

*i***ITCO**

HP-UX Streamline
your Deployment

White Paper

Ignite-UX

Ignite-UX addresses your need to perform system installations and deployment, often on a large scale. With Ignite-UX, you can:

- Create and reuse standard system configurations.
- Archive a standard system configuration and use that archive to replicate systems in far less time than with other methods.
- Create customized processes to allow interactive and unattended installs.
- More-easily recover OS and applications after crashes and hardware failures.

Features

Client/Server Control

Ignite-UX install sessions for multiple targets can be controlled from a single server in a true client/server model. A graphical user interface (UI) provided on the server called the ignite screen helps you manage multiple simultaneous-install sessions. Alternatively, you can run a single install session from the target system if that is more convenient. A single install server can serve multiple HP-UX releases. The Ignite-UX server can be installed on any of these HP-UX releases: 10.01, 10.10, 10.20, 11.0 and 11i.

Easy-to-Use UI

The Ignite-UX ignite screen uses tabbed dialogs for task navigation, so you can access more configuration capabilities without being overwhelmed. In addition, a wizard mode is available for the novice.

Multi-Sourced Installations

You could install your base OS from one SD depot, a set of patches from another depot, and the applications you want from a third depot all in one session.

Multiple Archive Formats

In addition to supporting SD software sources, Ignite-UX supports tar, cpio, and pax archives. Tools are provided to help you create a "golden system image" if you wish to install from an archive.

Custom Installations

It is easy to create a system that is ready to go as soon as the install session completes. Many of the tasks typically done as separate steps after an install are now incorporated into the Ignite-UX installation process. Ignite-UX allows you to specify what kernel parameters you want set and what user-supplied scripts you would like to run as part of the session. Many different script hooks are provided so you can do your own customizations (during and after the installation). Also,

the host and networking information which must normally be supplied at first boot can be specified at install-time. You can:

- Create a configuration for your particular needs, save it away, and then quickly apply that configuration to multiple install targets.
- Set up a configuration and then install it on a target machine with no further user interaction. This can be done in both the initial installation and the re-installation cases.
- Scan a system and produce a report detailing what hardware is present, how the disks are used, what kernel modifications have been made, and what software has been loaded. This report can be customized to meet your needs.
- Construct your own customized bootable install/recovery media using `make_medialif`.

System Recovery

You have consistent, reliable recovery in the event of a catastrophic failure of the system disk or root volume group using `make_recovery` or `make_net_recovery`.

Support for ServiceControl Manager

Ignite-UX supports installing HP-UX client systems in an HP ServiceControl Manager environment. See the ServiceControl Manager Installation and Configuration manual for more details.

What can Ignite-UX do for you?

Once you have an Ignite-UX server installed and configured for your environment, you'll find that it can help you solve many common installation and recovery problems:

One-Step Installation

Once you configure a system with a common configuration which you want pushed to other systems, use Ignite-UX to either manually or automatically ignite each client system. This common configuration can include any supported HP-UX 10.x/11.0/11i OS, plus you can add any required patches and applications. This configuration can be bundled into an OS archive, either on the Ignite-UX server or any system in your environment. You can also pull bits from an Ignite-UX server and install the client locally.

Re-Install HP-UX or Patches Quickly

You can quickly re-install the OS on an existing system after repair from either an OS archive or SD depots.

Scanning a System

With Ignite-UX, you can easily scan a system, or all systems in your environment, to see what hardware is present, how the disks are used, what kernel modifications have been made and what software has been loaded.

Automate Installations

Using Ignite-UX's configuration files allow you to completely automate the OS installation process on any systems in your environment.

Quick System Recovery

In addition to OS archives for initial installations, you can create recovery archives on tape (access from a drive on the client) or on any system in your environment (access via the network).

Summary

Ignite-UX is a very sensible way to combat the spiraling of deployment and maintenance of systems. iTCO Engineers have been using this tool and others to keep infrastructure costs to a minimum. If you would like to learn more please contact your iTCO Sales Representative.

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