

Some Experience of Shared Configuration Management

Discussion

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RAL Tier 1

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Context

- RAL using Quattor & Quattor Working template Framework for 4 years
 - We chose Quattor at the time explicitly because of the existing shared template framework
- Experience is specific
- Points of benefits & issues collaborating general
- We look at the demise of YAIM differently
 - We have YAIM free configuration
 - Apart from the areas where we stuck with it because it seemed easier

Benefits

- Share the effort
- Benefit from other' s experience & hard work
- Can hugely reduce load at small sites
- We have (potential) YAIM free configuration

Issues

- Shared/consistent data structures
 - All the things Kashif talked about
- Actually sharing - avoiding forking
- Some thing easier to share (base OS, simple services)

Issues (contd)

- Grid Middleware harder - very complex - site differences can make it seem easier to do your own thing.
 - Every time we have not fed things back has been a mistake
- We saw particular issues with legacy account setups
- ‘expedient’ choices early on makes bringing in updates from community harder
- Coding standards
 - We were (very) lax early on. Comes back to bite us regularly
 - Making things reusable is always worth the extra effort