



Arizona Radio Observatory



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MEMORANDUM

To: All Telescope Operators
From: Thomas Folkers
Date: March 16, 2005
Subject: **Running Outside Applications on Telescope Control Computers.**

I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate a policy that has been in place forever but may have been forgotten and needs to be restated for everyone's edification.

The control computers are to be used only to run programs and applications that are directly associated with the control and operation of the telescope.

Programs such as Netscape, AOL Instant messaging, games etc are known to hang-up the Linux Xwindow system and should not be used on the main computers. Even running these programs on another computer and displaying on the main computers will cause problems.

In the last few weeks, computers of the core control system have had to be rebooted because of complete hang-ups of the Xwindow system or due to exhaustion of TCP socket ports. These reboots have caused extensive loss of observing time not only due to the time it takes to get everything back running, but also because of the chances for improper configurations after the reboots. Some of these erroneous configurations can go undetected for hours after observing resumes. The control system programs are not known to cause problems with the Xwindow system.

The computers that comprise the core control system are corona, modelo, locura, ballena, tecate and tux at the 12 Meter. On Mt. Graham the computers are smtocont, smtoast, smtoxdpy1, and smtoxdpy2. You may use optical on Kitt Peak or Jever on Mt. Graham to run other non-essential programs.

The use of pine and elm to read emails have been shown to be compatible and do not cause problems. Operators are encouraged to use these for email reading.

If there are any questions about this policy or about what constitutes an essential control system program, then do not hesitate to call me.

Thomas W. Folkers

Operations Manager