

The Pixie Project

Massive Ubuntu Linux desktop deployment at lower cost

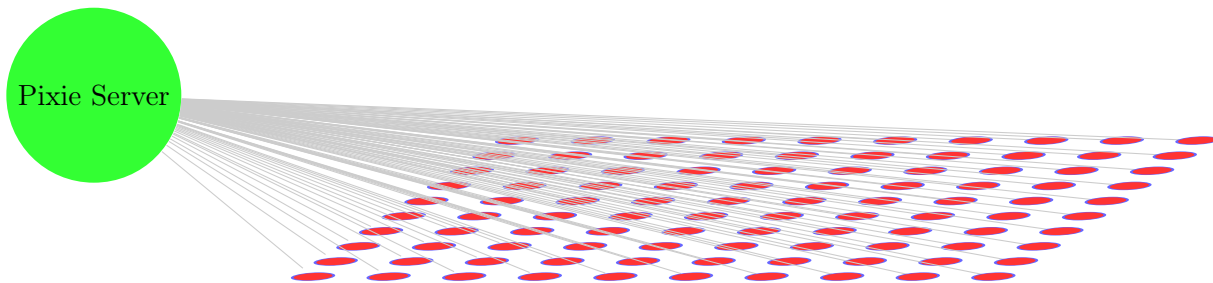
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https://projects.math.leidenuniv.nl/trac/howto/wiki/pxe_env_ubuntu

A fast, scalable desktop deployment system on Ubuntu Linux

A new solution is found in combining known technologies like networked booting, live-cd techniques and network attached storage. The Pixie Project derived its name from PXEboot¹, a system that enables a desktop to boot over the network instead of starting from a hard disk. In early 2010 this setup is tested and deployed. A user satisfaction review showed increased satisfaction after the deployment. The Pixie Project solution was found to be highly scalable, easy to maintain and highly customizable. The complete approach has been documented on the Ubuntu community wiki and in a paper (see the above url for more information).



The Pixie server setup scales up to 100 clients.

Factsheet: Comparison of a local installation, terminal server, Pixie setup

| | local installation | terminal server | Pixie setup |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Scaling | * | ** | *** |
| Server hardware (costs) | *** | * | ** |
| Client hardware (costs) | * | ** | *** |
| Performance | *** | * | ** |
| Hardware support | *** | ** | *** |
| Administration time | * | *** | *** |
| User satisfaction | *** | ** | *** |
| Built-in software rollback | * | * | *** |
| Total | 16 | 14 | 22 |

See the footnotes on Hardware support² and Administration Time³.

¹The Preboot eXecutable Environment offers a networkcard as bootable device to the BIOS

²Like: optical drives, graphical acceleration, usb-drive, sound

³The higher the score the less time it takes.