, the Linux acceptance at the desktop level is probably changing more quickly now, due to a broader perception of its usefulness.

High end applications

Many sites are already using or planning :

- **CLUSTER engines** for ex. to use BLAST (a quarter)
- **GRID computing** (a third) to fan the jobs on a distributed 'super engine'.

A nice example concerns a farm of 50 dedicated PCs, helped by another set of 70 PCs during the night (used as MS-Windows platform during the day).

MS-Windows integration

A quarter of the sites are using or planning some approach to provide MS-Windows accessibility from a Linux point-of-view (virtual machine : VmWare, Wine, Win4Lin... (a quarter) or THIN CLIENTS (a fifth)).

Rough ranking of language and database usage

At the congress, 118 communications and posters were presented; it is interesting to rank the languages and databases in respect with their usage frequency (based on what has been gathered during the congress, surely incomplete but already interesting) .

| | <i>Computer language</i> | <i>RDBMS</i> |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Dominant | PERL | MySQL |
| Frequent | JAVA | ORACLE |
| Sometimes | PYTHON, PHP, C++ ... | SYBASE |
| Rare | VB (once, currently ported to JAVA) | |
| Absent | | ACCESS |

REM: most bioinformatics projects are concerning 5-10 bioinformaticians (not counting the molecular scientists).