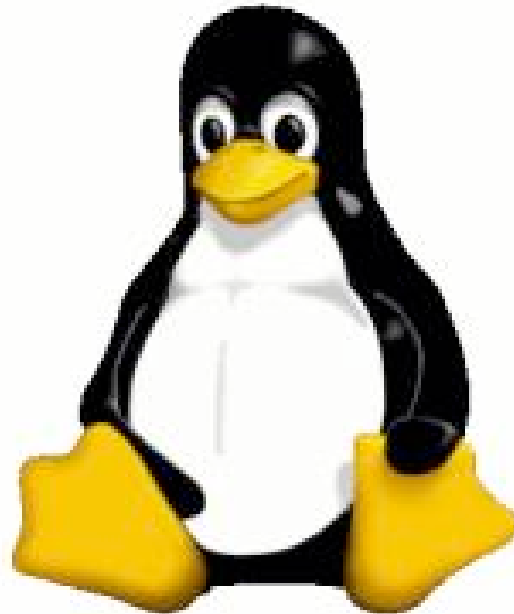# The Future of Linux at CCIS

The Issues

- The Linux boxes have been shutdown for too long
- Problems are both technical and social

Technical Problems

- Linux GIDs do not match NIS environment GIDs
- Programs have not worked correctly in the past
- Tightly Coupled with CCIS

Social Problems

- Knowledge unevenly spread
  - Who can fix the Linux Boxes?
  - Minimal documentation
- Who gets root?
- Understaffed
  - The project runs into trouble when the admins get busy e.g. class / work

Solutions

- Change the Project -- redo the Linux Boxes
  - How?
- More participation
  - Everyone can work on Linux
  - Weekly meeting separate from Crew meeting
    - Date and Time -- Thursday, Nights 7:30 - 8:00pm

Linux History Sans Dates

- Linux originally based on Slackware-7, used Ghost to maintain the linux boxes.
  - Continued until 2003, with updated Slackware Boxes
- Linux Moves to Debian and uses FAI

Future Solutions

- Continue with Debian and FAI
- Russell's Unique Solution
- Thin-clients
- X-terminal servers
- Radmind managed machines
- Suggestions from the audience

General Practices

- Use Crew's RT server for:
  - Problems with Linux
  - Requests for features etc.
- SVN repository for docs including
  - How we setup the boxes
  - Any management system we use
  - Custom changes to applications
    - Emacs / tetex -- for CCIS
  - Policy Documentation