Successful Linux Labs In Schools
The Prescott lab in Oakland
Non-technical
One teacher:
One teacher:
• 3 hours per week
One teacher:

- 3 hours per week
- ON THE CLOCK
One teacher:
• 3 hours per week
• ON THE CLOCK
• Dedicated only to the Linux Lab
That teacher:
That teacher:
• Cannot do it alone
That teacher:

- Cannot do it alone
- Needs tech support
That teacher:
• Cannot do it alone
• Needs tech support
• At least 3 highly technical people
Teacher Maria Jenerik with her technical support team
I am a simple end user
If I can do it, anyone can do it
Holden Aust
“You really should try Linux.”
Givers gain
Computers are platforms for Culture
Prescott 4th graders watch MLK's "Dream" speech
Free software,
Free society
The poor should not be excluded from the Net due to limited finances.
MLK's “Dream” speech
The first Partimus school, the KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy
Not brand sensitive
Partimus Co-Founder
Cathy Malmrose
Partimus Co-Founder
Cathy Malmrose & CEO, Zareason
Partimus Co-Founder
Maile Urbancic
Partimus Board member
Elizabeth Krumbach
Partimus Board Member
Bethany Doolin
Partimus Board Member
Beth Lynn Eicher
Partimus Board Member
Grant Bowman
Partimus Lead Systems Engineer
James Howard
Jim Stockford,
Owner, Systemateka.com
Major Transportation Donor
Systemateka, car donor
Major hardware donors
–ACCRC.org & MCRC.org
Major hardware donor--
PCS-SF.org
Why Free Software in public schools?

- Spend less time fundraising
- Get a community
- Manage your own upgrade cycles
- Share software with students for home use
Best practices

- Try to staff the lab during classroom hours
  - You will get to know their needs better
  - The teachers and staff will come to trust you
  - Students from 2006 still greet me on the bus and sidewalk
Best practices

● Discuss their needs before each school year starts, and 2x during the year
  – You will get to know their needs better
  – You can spot trouble coming
  ● Avoid Microsoft creep
Best practices

• Run as much of the software and data as possible on the fat clients, but

• Manage the software and data from the server
  – Allows the GNU-Linux guru to dial in to do work
MLK comes alive at Prescott
Best practices

- Run as much of the software and data as possible on the fat clients
  - Imagine running 30 instances of MLK's dream speech over the network simultaneously
One teacher:
• 3 hours per week
• ON THE CLOCK
• Dedicated only to the Linux Lab
Why 1 dedicated teacher

- Institutional knowledge
- Insight into the principal's mind
- Ownership for the lab
  - Keep it tidy!
- Building access after hours
Tasks for the 3 hours per week

- Answering use questions from other teachers
- Scheduling the lab
- Checking loose cables
- Replacing bad mice and keyboards
- Monitoring lab maintenance
- Staying abreast of new apps & use cases
- Addressing parental control filter issues
Prescott School in Oakland
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