Athena 10: the Next Generation

ACCORD

June 18, 2009

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Welcome to Athena

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Username:

Athena 10 is a collaboration between
Information Services & Technology and
the Student Information Processing Board

what is Athena 10?

☐ a major new release of the MIT Athena Computing Environment

☐ based on Ubuntu Linux (no more Suns after this Summer)

☐ developed by IS&T in partnership with SIPB

☐ available now, to be rolled out to all Athena clusters this Summer

☐ mostly compatible with Athena 9.4 functionality and software but easier to install, maintain and administer

how is it different from Athena 9.4?

- underlying Ubuntu distribution is preferred by most users for functionality, ease of use

- the Athena release is "layered" on top of standard Ubuntu, no longer monolithic; no longer necessary to completely wipe hard drive; simple to uninstall

- better removable device handling- CDs, DVDs, USB drives automount

- users have a choice of "flavors" to install, adding various Athena features, no longer "all or nothing"

how is it different from Athena 9.4?

☐ debathena-standard

(use local account to log in, no Athena integration, separate steps to get tickets and tokens, easy access to AFS)

☐ debathena-login

(adds: ability to login to AFS home directory with Kerberos username/password)

☐ debathena-login-graphical

(adds: Gnome, Firefox, Evolution integration, Debathena login screen)

☐ debathena-workstation

(adds: autoupdate, caching name server/NTP config, /tmp cleaner, extra local software)

☐ debathena-cluster

(PXE install only, completely erases disk, no local configuration or local storage, even more extra local software)

how is it different from Athena 9.4?

- it will follow the 6 month Ubuntu release cycle, keeping software current

- Athena customizations install as Ubuntu packages or package groups named "debathena-*", allows clean separation of Athena, non-Athena components

- many applications formerly in lockers will now be standard Ubuntu packages (debathena-thirdparty package group on cluster machines, optional install on others)

- better laptop experience, ability to retain some Athena functionality when off the network

how is it different from Athena 9.4?

- automounter for lockers below /mit; no need to "attach" to access files

- network configuration and services handled by standard OS utilities, not special Athena configuration files and utilities

- cluster machines have a virtual file system ("chroot jail") that prevents users from making lasting changes to system files

- users on cluster machines can (temporarily) install any package available in standard Ubuntu repositories

how is it different from Athena 9.4?

☐ changed concept of "release"; small, incremental package updates, major releases will be Ubuntu releases, twice a year in Fall and Spring

how is it the same?

- follows the same single sign on/distributed computing/serial reusability model

- most Athena services and infrastructure retained (Kerberos, Hesiod, Moira, Discuss, Zephyr...)

- AFS infrastructure and lockers will continue as before, including Third Party software lockers (but many applications in lockers will move to Ubuntu packages)

- Quickstations will be available

- printing services in public clusters will be provided as before

some applications will be supplied in lockers even though a Ubuntu package is available

☐ because the package requires custom configuration of add-ons (R)

☐ because the package is too old (eclipse)

☐ both versions may be installed; different launch commands are used to access them

references:

IS&T News Software Spotlight
http://web.mit.edu/ist/isnews/v24/n02/240203.html

Debathena page
http://debathena.mit.edu/beta

Setting access control
http://debathena.mit.edu/access-controls

To run the presentation again on an Athena machine

add -f magicpoint

attach evaluate

mgp /mit/evaluate/athena10/athena10.mgp