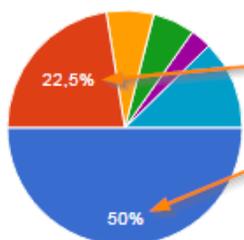




Relax-and-Recover (rear) Poll Results of 2015

In the course of the year 2015 we organized the rear poll via Relax-and-Recover project web pages. This paper describes the main results of the poll.

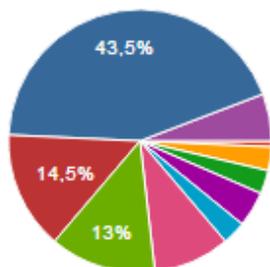
How did you find out about ReaR?



Web Search for Linux Disaster Recovery	69	50%
Recommendation	31	22.5%
Saw a ReaR talk at a conference	9	6.5%
Read about ReaR in a printed magazine	8	5.8%
Google+	4	2.9%
Overig	17	12.3%

Interesting to notice is that lots of people find rear via a simple query on the internet. However, we are more excited with the 22,5% recommendations from current users who are pleased with rear.

When did you use ReaR the first time?



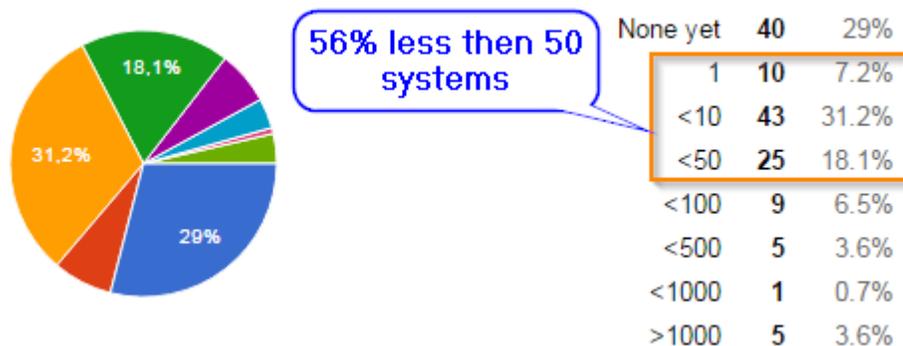
Represents 80%

2006	0	0%
2007	1	0.7%
2008	4	2.9%
2009	4	2.9%
2010	6	4.3%
2011	4	2.9%
2012	13	9.4%
2013	18	13%
2014	20	14.5%
2015	60	43.5%
Don't remember	8	5.8%

Rear was created mid 2006, but we had to wait 'till 2012 before it became really known apparently. However, it seems that 2015 was the year where rear became really popular by the user base. Could it be because RedHat accepted rear in its base core product?

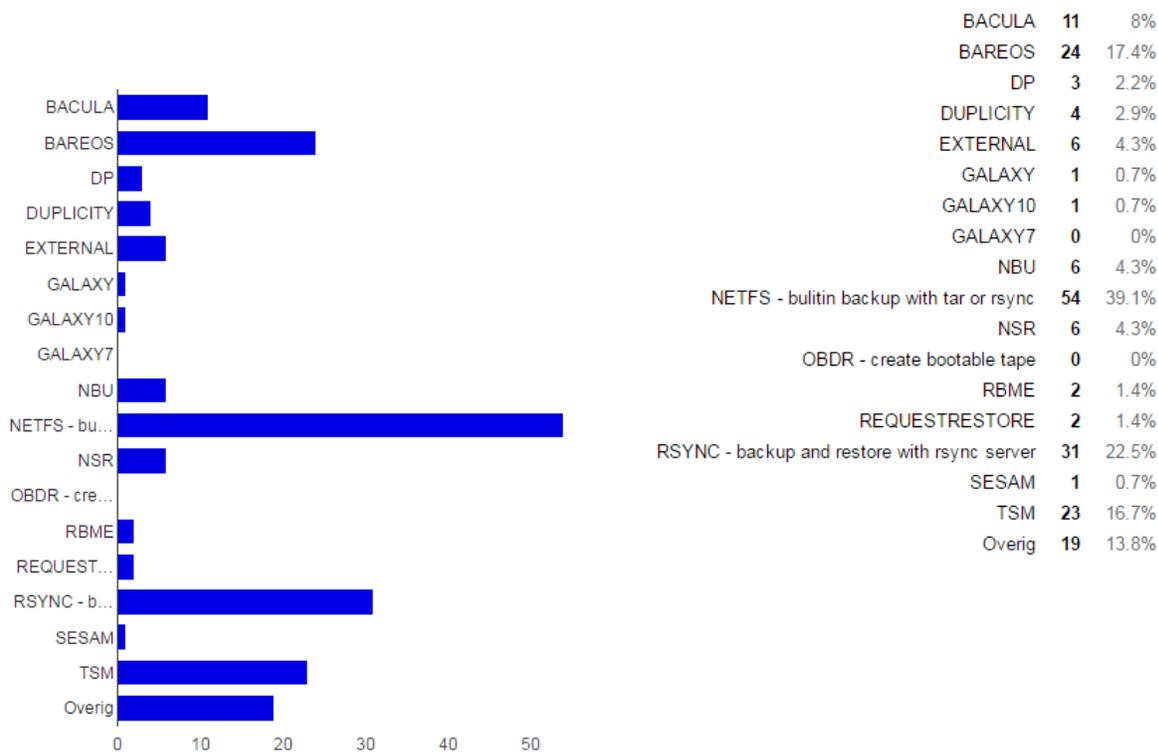


How many Linux systems are covered by ReaR

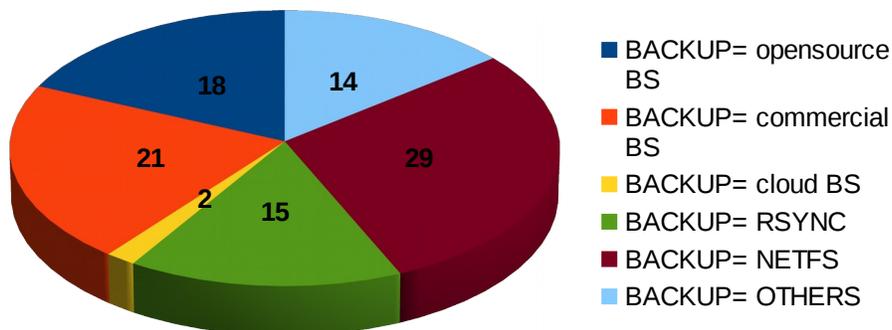


This is an extremely interesting statement – more then 56% of the users use rear on no more then 50 Linux systems.

Which backup system do you use with ReaR?

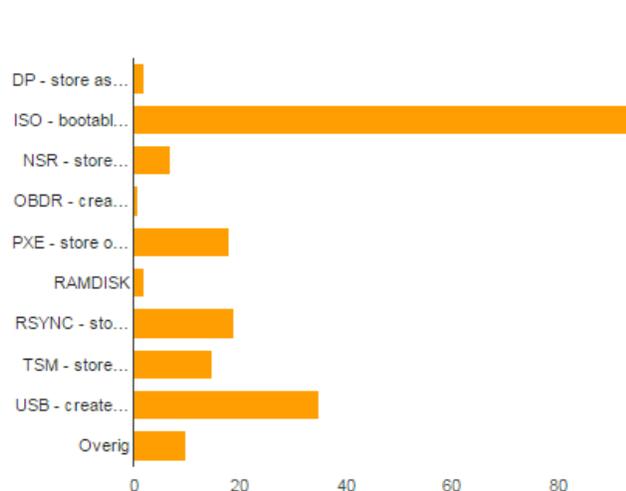


The above overview shows what the users define in the /etc/rear/local.conf file as BACKUP variable. The next figure shows a summarized pie-chart of the same data. The NETFS method and backup software (commercial and non-commercial) share approximately the same figures.

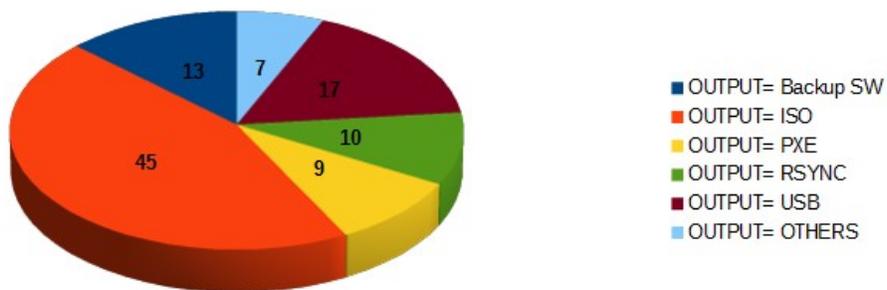


The following figures splits up the OUTPUT variable:

How do you store the ReaR rescue media?



DP - store as Data Protector backup	2	1.4%
ISO - bootable CD or DVD	93	67.4%
NSR - store as Networker backup	7	5.1%
OBDR - create bootable tape	1	0.7%
PXE - store on PXE boot server	18	13%
RAMDISK	2	1.4%
RSYNC - store on rsync server	19	13.8%
TSM - store as Tivoli Storage Manager backup	15	10.9%
USB - create bootable USB disk / flash drive	35	25.4%
Overig	10	7.2%

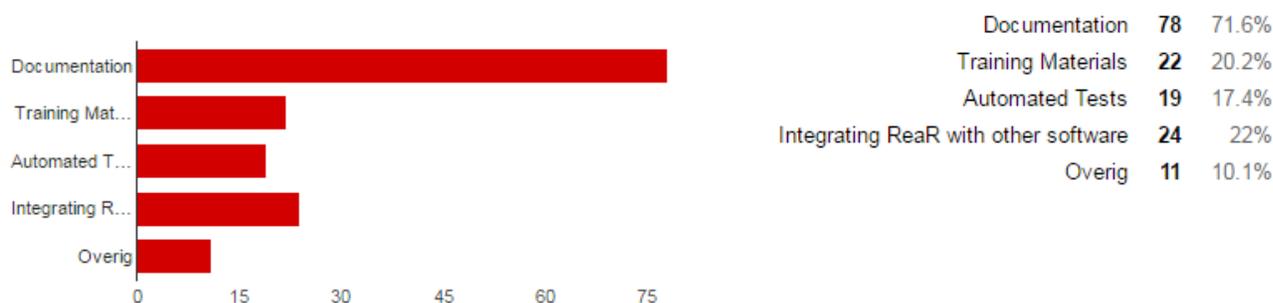


The most commonly output method is the ISO format followed by backup software and USB media.



The following question was more related to what is missing in rear and into which area you as user would be willing to contribute to in form of pull requests or investment:

Into which areas of ReaR would you be willing to invest?



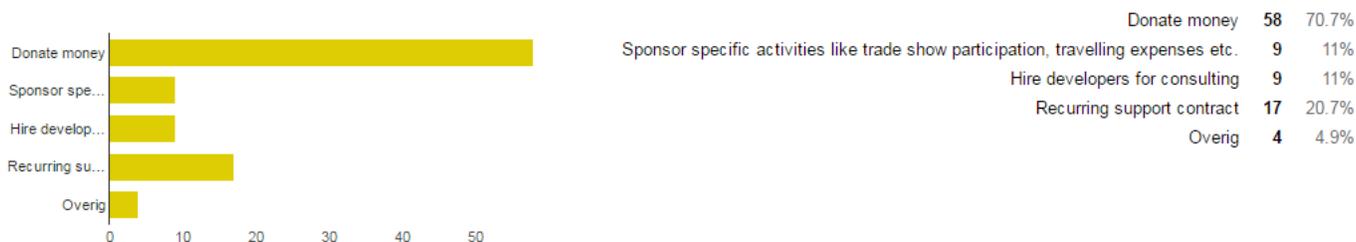
Documentation is by far the most requested topic – we clearly need to invest time into this area. We notice that use cases on how to configure rear with with different backup schemes are a gab. However, since rear-1.18 we have included example configuration files already. We will continue on this path. A user guide and developer guide are incomplete or missing.

Training material was another topic requested – we are currently working on a real workshop using vagrant with exercises. The first trial will be for OSBconf 2016 in Cologne, Germany (September, 26th, 2016).

Automated testing is a project that is currently in progress (very slowly due to lack of sponsors). The integration testing project has also been started, but is progressing extremely slow due no sponsoring.

The last question was about donation and sponsoring:

If you want to help with money - which way would work best for you?



Donating money seems by far the easiest way of sponsoring and by far the most wanted.

There seems to be an interest in rear support contracts. Therefore, IT3 Consultants bvba (the company of one of the main project contributors) also organized a little poll on it3.be website and the result was:



To keep on enhancing rear (the program and/or documentation) we need to invest in time and material. As we cannot live from thin air only we need sponsoring, or companies willing to invest in buying rear subscriptions (to guarantee software development), or rear support contracts (to guarantee assistance when required).

References

Relax-and-Recover	http://relax-and-recover.org/
Relax-and-Recover Issues	https://github.com/rear/rear/issues
Relax-and-Recover Support	http://relax-and-recover.org/support/
Relax-and-Recover Sponsoring	http://relax-and-recover.org/support/sponsors
IT3 Consultants bvba	http://www.it3.be/
Rear Support Services	http://www.it3.be/rear-support/