M232
Full automation of desktop image deployment

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Sheridan College

- 4200 students in School of the Arts
- Largest arts school in Canada
- 2nd largest arts school in North America
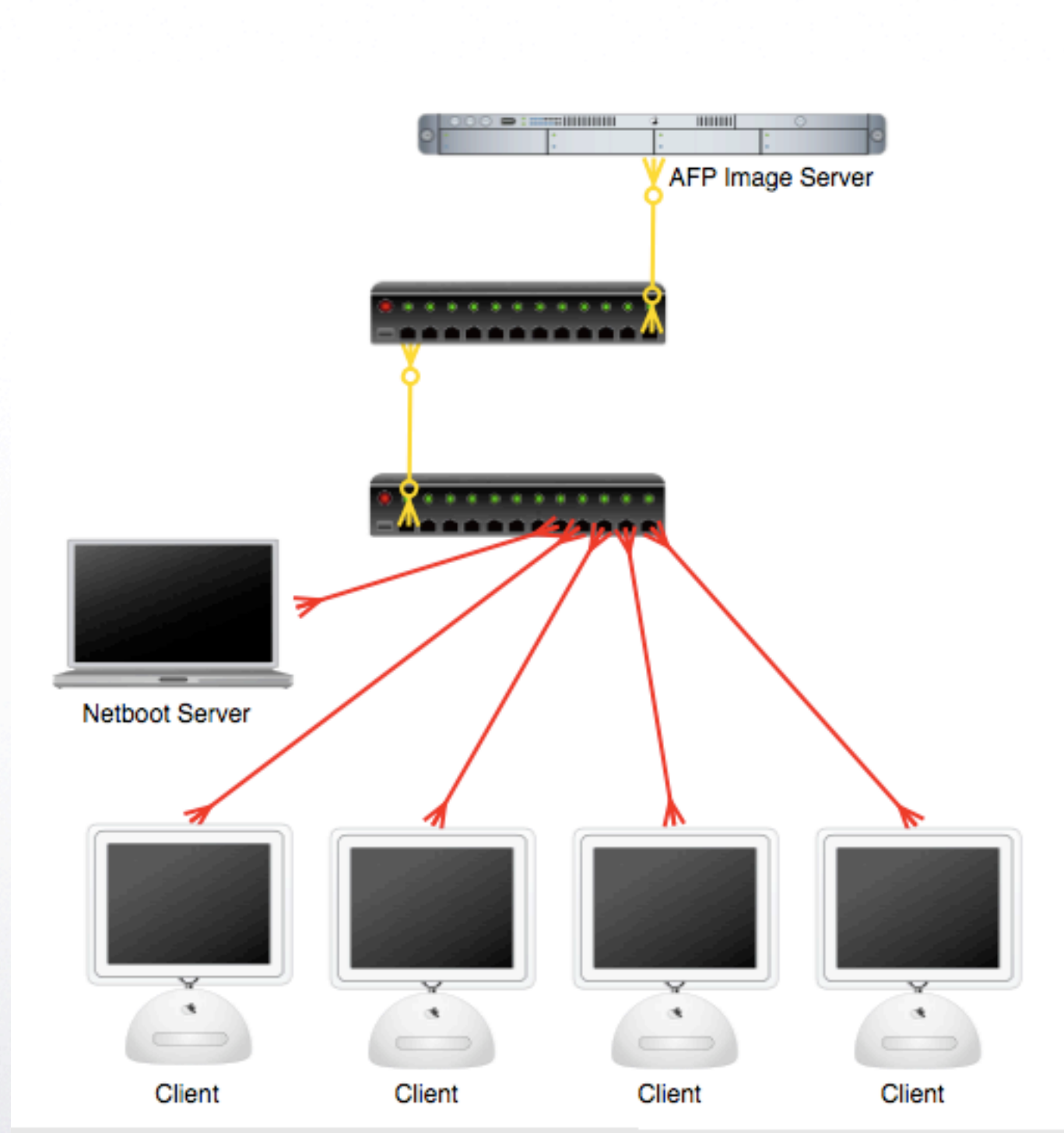
Macintosh Statistics

- 13 Mac computer labs + 2 new summer '06

- 500 iBooks

- over 900+ machines.

- 2 year leasing strategy for iBooks, 3 year for desktop machines.

History of Imaging

- OS 9 - bootable CD, pocket drive

- OS X(early) - *BootCD* / command line *ASR*

- Now - Netboot / *NetRestore*

  - Server / Powerbook / across subnets

AFP Image Server

Netboot Server

Client   Client   Client   Client

NetBoot over subnets

- Looked at Bombich's *NBAS*

- Read related articles on Bombich.com

- Wrote an applescript to do the work

DEMO

Project Phoenix

- Automated desktop imaging.

- Built on small applescripts

- Cronned to happen overnight

Index of /j319

Name	Last modified	Size	Description
Parent Directory	28-May-2004 10:58	-	
J319-01	24-Jun-2004 03:35	0k	
J319-02	24-Jun-2004 03:35	0k	
J319-03	24-Jun-2004 03:35	0k	
J319-04	24-Jun-2004 03:35	0k	
J319-05	24-Jun-2004 03:35	0k	
J319-06	24-Jun-2004 03:35	0k	

A NetRestore Trick

- Remote preferences

- Parameters.plist

- Configurations.plist

- Web enabled folder

- AFP enabled folder

Remote Database Integration

If you have NetRestore PHPServices installed on Mac OS X Server, NetRestore can retrieve machine settings from the server and automatically populate the preferences, configuration, and post-action settings.

URL to the web page used to retrieve system information:

Example: https://xserve.example.com/nr/netrestore.php

Administrative Group: Group Password:

Remote Preferences

URL or local path to NetRestore preferences (parameters.plist)

URL or local path to NetRestore configurations (configurations.plist)

Cancel   Save

DEMO

eppc://

- Event program to program communication?

- Remote apple event sending in Applescript

- Can target scripts to remote machines

- Just turn on *Remote Apple Events* in the sharing panel ☑ Remote Apple Events

DEMO

iimage

- Graphical front end application to imaging

- Uses eppc:// and remote preferences

- Ideal "front end" for *NetRestore*

iimage

- Machines need to have static IP address

- future integration to export CSV file

- based currently on flat file database 32KB!

- possible future SQL / ARD integration

DEMO

iimage family:

- iimage
  - graphical application
- iimage lite
  - applescript for all lab machines
- iimage uno
  - applescript for single machine

Resources

- http://homepage.mac.com/cocolicious/CocoaByCoco/Menu10.html

- http://www.sheridaninstitute.ca

- http://www.bombich.com

- rob.roy@sheridaninstitute.ca

Q & A