

NCHC's DRBL/Clonezilla Project

■ <http://drbl.nchc.org.tw/en> ■ <http://www.clonezilla.org>



Project Overview

Clonezilla

You're probably familiar with the popular proprietary commercial package, Norton Ghost®, and its Open Source counterpart, Partition Image. The problem with these two software packages is that they take a lot of time to massively clone a single system to many computers. You've also probably heard of Symantec's solution to this problem, Symantec Ghost Corporate Edition® with Multicasting. Well, now there is an Open Source clone system (OCS) solution called Clonezilla with Unicasting and Multicasting!

Clonezilla, based on DRBL, Partition Image, ntfsclone, and UDPcast, allows you to do bare metal backup and recovery. Two types of Clonezilla are available, Clonezilla Live and Clonezilla Server Edition (Clonezilla SE). Clonezilla Live is suitable for single machine backup and restoring whereas Clonezilla SE is used for massive deployment (i.e. it can clone many computers--40 plus!--simultaneously!) Clonezilla saves and restores only the used blocks on the hard disk. This increases its cloning efficiency. In the NCHC's Classroom C, Clonezilla SE was used to clone 41 computers simultaneously! It took only 10 minutes to clone a 5.6 GBytes system image to all 41 computers using multicasting!

Clonezilla Features:

- Free (GPL) Software.
- Clonezilla supports the following file systems: ext2, ext3, ext4, reiserfs, reiser4, xfs, jfs, hfs+, FAT, NTFS. It is able to clone GNU/Linux, Mac OS, and MS Windows. For these file systems, only the used blocks in the partition are saved and restored. For unsupported file systems, a sector-to-sector copy is done by dd in Clonezilla.
- LVM2, under GNU/Linux, is supported (although LVM version 1.0 is not).
- Clonezilla SE supports Multicast.
- Clonezilla, based on Partimage, ntfsclone, partclone and dd, is able to save and restore partitions as well as the entire disk!
- DRBL-winroll, another free software developed by the NCHC, can be used to automatically change the hostname, group, and SID of a cloned MS Windows machine.