ThinLinc at IDA, Linköping University

About IDA and Linköping Universty

IDA is the the department of computer and information science at Linköping university and it was founded in 1983, but the roots go back to the early seventies. It is one of the largest departments for computer and information science in northern Europe, with 190 employees of which 68 are faculty members (PhDs), including 26 full professors. Approximately 80 postgraduate students are enrolled in the department's PhD programmes, including 43 doctoral students holding salaried positions. There are about 13 000 students having access to their computer system and some hundred computers in the labs at the university

The three Challenges

1. IDA had a Sun Ray installation and decided to replace it with a Linux solution built on Linux Mint and NUC-terminals. A problem was that they still needed access to the Solaris environment from the Linux terminals.
2. In the server halls there are many different servers and services that often demand windows or a web browser, but the firewall is preventing web access and X-forwarding is simply too slow.
3. Students needed a way to access the system remotely in a fast way, they also needed to be able to access.

Company Profile

Industry

Education

Founded

1969

Students

27 588 (2015*)*

Web site

www.liu.se

ThinLinc Setups

1. By running ThinLinc on the old Solaris servers, the students can access the Solaris system and applications, so the migration to Linux can run smoothly without demanding that all exercises and setups should be fixed at the same time.
2. ThinLinc is installed on the servers so that the system administrators can easily work on a remote desktop. Besides Solaris, Linux Mint and Debian are used.
3. There is a great demand from students to be able to work from home and to be able to use programs and systems available at the university.

Result and Benefits

1. ThinLinc on the Solaris server is running smoothly and it's cheaper than the previous Sun Ray system and with a simple license model, also allows access from modern Linux systems.
2. Access to a remote desktop makes it easy for staff to get the entire desktop with all windows open that they last had when they logged into the server popping up when they connect, even from home. Perfect when they think of that detail they forgot about at work on the way home, and just can log in and quickly fix it.
3. The freedom to select hardware and software makes an upgrade and bigger roll out of the remote access service flexible.

Ebbas Story

"Now I have a spring break from Linkoping for ten days and will go home to Skåne. The end of next week I will go to England with my family, but until then, I will focus on creating a Tetris game which is part of our Java Course.

ThinLinc enables me to connect to the University's computers and then I can have access to everything I had as if I was still at the university campus. It helps enormously if one needs to study remotely. I will probably also need to program when I'm in England, but that's no problem "

Ebba Fogelberg, MSc. student Software Engineering