

The City Council of Fregenal de la Sierra chose Zentyal as its first domain and directory server



"We chose Zentyal for the robustness and security of Linux, as well as for the very affordable licensing. Zentyal has allowed us to organize and structure our infrastructure and centralize the management."

Miguel Ángel Corrales

Computer technician
City Council of
Fregenal de la Sierra

Before implementing Zentyal, the City Council did not have a server. They deployed Zentyal mainly as the domain controller and file server. The main goal was to be able to centrally manage computers and configure the necessary permissions and rules per user and per group.

The challenge

The number of computers in the Fregenal de la Sierra City Council had been gradually growing over the years. To date, they didn't have a server, simply a collection of computers connected in a workgroup. Because of this, their biggest problem was the decentralization of the PCs: They were missing domain policies, backups, access logs, etc.

The City Council was looking for a server solution that would allow them - above all, manage centrally the workstations and file sharing. One of their main requirements was to be able to configure permissions and rules per user and per group. Likewise, the solution had to be robust, secure and affordable.

After evaluating a number of options, they decided to make a test installation with the Zentyal Server Trial version. Before taking the purchase decision, the system was thoroughly tested during two months. During this time they carried out a large number of tests and recreated different scenarios to make sure that everything was working correctly.

The solution

After the testing period concluded successfully, the City Council made a clean install of Zentyal Server. They installed a single virtual server using the Proxmox VE platform. This server has 2 sockets and 9 processor cores, 40Gbs of RAM and two hard drives in RAID 0 with 6TB each.

The main use of Zentyal is that of a domain controller and file server, so they enabled the Domain & Directory and File Sharing modules. They are also using other secondary features provided by the Antivirus, Firewall, DNS, IDS/IPS

and Logs modules.

Computers were joined to the Zentyal domain gradually and within a month and half they had all the users fully operational in the domain. Currently the Zentyal system has 42 active users, organized into 10 groups.

Aside from being able to configure permissions and rules per user and per group, the file sharing module was also essential. It allows each department have their own shared folder and is very useful as it avoids file sharing through email and USB sticks. Thanks to the Antivirus module, they also make sure that the data they use and store is free of virus.

On the other hand, with the IDS/IPS module the City Council can detect and prevent certain attacks or misuses, although it is mainly used to monitor certain fundamental aspects that are not controlled by their main firewall. The DNS module is also very useful for them: it is configured as a redirector for other DNS that they use both in a large provincial network offered by the Provincial Council and in public DNS of large internet service providers.

The experience

The City Council of Fregenal de la Sierra is very satisfied with the solution. *"Thanks to the domain policies, all the City Council computers are well organized and structured now. Everything is centralized, from backups to user data and all kinds of logs."* Generally speaking, the City Council considers that Zentyal covers all their needs and has helped them to overcome the major shortcomings.

About City Council of Fregenal de la Sierra

Fregenal de la Sierra is a municipality located to the south of the Badajoz province (Extremadura, Spain). It is considered as one of the most important emerging tourist destinations in the province. The city has been the cradle of distinguished Extremadurans such as the humanist Benito Arias Montano, the politician Juan Bravo Murillo and the painter Eugenio Hermoso.

The municipality has four officially declared cultural heritage assets: the city center that is considered as historical and artistic complex (1992), the archaeological site of Nertóbriga (2013), the Dancers of the Virgin of Health (2016) and the Menhirs of Ardila (2020). Other points of interest include the "Festival Internacional de la Sierra" that has been declared as an Event of National Tourist Interest, Ciprés Calvo de las Mimbres - a unique tree from Extremadura, Astronomical Tourism Complex "Entre Encinas y Estrellas" with Starlight certification and a local network of hiking trails.

About Zentyal

Zentyal Linux Server has been developed since 2004. Zentyal Server incorporates all the network services required in corporate environments, most importantly the first-ever native Microsoft Active Directory® implementation on Linux that is easy to use.

With Zentyal Server there is no need to use command line, but system administrators can manage all the network services via graphical user interface. Zentyal-based solutions allow businesses and organizations to reduce and rationalize IT investments, improve the security and minimize system downtime.

Zentyal Linux Server is widely used by businesses of all sizes independently of their activity or location, as well as by public administration or the education sector.

