Driver Update Program
RHEL5.1 onward

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Summary - RHEL5.0

- **Driver Update Program (DUP) new in RHEL 5.0.**
  - Mutual co-development with Novell engineers on many common underpinnings
- **Module versioning at the RPM level**
  - To ensure matches of kernel version and driver version
  - To ensure added drivers continue to operate when kernel errata are issued
- **Supports addition of new drivers not in the bootpath**
  - ie, non-boot storage drivers, non-boot network cards
- **Introduces symbol whitelists**
  - Defining the set of stable symbols 3rd party modules can depend on
  - Used in RPM module installation to validate version match with kernel

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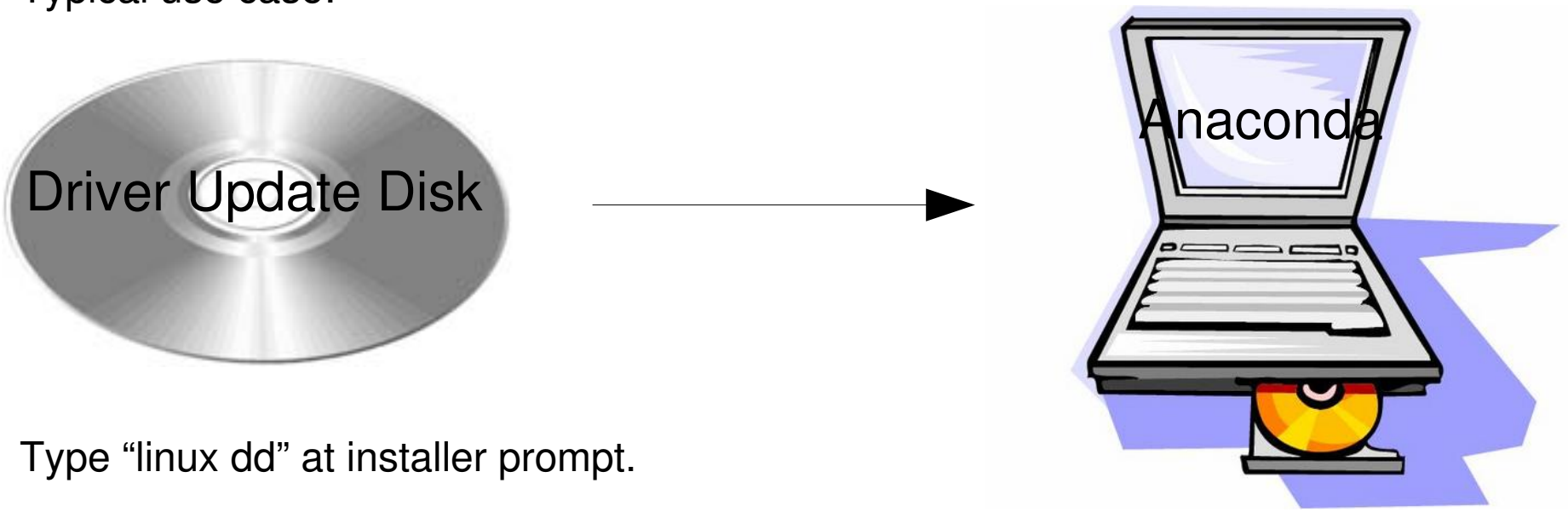
Summary - RHEL5.1

- **Supports boot-time driver update disks**
  - Includes anaconda installer mechanism.
- **Mechanisms allowing overriding drivers that Red Hat bundles in the main kernel RPM**
  - Although usage is not officially supported without explicit agreement.
- **Updated whitelists.**
  - Adding additional symbols requested by 3rd party driver writers & IHVs
  - Subject to engineering review for interface stability and appropriateness
- Updated documentation
  - New example based on IPW3945 driver shipping in RHEL5.1.
  - Example driver update disk creation.

RHEL5.1 – Installer Changes

- The Red Hat Installer (called Anaconda) was modified to support enhanced Driver Update Disks (DUDs) that contain Driver Update Program RPMs.
- Typical use case:



- Type “linux dd” at installer prompt.
- Insert Driver Update Disk when prompted.
- Drivers loaded/installed onto target system.
- Drivers retained across kernel upgrades/errata.

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What can you do to help?

Please let us know how well driver updates work for you.

- Examples of situations where the program has been helpful.
- Examples of perceived deficiencies in the current offering.
- Examples of future functionality that would be desirable.