The Herald Service

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Overview

- What is Herald?

- Facts and figures

- Future enhancements

- Extras

- Questions & discussion

What is Herald?

- Mail store

- Web-based email & account management

IMAP servers

- Per-user file store
    - IMAP, POP, SMTP to public
    - NFS export to cluster nodes

WING servers

- Web-based email and account management
    - HTTP, SMTP to public
    - IMAP and NFS to IMAP servers
    - SQL to frontends

Frontends

- Only connection to outside world

- Firewall for cluster

- SQL database server

- Hold centralized information

- Name servers for `herald.ox.ac.uk` domain

- Provide SMTP relay for dumb clients (`smtp.ox.ac.uk`)

Facts and Figures

- Currently 10,000 users

- Designed to handle 30,000 users

- 270GB RAID-protected file storage

- Additional 432GB ready to be configured

More Facts and Figures

- On a typical day (during term), a busy IMAP server handled
  - 17500 incoming messages
  - 23500 deliveries and 1100 forwards
  - 65000 IMAP sessions (including 7500 WING sessions)
  - 22000 POP sessions

- A WING server (one of three currently in service) handled
  - 5000 outgoing messages (of which 2000 were destined for Herald)
  - More than 200 concurrent users at peak times

Changes Over the Past Year

- Hardware changes

- Some performance tuning and bug fixes

- Automated backups

- Automated notification of password expiry

- Automated notification when over quota

- Improvements to user administration interface

- Flexible quota system

Future Enhancements

- Mail filters

- Configurable style-sheets

- Searching mailboxes

- Tidying mailboxes

- IMAP command-line

Extras

- Shared diary and calendar

- Web-page change notification

- CD writing

- Web file store exports
  - `http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/web/mounting.html`

More Information

- Herald documentation
  - `http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/email/herald/`
    * User guides
    * Client configuration
    * Secure connections
    * FAQ

Conclusion & Discussion

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