FNGi
First Network Group Inc

4-6 Perry Street
PO Box 1662
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

Located in historic downtown Wapakoneta, Ohio, FNGi has been instrumental in developing and supporting Internet Networks across the U.S. since 1993. The FNGi team can assist you with all phases of your Internet Network from initial planning through long-term support.

www.network1.net
800.578.6381

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Spring is here and in this edition of FNGi Focus we find out that the season of renewal doesn't just apply to flowers as we learn just how important updates are to our computers, network hardware and servers. And speaking of new beginnings, Microsoft is attempting a big one with Windows 10, find out what is in store on Page 2. The DHCPatriot is also getting a new update (free with your valid Maintenance Contract) with version 5.5 packing all sorts of great new features!

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YOUR CONNECTION TO FIRST NETWORK GROUP NEWS   April — June 2015

In This Issue

Keeping Up with Updates

It is commonly understood that computer systems need to be kept up to date in order to keep them secure, and to fix bugs. End-user computers have updates that either automatically happen, or at least notify the user when they are ready to be installed. For servers, it is typical to have scheduled maintenance to install updates and reboot.

Unfortunately, network routers, firewalls, and switches are often not given the same care. There are several reasons that this may happen:

1. The appropriate decision maker is not aware of the need
2. There is a desire to not modify network devices that are deemed "working"
3. There is a desire to not have any outages of network devices
4. A support contract is often required to get the latest software.

For #1, it is simply a matter of education, which we hope this article serves to help.

For #2, it needs to be understood that by not keeping network systems up-to-date, you are potentially exposing your network to security issues, and denial-of-service attacks.

For #3, there are a variety of techniques to make your network redundant, so that outages caused by updates are minimal. These features also make your network more robust in general, protecting against device failure. First Network Group can help to design and deploy a network architecture that is less vulnerable to outages.

#4 should be considered as a required cost of doing business. Depending on the hardware vendor, the costs will vary. There are some vendors whose support contracts are significantly less costly than others. It is important to factor in the ongoing operational costs when deciding on the particular brand and model of gear for your needs.

The bottom line is that updates to all server, storage, and network devices are critical to keeping your network secure and available to serve your customers.

To discuss your options, contact Randy Carpenter, Vice President of IT Services:
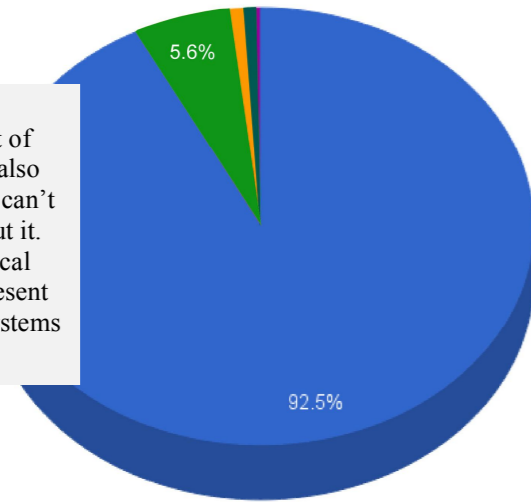
rcarpen@network1.net or 1-800-578-6381, option 2

Operating Systems Through the Years

As we approach 20 years in business, we have seen a lot of change and growth. We've also collected a lot of data - you can't make solid decisions without it. From our End-User Technical Support Department, we present you the Top 5 Operating Systems through the years.
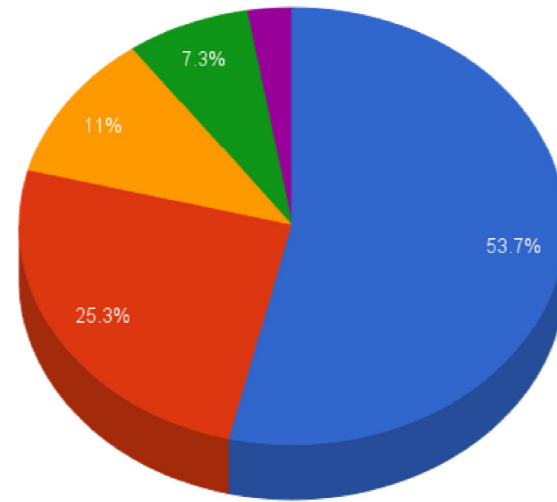
Top 5 Operating Systems 1995-1999

- Windows 98 — 92.5%
- Windows 95 — 5.6%
- Apple OS 7.1
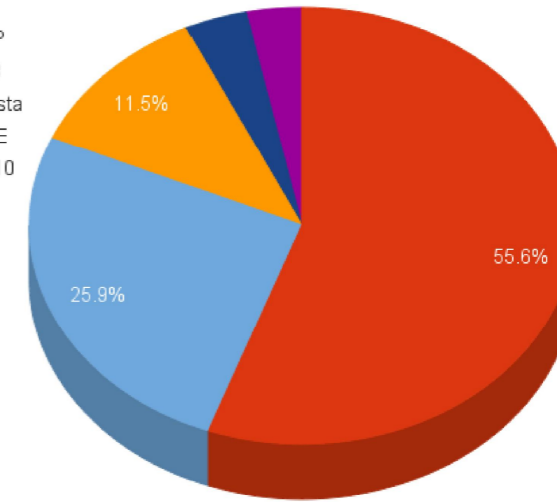- Windows 3.x
- Apple OS 8.5

Top 5 Operating Systems 2000-2004

- Windows 98 — 53.7%
- Windows XP — 25.3%
- Apple ME — 11%
- Windows 95 — 7.3%
- Windows 2000

Top 5 Operating Systems 2005-2009
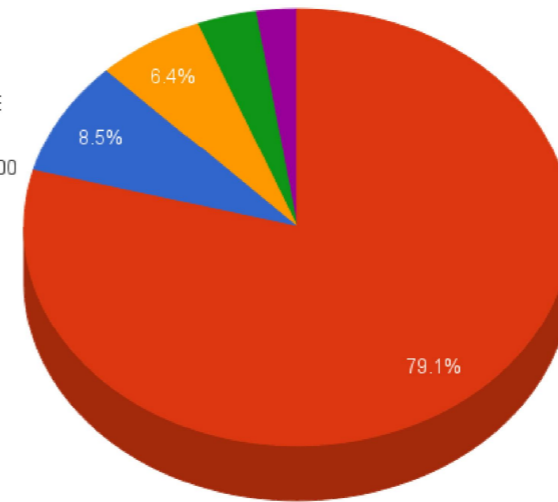
- Windows XP — 79.1%
- Windows 98 — 8.5%
- Windows Vista — 6.4%
- Windows ME
- Apple OSX 10

Top 5 Operating Systems 2010-2014

- Windows XP — 55.6%
- Windows 7 — 25.9%
- Windows Vista — 11.5%
- Windows 8
- Apple OSX 10

Windows 10: What We Know That You Should

Microsoft's work on Windows 10 continues at a fast pace, matching their new rapid update and release direction. We've seen several versions of Windows 10 pass thru the Technical Preview program and are excited at the results. There's an adage that every other version of Windows is a great operating system and this looks like it will hold true for Windows 10 after the abysmal Operating System known as Windows 8.

Windows 10 will be FREE of charge. The update to Windows 10 will be free for all customers with Windows 7 and Windows 8 for the first year after it is released later this year. Microsoft will charge a fee for the operating system after, but they are keeping any price details very vague at this point. The goal here is to make sure Windows 7 users don't stagnate and become a large percentage of total users like Windows XP did and to erase the horrible perception of Windows 8.

Windows 10 will ship with TWO web browsers from Microsoft. The tried and true Internet Explorer will still find a home on the new operating system, but will play second fiddle to Microsoft's new web browser currently codenamed Spartan. Internet Explorer will be left to handle any legacy requirements customers may have, while Spartan on the other hand will shed all of Internet Explorer's previous baggage and problems. It uses a new rendering engine forked from Internet Explorer's Trident engine and an all new JavaScript engine. Spartan will be designed for speed, security and standards.

Is the Start Screen and confusing touch interface still there? No, not really. Microsoft has brought back the Start Menu. It has additional features than in previous versions and does support their Tile style interface on it, but that can be completely disabled. You can change the shape of the Start Menu or even run it full screen like the current Windows 8 Start Screen.

The Charms Bar, hot corners and other weird ways of interacting with Windows 8 are mostly gone and replaced with more logical resources or have been refined to be more functional and intuitive. Windows 10 will also be mouse and keyboard friendly and only touch focused when it makes sense.

We expect a Consumer Preview release of Windows 10 to come out this summer. It will feature more final polish on the new features as well as the fit and finish.

Things are looking good so far. Microsoft is set on undoing their errors and missteps with Windows 8. Their plan is to make Windows 10 a platform to build off of and run on any device. Future releases will be incremental to Windows 10, meaning this might be the last major version of Windows for some time. Windows 10 will be available for free in October for anyone running Windows 7 and Windows 8 for the first year after its release.

Version 5.5.0 on the Horizon

We are deep into the development cycle of the next software release for the DHCPatriot. Version 5.5.0 will see the addition of new features to the API, as well as enhancements to the GUI which should make troubleshooting customer issues even easier. Additionally, we plan to release a virtual version of the DHCPatriot for use on VMware® virtual servers.

New API features coming in 5.5.0.
- Add static assignments for standard DHCP
- Adding Known Clients to the Standard DHCP
- Retrieving an XML list of users from Built-in Authentication
- Delivery of the entire list of networks and subnets via XML.

Version 5.5.0 will improve the DHCPatriot's GUI to make troubleshooting much easier. A new setting for default time zone will allow the DHCPatriot GUI time zone to be set across the platform's interface. Sortable Data tables by column has been a heavily requested feature and will make its debut in Version

5.5.0. Using "View Address Usage" just became easier as it will now warn you if any of the dynamic networks have greater than 95% utilization. We are also integrating a more improved Hardware Vendor lookup process for retrieving manufacturer names based on MAC addresses and this content will be displayed in output tables. This will greatly improve the time and accuracy of locating specific customer equipment while staying in list view.

Version 5.5.0 is a very customer focused release with the majority of the changes coming directly from the fantastic feedback we receive from you. If you have an idea or suggestion, please let us know. We want the DHCPatriot to be the best tool for your network and some of the greatest updates to the system have come from simple, "What if we could …"

Please note that Version 5.5.0's full feature list has yet to be finalized and all features are still subject to change.

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