

Re: computer network on Discovery unreliable?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.shuttle/2005-08/msg01387.html>

- *From:* "Jorge R. Frank" <jrfrank@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 07 Aug 2005 23:25:13 GMT
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Jochem Huhmann <joh@xxxxxxx> wrote in
<news:m2hde1pdkf.fsf@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>:

> "Jorge R. Frank" <jrfrank@xxxxxxxxxxx> writes:
>
>> "Brian Gaff" <Briang1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
>> [news:X4oJe.84044\\$G8.17156@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](news:X4oJe.84044$G8.17156@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx):
>>
>>> On many Communications on this mission they seem to have had
>>> to reboot the systems to get a machine called proshare visible on
>>> the ground in order to transfer data. What version of Windows are
>>> they using? Sounds like 98, surely not!!
>>
>> It's 98SE. They really need to replace the laptops before they can
>> upgrade the OS; the 760XDs just don't have the muscle to run anything
>> more modern.
>
> Should have more than enough oomph to run some Linux. Seriously. Could
> easily save some man-hours per flight. Give those machines and the
> functionality required to me and I'll work something out for a
> reasonable price.

The number one functionality required is 100% compatibility with the PC network in the control center, which runs Windows. Especially compatibility with MS Office.

I love Linux, run it dual-boot at home. But all of the open-source office suites for Linux absolutely suck at importing MS Office files that use any features more advanced than basic formatting. Use any kind of macros and you're shit outta luck. The reasonable price for converting to Linux starts looking unreasonable real quick once you factor in the time required to convert all the existing files and proofread them line-by-line (and testing all the macros) to make sure nothing got fubar'ed in the process.

I know, I know, it's all because evil M\$ keeps their file formats proprietary and keeps changing them so that the open-source developers can't keep up. Wah. Sometimes life isn't fair.

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> Why don't they try at least Solaris for these?

They do, on the PCS laptops (the ones that do "real work": sending commands to ISS). The ones used for "office automation" run Windows precisely because they're not critical. Even NASA isn't silly enough to trust MS with anything life-or-death.

Anyway, this will be a moot point once the current laptops are replaced with A31p's, which are P-IV laptops that can run newer versions of Windows.

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JRF

Reply-to address spam-proofed – to reply by E-mail, check "Organization" (I am not assimilated) and think one step ahead of IBM.

• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ ***Re: computer network on Discovery unreliable?***
◇ *From:* mcdaniel_san2
- ◆ ***Re: computer network on Discovery unreliable?***
◇ *From:* John Doe
- ◆ ***Re: computer network on Discovery unreliable?***
◇ *From:* Jochem Huhmann

• *References:*

- ◆ ***computer network on Discovery unreliable?***
◇ *From:* Brian Gaff
- ◆ ***Re: computer network on Discovery unreliable?***
◇ *From:* Jorge R. Frank
- ◆ ***Re: computer network on Discovery unreliable?***
◇ *From:* Jochem Huhmann

- Prev by Date: ***Re: What has NASA done for the Earth?***
- Next by Date: ***Re: Excellent descriptions and observations by shuttle pilot on reentry appearance, dangers***
- Previous by thread: ***Re: computer network on Discovery unreliable?***
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