

Site report from School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh

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Background

- Academic computing department
- Around 4600 users
- 2500 machines (1400 centrally managed)
- Predominantly Linux, with some Solaris, Windows and Mac OS X

AFS Usage

- Relatively new to AFS
 - (First workshop was Pittsburgh, production use began in late 2005)
- Still in the process of migrating users
- 12 Terabytes of data in AFS, primarily on SATA disk arrays

Backups

- Use AFS read only volumes to do disk to disk backups
- Every volume has a local RO, a remote RO and a standard backup volume
 - Mountpoints created with `fs mkmount -rw`
 - Volumes can be restored with `vos convertROtoRW`
- Teradactyl for disk backups

Usability

- All managed machines automatically gain tokens
- Tokens automatically renewed whenever we can (screen unlock, ticket prompter)
- All Kerberos tickets are renewable for 7 days (krenew)
- Keytabs available for longer jobs (krenew)
- Run filedrawers to allow web kiosk file access

Issues

- Users have problems with directory ACLs
- Close on write causes perceived performance problems
- Remote access (NATs, MTU problems) still exciting
- Performance