



FLEXIBILITY. The scientists at SMHI can use any computer while working with software on a central server.

FOTO: SMHI

Freedom of Choice with Thin Clients

Both Linux and Windows at SMHI

OPERATING SYSTEMS
when the staff at SMHI get access to software on central servers they can choose between Windows or Linux software without problems.

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A number of employees at SMHI need to use both Windows and Linux. The Linux software is developed in-house and the standard software runs under Windows.

One solution is virtualization of the client computers, but instead SMHI use the client computers as thin clients with access to software on the servers. The clients are traditional computers, with software for thin clients.

SMHI HAS BEEN TESTING out this solution for a while and did finally choose Swedish Cendio's platform Thinlinc for the general office computers.

"It's software for thin clients, installed on fat clients. The advantage is that we can give those who use Windows access to our Linux environment. It's a good thing, since a lot of our employees like Linux, but don't need true Linux clients. Now they can run Windows as well as Linux," says Adam Winberg,



BUYING MORE. SMHI will buy more thin clients from Igel in Germany.

System Administrator at SMHI in Norrköping. He explains that the scientists at SMHI can run graphic software on the Linux servers, even if they aren't using high-performance computers. SMHI has a really mixed IT environment with both Linux and Windows on the client side and Linux, Windows, Solaris and Tru64 on the servers.

"IT'S A HUGE ADVANTAGE to be able to use Thinlinc as a proxy in those environments," says Adam Winberg. It doesn't matter which operating system is running on the user computers, since Thinlinc simply sends out screenshots of the software on the servers. That's why you can use quite plain computers, or thin clients, even for more advanced software.

"We are working towards introducing thin clients, but so far we only have a few up and running. The costs we save with Thinlinc and thin clients can mostly be counted in lower administration costs since we can centralize the resources, both for hardware and software," Adam Winberg says.

FURTHER BENEFITS, according to Adam Winberg, are that SMHI's regional offices can transfer data without concern for the former bandwidth requirements. IT Manager Rafael Urrutia explains that SMHI gradually will com-

mit more and more to thin clients. The choice fell on products from German Igel, with slots for smart cards.

"We will be purchasing 100 thin clients. The ambition is that everyone should be able to log in and be authenticated at a central catalogue service where the certificates are managed through smart cards," he says.

SMHI ISN'T THE ONLY one testing Cendio's concept. 1.500 employees of the Municipality of Härryda are going to use virtual computers, powered by central servers. The municipality counts on saving millions yearly in lower administration costs, among other things.

CS THINLINC

SMHI chose Thinlinc, Cendio's software for thin clients. **Thinlinc connects** thin clients with the computer resources at a central server. The software can virtualize the complete workspace or single programs.

Thinlinc is built on open source and developed by Cendio in Linköping. It costs 75 dollar per year and user.

SMHI has purchased licensed for 30 concurrent users from Thinlinc, but plan to acquire more.

The SMHI government authority has 550 employees.