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eComStation™

# Installer Team

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- and many more volunteers

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## eComStation 1.0 Installer issues

- Boot process sometimes problematic
- Hard to translate
- High memory footprint
- Installation was too difficult
- LVM proved difficult
- Registration key was too hard to apply

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# eComStation 1.1 Installer Goals

- Easier to translate
- Improved boot method
- Lower memory footprint
- Easier disk setup
- Response file installation
- Centralized configuration
- Reusable, modular installer
- Standards for filesystem layout
- Registration key with only alphanumeric characters (except I, O, S, Z)

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## Easier translation

- The installer and key components of eComStation have their resources separated from the code. The installer uses a script language “Guided Procedures Scripts” to define the panels.
- Each installer panel consists of one or more GPS files and DLLs. The DLLs define how the page functions, the GPS contains all data.
- The installer is available in all languages regardless the language of base system to install

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```
// -----  
  
SubTitle = "Select components";  
Module = "eipackag.dll", 1;  
Text = "Select which components of eComStation to install... e  
  
NEXTSCRIPT = "einetgen.gps";  
  
Captions = "Description:",  
            "Destination:",  
            "Volume",  
            "Available space (KB)",  
            "Please check them one by one, as needed, selecting  
            "destination volume when possible.",  
            "There is not enough space for installing the curre  
            "on the selected drive!\n"  
            "Please read the notes in the current panel for mor
```

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# Improved Boot method

eComStation 1.0 used 'Floppy Emulation' with several floppy-images to boot from CD. In version 1.1 we use the 'No Emulation' mode and create a RAM disk from which eComStation boots. This bootmethod has the advantage that the user can add drivers to the system while booting from CD. As fall back method, boot disks will be provided also.

The pre-boot menu has improved:

- Multi-page bootmenu
- Help panels
- Easier navigation
- Less options

The eComStation bootmethod is created by Veit Kannegieser (OS2CSM) and Oliver Rick (pre-boot menu and config.sys)

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# MiniLVM

A PM restricted LVM version that hides the concepts of volumes, extends and partitions and provides an easy to use familiar interface to set up your filesystem.

- Online help available
- Only 3 steps to create a partition and volume at the same time
- Supports compatibility volumes and LVM volumes
- Allows to set the driveletter mappings
- Bootmanager support

MiniLVM is created by Alex Taylor

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Installation Volume Manager

System Volume Help



LAPTOP  
4887 MB

	Size (MB)	File System	Type	Notes
	7	Boot Manager	Primary	In Use
	147	FAT16	Primary	Bootable: "WINNT"
	22	unformatted	Logical	
D:	324	FAT16	Logical	
	1.461	NTFS	Logical	
C:	1.461	HPFS	Logical	Bootable: "OS/2"
	738	Linux	Logical	
	29	Linux Swap	Logical	
	693	Linux	Logical	Bootable: "n: libs "

Disk 1 Extent 1 Partition: [BOOT MANAGER]

# Centralized configuration

All questions for the configuration of a base system including networking are asked during the first phase of the install. After the configuration the installation will go through a couple of stages of installation all unattended. Several components are configured:

- Base system package selection
- Locale
- Essential hardware
- Basic network configuration
  - Network cards & protocols
  - IP Address and hostname
  - Default route and nameservers
  - LAN workstation name and domain

All settings are stored in response files for installation, replication and future reference.

## Response file installation

- eComStation allows three installation modes, easy, advanced and response file installation.
- Easy and Advanced installation will produce response files which can later on be used in a response file installation.
- In a corporate environment the same response files as used for a IBM OS/2 Warp 4 or Convenience Pack installation through CID can be used for a eComStation installation since they share a common backend in the IBM CID installation tools.

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## Example partial package.rsp response file

```
Documentation=1
DOSSupport=1
DPMI=1
WIN-OS/2TargetDrive=D:
WIN-OS/2Support=1
WIN-OS/2Desktop=0
Fonts=1
MultimediaSupport=0
OptionalSystemUtilities=3,4,6,7,8,9
ToolsAndGames=2,3,6
```

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## Modular design

- Installer is modular, it easy to add packages to the pages or to add new pages
- The installer can function in installer and in wizard mode, allowing to reuse components for configuration dialogs in the installed system
- In the future it will be possible to invoke the installer from an installed system

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# File System Standard

The installation team has also drafted a standard for the eComStation filesystem. This standard separates user-data from system and applications. We have tried to copy the good things from both the UNIX and Windows File System Standards, without breaking compatibility. The standard defines amongst others the location of logfiles, configuration files, the desktop and applications.

`\ecs`

`\bin`

`\system`

`\dll`

`\var`

`\home`

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# Registration

The existing registration proved to be very annoying because the registration key is very long, uses character that are easy to confuse and there is not a easy method to transfer the registration key electronically to the user. We took several measurements to make life easier:

- Limited the character set to alphanumeric excluding those letters that are easy to confuse (I, O, S and Z)
- Moved the registration to the first phase of the installation
- The installer can find the key in a file using a special XML-like encoding

```
<USERNAME>Xyz</USERNAME>
```

```
<REGKEY>
```

```
TWA4G68T8A8 - T82H46TXXRE
```

```
GDW5U20X07U - YGPUUR4VAE1
```

```
OBEK0AF7E2K - AMQ8QKYUUE6
```

```
VH2X3K2E8U7 - NXRAF582J1H
```

```
</REGKEY>
```

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