

From Minimal Macs to Full Linux Server

Or:

How I learned to stop worrying and love LCFG

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Managing Mac OS X

Apple provides:

Installer and .pkg files

MCX managed preferences



3rd Party:

radmind

Casper

DeployStudio



Granularity = File

Managing Mac OS X

How do we manage

Things outside the filesystem (nvram, ipfw)?

Things requiring finer granularity (netinfo, plist files)?

In ACE we use:

lcfg-ipfw (lots of odd custom rules for research)

lcfg-nvram (no nvram password = bad)

lcfg-ffox (custom homepages within the school)

lcfg-lgwindow (MCX only goes so far)

Managing Mac OS X

DSTs devolved system is... devolved!

We override a bunch of stuff

Tweak others

Advantages:

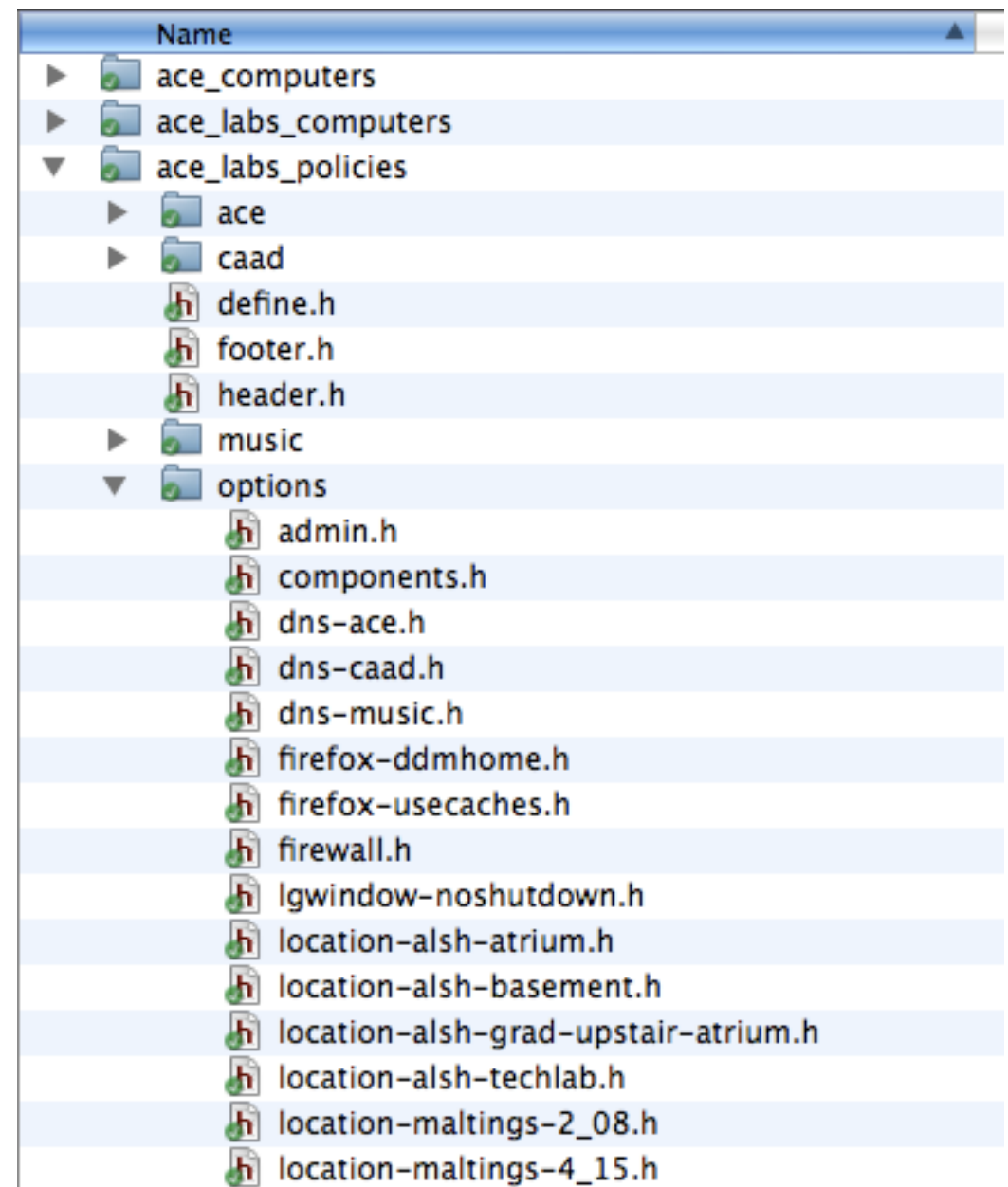
Built on SVN

Free logging

Easy rollback

Easy to manage from a Mac

All good ITIL stuff (probably)



Full Linux Server

Previous Coldfusion Server running EL3

The challenge:

Build and manage its replacement with LCFG

37 components!

But lots of sensible settings from upstream

Custom configs:

- Firewall
- Apache (inc Cosign)
- MySQL
- Users/Groups



The hardest bit:
(still) Learning to
build RPMs...

Full Linux Server

Was it worth it?

Certainly!

Managed platform comes “for free”

Bringing up dev boxes is a breeze

Hardware migration is easy

Most configuration snippets reusable

YOHTWIO

(You Only Have To Write It Once)