

Remote desktops with NX

With NX server and NX clients from the Italian software house NoMachine you can try a fast and secure alternative to remote X-connections. The main goal of the NX project was to develop X compression technology. It has since been extended to include support for VNC and RDP connections (from NX server to WinTS machines). Users are enabled to run unmodified versions of X or Windows desktops on a standard X or Windows display.

With the protocol compression techniques and an integrated set of proxy agents it is possible to run complete remote desktop sessions (even at full screen!) over very slow connections (i.e. a 9.6Kbps mobile phone link). Not only is the network traffic reduced through advanced caching techniques and image compression, the software also eliminates the majority of round-trips. On slow links round-trips are what contribute to the bulk of the delay experienced by the user.



You can download clients (the current version is 1.2.2) for various Linux distributions, Windows 9x/NT/2000/XP, Apple OS-X, Solaris, HP-UX, SCO UnixWare, IBM AIX and embedded devices like the HP/Compaq iPAQ and the Sharp Zaurus, with more platforms expected to be supported in the near future.

While the clients are freely available on the NX homepage you have to pay for

the server license. That's a per-server license and servers are claimed to support up to 100 concurrent sessions. For testing you can download an evaluation version of the server from the NoMachine homepage or connect with your client to the NoMachine test server, which is in Italy.

Unfortunately, the server and client are distributed under a closed license, but the core libraries (e.g. the X protocol compression or the modified X11 transport libraries) are released under the GNU/GPL. The NoMachine team hopes that Open Source developers take this code and create their own versions of the client and server in the form of an OpenNX project. The Italians claim on their website: "NoMachine's aim is to create an open marketplace where companies and individuals develop on top of the same standards to build the network computing of tomorrow."

<http://www.nomachine.com/>

Get to grips with Boa Constructor

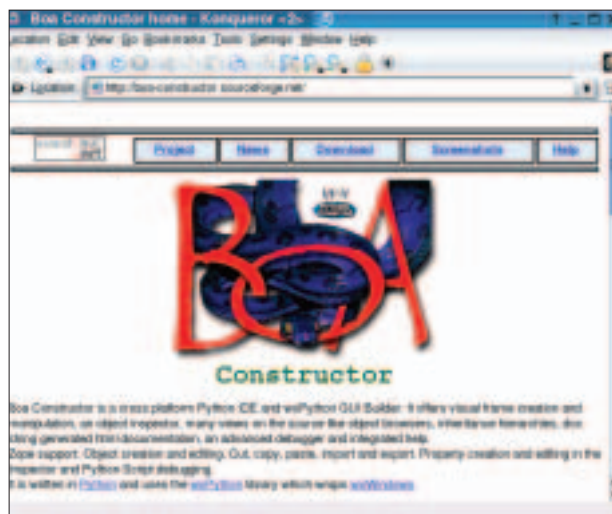
Boa Constructor is a portable Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for Python, which runs on Linux, Windows and soon to be available on Mac OS X. It's written in Python/wxPython and provides code editing and debugging support. The use of wxPython and Zope support results in a full-featured IDE.

Boa Constructor allows you to gain a broader perspective over your code by providing you with many views on the source like object browsers, inheritance hierarchies, doc string generated html documentation, an advanced debugger and integrated help.

An installation of wxPython 2.3.2 or

higher and Python 2.1 or higher is required. The project is hosted by SourceForge, which made it project of the month in August. Version 0.2.0 can be downloaded from the project homepage.

<http://boa-constructor.sourceforge.net/>



KDE Maintenance Release

KDE 3.1.3, a maintenance release for the third KDE-generation, is available for download. Numerous problems, which were reported using the KDE bug tracking system, have been corrected.

Binary packages are available for the following distributions: SuSE, Red Hat, Debian 'woody', FreeBSD and Conectiva Linux. Additional binary packages might become available and can be found on the download page along with detailed instructions on how to install them on your distribution.

You can also download the source code and build it yourself using the Konstruct tool (<http://konsole.kde.org/konstruct/>). This is a build system, which helps installing and building source tarballs by checking their integrity, decompressing the archives, applying patches, setting configuration options and subsequently building and installing the resulting binaries.

<http://download.kde.org/stable/3.1.3/>