

Processing Requirements

or “How to build your conference toolbox”

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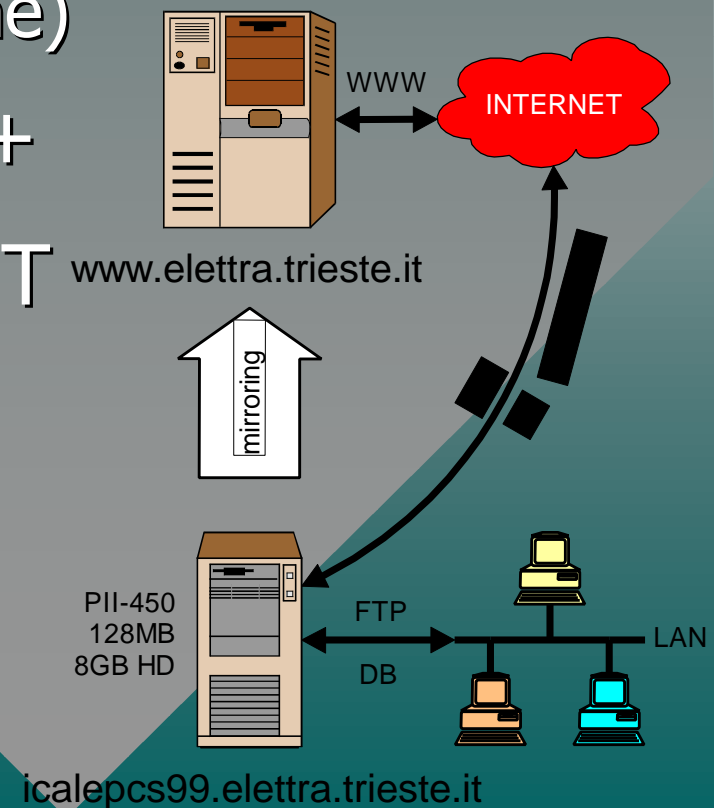
December 2, 1999

Why do we need Computer Processing?

- Give **information** (WWW, mailing, e-mailing)
- Furnish Remote File Service (**FTP**)
- Furnish **PDF** Capability (Distilling Service)
- Have a **DB** to manage all the data
- Be able to **process** the papers (source, PS, PDF)
 - Support several HW/SW
- Manage all the information, both contributions and documentation

The Server Side

- WWW, FTP, (e-)mailing, file server (LAN)
- Be aware of network problems (admin, reliability, intrusions, etc.)
 - e.g. NT (IIS) vs Unix (Apache)
- BackOffice + Option Pack + Resource Kit + ... is mandatory if you choose NT
- Our experience
 - IIS 4 -> problems with web administration (intrusions?)
 - VNC (www.uk.research.att.com/vnc/)
Open Source, Multi Platform



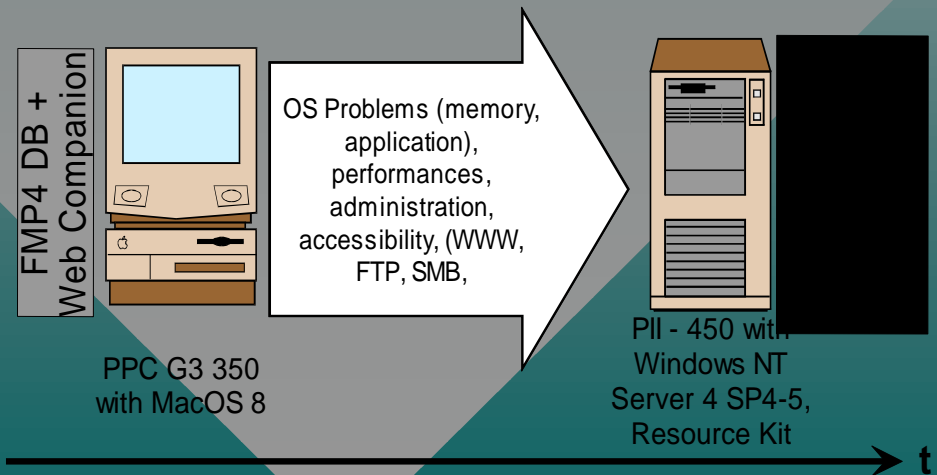
DataBase

- DB must be online: use a good **SQL DB** accessible via WWW
- You can **automate** some tasks
 - export of Abstracts
 - generation of PDF's (LaTeX), publishing of PDF's on the WWW (e.g., Oracle 8i)

$$\backslash \alpha \rightarrow a$$
$$\backslash [x^2 + y_i^3 = z]$$
$$x^2 + y_i^2 = z$$

- Our Experience: **FileMaker Pro 4**

- very simple to use
- not very reliable (ID#, crashing,...)
- too much limitations (no key, bad passwords management, data inconsistency, queries, only interactive use allowed)

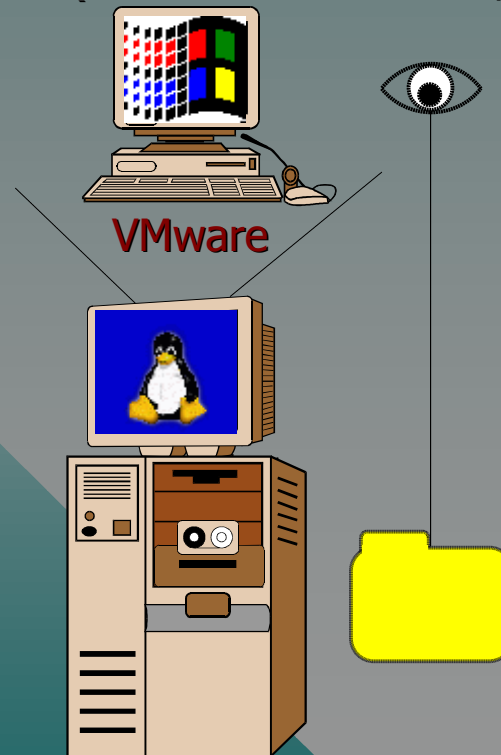


A solution for the server

- Have 2 machines (1 Linux + 1 NT) or only 1 with **VMWARE** (www.vmware.com, \$299, \$ 99EDU)

Virtual Windows NT 4 workstation, Acrobat Distiller, VNC

Linux, Apache + Perlmod, WuFTP, a SQL DB, Atalk + SMB servers for the LAN
2 PII-400
256 MB RAM
(or more)



Acrobat Distiller 4, watching a folder on the real machine

Directory (e.g. /usr/local/distillserv) shared via FTP, HTTP*, ATalk, SMB

* through a CGI

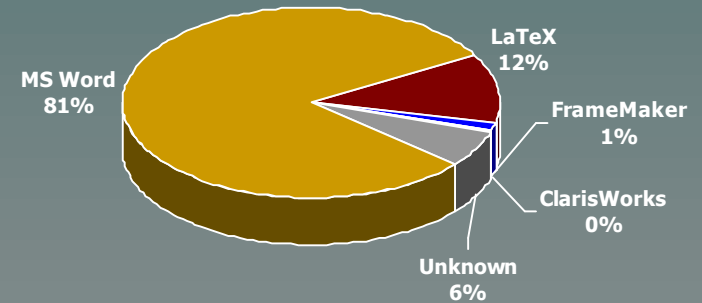
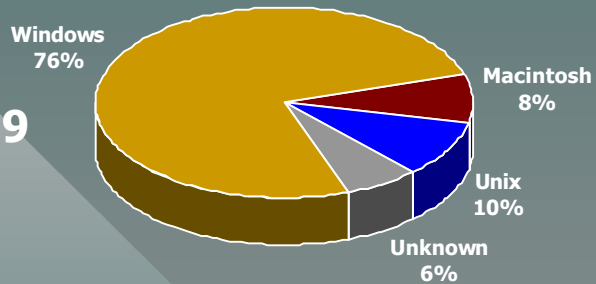
- Distiller: Adobe Licensing Problems? Notifications stopping the server?

@ the venue - which platform?

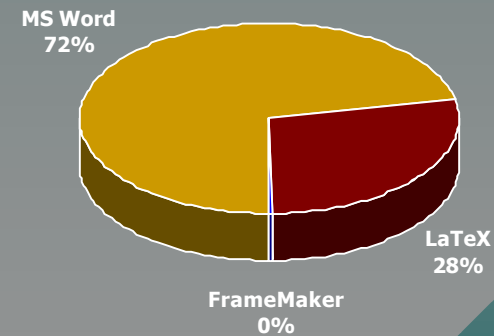
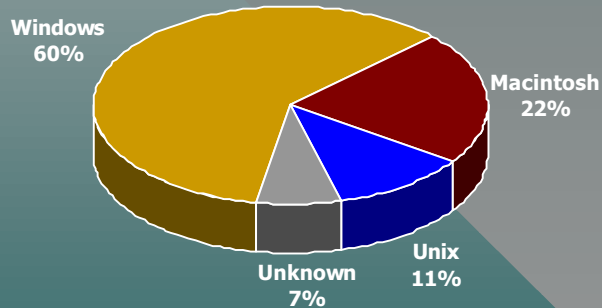
Operating System

Software

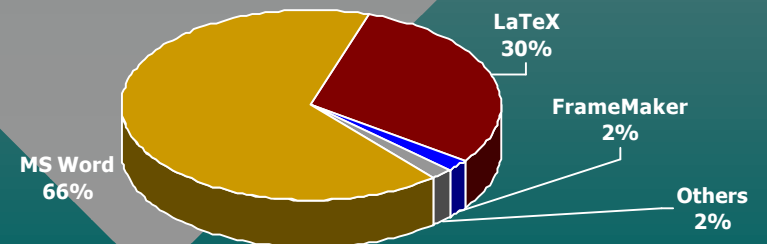
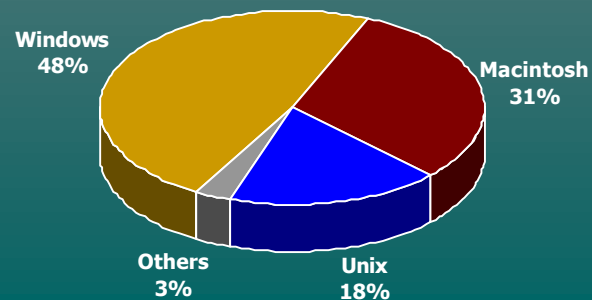
ICALEPCS'99



EPAC'98

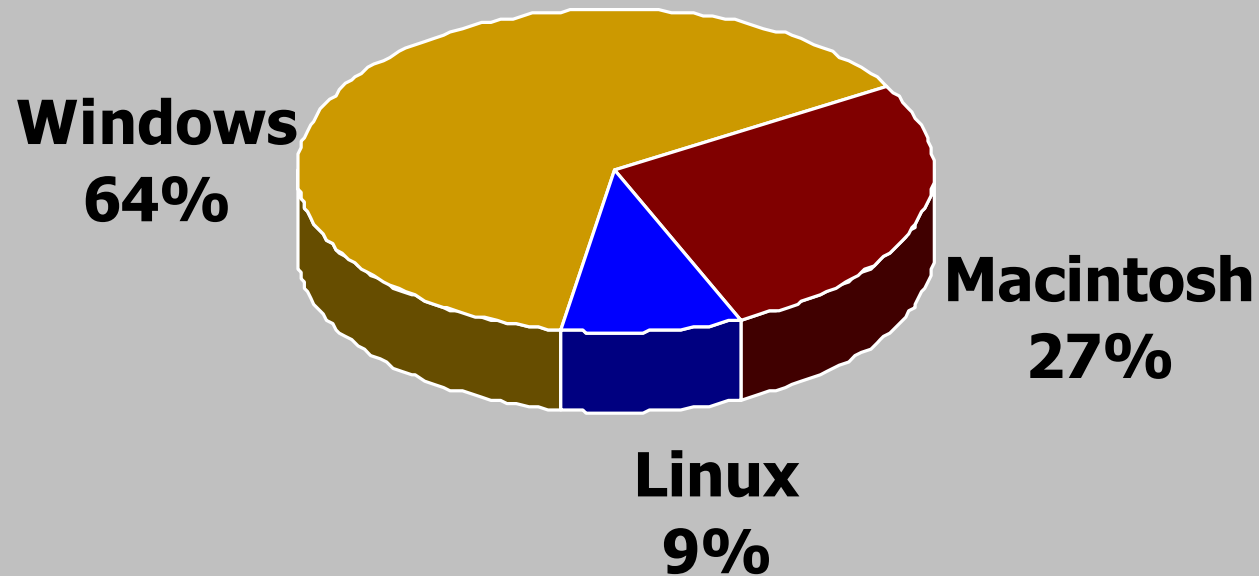


EPAC'96



@ the venue - which platform?

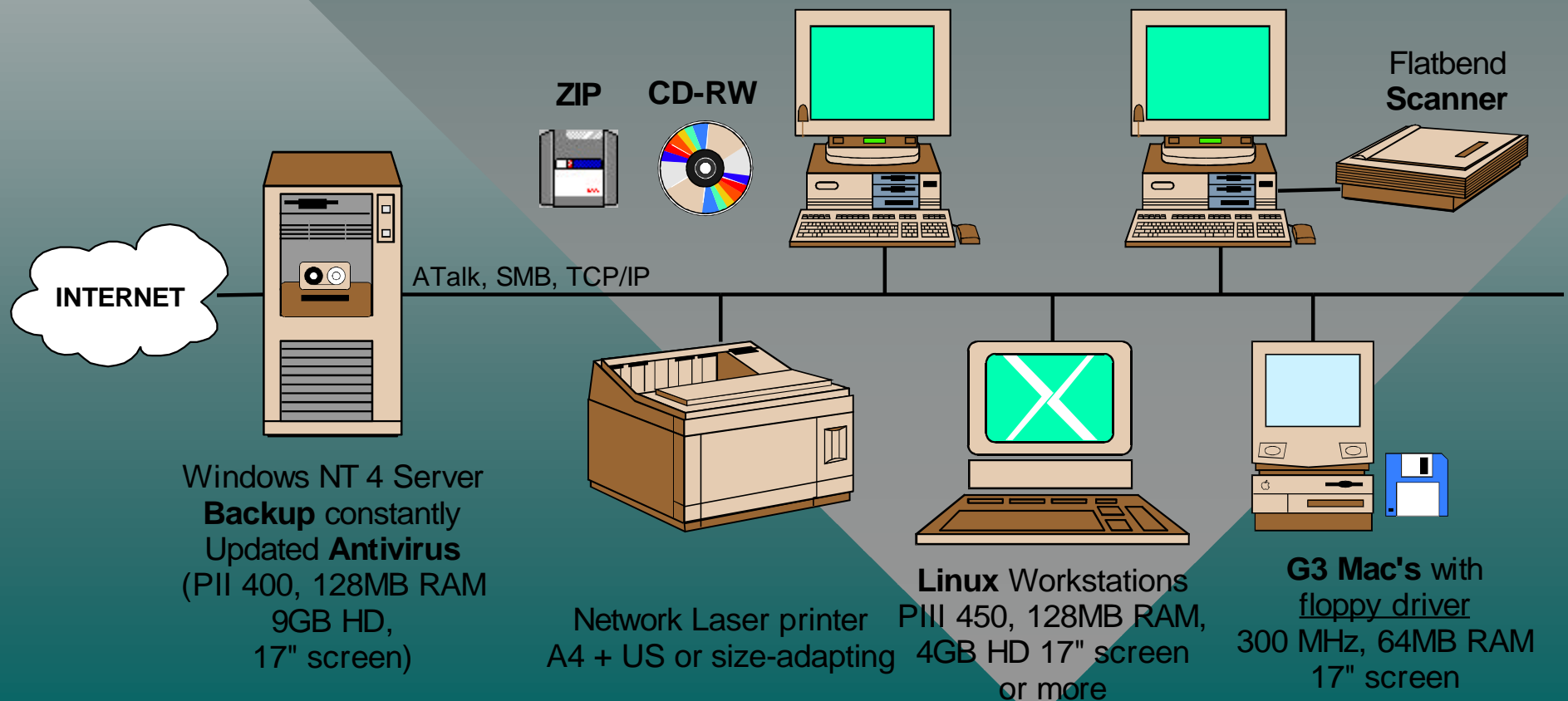
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@ the venue (cont'd)

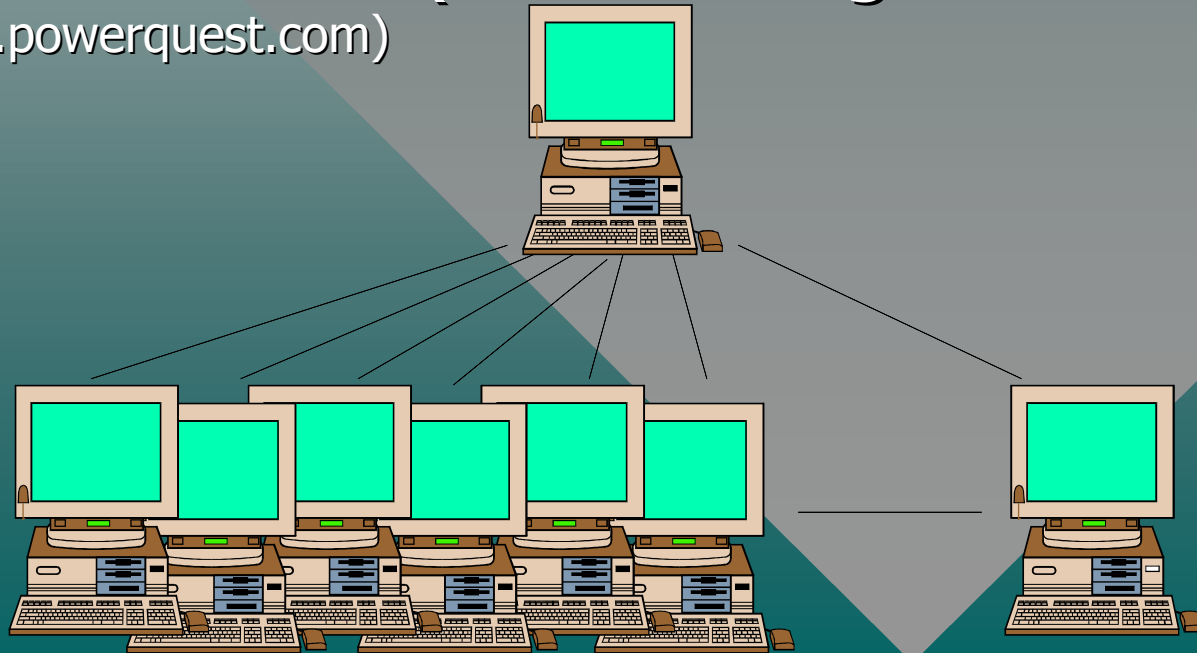
- Central management & storage, local processing
- NT Domain

Several **PC's** with Windows NT 4Workstation
PII 350 - PIII 450, 64MB RAM, 4GB HD
17" screen or more



PC's installation

- Prepare the server and one well-configured machine (with all the software installed).
- Use PowerQuest **DriveCopy 3** to quickly clone the HD's (even through the Network)
(www.powerquest.com)



Mac Issues

- The newer the worse.
 - no **floppy drive** → external USB, slow, dangerous, no support for old **800KB** FD
 - devices: SCSI+ADB to USB
- Low **reliability** (frequent crashes)
- Poorer Software features
- If possible, use **'old'** G3's

Software

- **Acrobat**: best on Windows (more features,...)
 - use AdobePS PostScript Printer
 - font problems on Mac
 - unavailable on Unix
- **Word (Office)**
 - different behaviour on PC and Mac (exp. for figures)
- **Pitstop** (\$295x1, \$3,540x20) is a must (www.enfocus.com)
- **Taylor** (\$369) may be useful (www.enfocus.com)
- **LaTeX**: best on Unix
- **GhostView, TransMac** (www.asy.com, \$64) ,
CrossFont (www.asy.com, \$45), **TextPad** (www.textpad.com),
Adobe Photoshop , PSP (www.jasc.com)

Internationalization

- Use only international **systems**
 - OS, keyboards, software
- Have some **Asian** PC's
 - they use special character sets
- When creating HTML indexes translate special characters (**ü** → **ü**)

Miscellaneous

- Use frames for checking margins