

Cernio Tech Co-op

How Cernio members use Linux to shape the world:
A tale of sex, software, and community building.

LUGOD, Mon 15 Jun 09



Cernio at a glance

— [70 members and growing - from Canada, England, Spain, Argentina, several US states, etc. Each person rocks.

— [Co-operative since 2005

— [Services: colocation, VPSes, VOIP, Jabber/XMPP, email, infrastructure for consultants, community networks...



Colocation

- [Colocation: 24/7 servers with fast internet connections
- [Started with a quarter-cab, then half-cab at Sonic.net in Santa Rosa
- [Moved to full-cab, then two cabs, now three cabs at 200 Paul in San Francisco
- [Expanded to Minneapolis in May



VPSes

— [Virtual Private Servers: your own server, without the hardware

— [Seven Xen dom0s, all running Linux

— [~ 30 domUs (VPSes), most running Linux

— [Member-driven service. No paid staff. Occasional hiccups, but generally works very well. Users are happy.



VOIP

— [Voice Over IP: open-source, open-standard telephony

— [One Asterisk PBX (on Linux!) in San Francisco, and another in Santa Clara

— [Wholesale account since 2006 with Voxbone - provision phone numbers local to almost anywhere in seconds

— [Fancy phone system at 1% of the cost



Jabber/XMPP

— [Jabber/XMPP: open-source, open-standard, federated instant messaging

— [One server in San Francisco, and another in Minneapolis

— [Ties in nicely with PBX

— [`firstname.lastname@cernio.com` for email, VOIP, and IM



Email

— [IMAP (server-centric), POP3 (desktop-centric), SMTP (sending), webmail - all servers run Linux

— [MS Exchange via wholesale account (please don't hurt me)

— [No ads

— [No data mining

Consulting

— [Some of us are consultants. We like to collaborate.

— [Members may use Cernio infrastructure for their consulting (brand, logo, business cards, PBX, etc.)

— [Helping to run Cernio provides fantastic experience and really stands out when looking for work.



CWNs

Community Wireless Networks: Communications network run by and for a geographic community

Collection of resources for CWNs at www.cernio.com/cwn

Nascent effort in Berkeley and nearby:
510pen (five-one-open)

Mesh infrastructure runs Linux on the back-end



Cernio members rock

[EPA.net : East Palo Alto's online community resource center

[Carnal Nation: comprehensive sex-positive coverage

[Wiki Spot: Davis Wiki, Santa Cruz Wiki, etc.

[TuxPaint!

[Injury prevention software for big employers

[Tor nodes



Cernio members rock hard

— [DNS servers for two recognizable Linux-using dot-coms

— [Noisebridge: cool hacker space in San Francisco

— [OpenCourse.org: Teachers collaborating on course materials

— [Internet radio streaming

— [Online Policy Group: LGBT-friendly, anti-censorship (they beat Diebold re abuse of the DMCA)



Strengths

- [Helpful, good-natured, skillful, well-connected membership
- [Pooled purchasing power
- [Institutional knowledge on how to do tricky stuff
- [Member-benefit structure means no evil overlord investors to worry about

Weaknesses

- [Paperwork - we're still not incorporated. No good reason - it's just that nobody has done it yet.
- [It's easier to offend and be offended online than in person. Occasional misunderstandings/arguments.
- [Volunteer management hasn't been as successful as it needs to be. Many projects left half-done.

Upcoming

— [Colo expansion to Atlanta, Santa Clara, and Toronto

— [VPS expansion to New York and Frankfurt

— [CWN build-out in Berkeley

— [Peer-reviewed/edited HOW-TO articles

— [...want to spearhead something?



fin!

— [Cernio Technology Cooperative

— [+1 415 462 2991

— [IRC: #cernio on irc.freenode.net

— [inquire@cernio.com

— [www.cernio.com

