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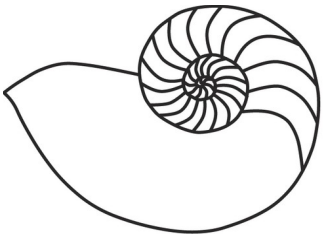

MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Next Meeting: February 21st, 2006: UNIX@Work, UNIX@Home

Once upon a time there was a LAN, a LAN where chaos reigned... OK, maybe it wasn't quite that dramatic, but the early days of networking were quite different than today for Gilbert Detillieux, a system and network administrator for the University of Manitoba's department of Computer Science for over 16 years. In this mini-presentation, in what we hope will become a semi-regular series of UNIX@Work/Home presentations, Gilbert will describe how the LAN-scape changed over those years at the University, and the role UNIX has played in taming the wild frontier of the Internet.

Starting from scratch with your home network? Where do you start? Where do you go from here? Kevin McGregor is dealing with these very issues in setting up a network in his new home. He will cover hardware and software, clients and servers, backups, data integrity, network infrastructure, cabling plants and much more, all in less than 30 minutes!

Note: We have changed the date for this month's meeting, to the 3rd Tuesday, so that folks can spend Valentine's Day with their sweethearts.

Where to find the Meeting

Meetings are held at the IBM offices at 400 Ellice Ave. (between Edmonton and Kennedy). When you arrive, you will have to sign in at the reception desk, and then wait for someone to take you up (in groups) to the meeting room. Please try to arrive by about 7:15pm, so the meeting can start promptly at 7:30pm. Don't be late or you may not get in.

Limited parking is available for free on the street, or in a lot across Elice from IBM, for $1.00 for the evening. Indoor parking is also available nearby, at Portage Place, for $2.00 for the evening.

GPL v3 draft released

The first draft of the revised GNU General Public License was released for comment (http://gplv3.fsf.org/draft) on January 16th, 2006.

There are some sections that are raising some concern in the Linux community. The Debian community has been scrutinizing the license and some of the leaders of the project have expressed concerns over one section that prevents the use of GPLv3 licensed code in DRM applications. This may not be compatible with the Debian Free Software Guideline. There is an article on this on Newsforge (http://shorterlink.org/581).

Linus has also stated that the Linux Kernel will not be licensed under the new GPLv3. One post to the LKML clearly states his opinion…

"I would suggest that anybody who wants to fight DRM practices seriously look at the equivalent angle. If you create interesting content, you can forbid that _content_ to ever be encrypted or limited.
In other words, I personally think that the anti-DRM clause is much more sensible in the context of the Creative Commons licenses, than in software licenses. If you create valuable and useful content that other people want to be able to use (catchy tunes, funny animation, good icons), I would suggest you protect that _content_ by saying that it cannot be used in any content-protection schemes.

Afaik, all the Creative Commons licenses already require that you can't use technological measures to restrict the rights you give with the CC licenses. The "Share Alike" license in particular requires all work based on it to also be shared alike, ie it has the "GPL feel" to it.

If enough interesting content is licensed that way, DRM eventually becomes marginalized. Yes, it takes decades, but that's really no different at all from how the GPL works. The GPL has taken decades, and it hasn't "marginalized" commercial proprietary software yet, but it's gotten to the point where fewer people at least _worry_ about it.

As long as you expect Disney to feed your brain and just sit there on your couch, Disney & co will always be able to control the content you see. DRM is the smallest part of it - the crap we see and hear every day (regardless of any protection) is a much bigger issue.

The GPL already requires source code (ie non-protected content). So the GPL already _does_ have an anti-DRM clause as far as the _software_ is concerned. If you want to fight DRM on non-software fronts, you need to create non-software content, and fight it _there_.

I realize that programmers are bad at content creation. So many programmers feel that they can't fight DRM that way. Tough. Spread the word instead. Don't try to fight DRM the wrong way."

There is further discussion in this Newsforge article (http://shorterlink.org/582).

SeaMonkey 1.0 Released

The SeaMonkey Council is proud to announce SeaMonkey 1.0, the first end-user release of their internet suite. This open source application, available as a free download (http://www.mozilla.org/projects/seamonkey/releases/) from its mozilla.org-hosted website, features a state-of-the-art web browser and powerful email client, as well as a WYSIWYG web page composer and a feature-rich IRC chat client. For web developers, mozilla.org's DOM inspector and JavaScript debugger tools are included as well. SeaMonkey 1.0 is one of the most complete, powerful, and secure internet software packages available today.

SeaMonkey comes with the the look and feel familiar to users of its predecessors, the Mozilla Application Suite and Netscape Communicator packages, but adds many new features as well as back-end changes that improve security, stability and performance. Some highlights are: drag&drop reordering of tabs, phishing e-mail detection, support for a single shared inbox when using multiple accounts, and support for Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG).

The SeaMonkey project is a community-based project hosted at mozilla.org that emerged around Mozilla's suite codebase when the Mozilla Foundation announced it would discontinue further development of its suite product. The new project is dedicated to keeping this suite alive and developing it into an even more modern and complete internet software package.

VMware Introduces Free VMware Server

PALO ALTO, Calif., February 6, 2006 VMware, Inc., the global leader in virtual infrastructure software for industry-standard systems, today introduced VMware Server, a free new entry-level hosted virtualization product for Linux and Windows servers. The product is available as a beta download at www.vmware.com/products/server/.

"Virtualization and VMware have become mainstream in the past year, and many customers have deployed thousands of VMware server environments across their enterprises. With VMware Server, we are ensuring that every company interested in, considering or evaluating server virtualization for the first time has access to the industry-leading virtualization technology," said Diane Greene, VMware President. "VMware Server makes it easy and compelling for companies new to virtualization to

take the first step toward enterprise-wide virtual infrastructure."

VMware Server, the successor to VMware GSX Server, enables users to quickly provision new server capacity by partitioning a physical server into multiple virtual machines, bringing the powerful benefits of virtualization to every server.

VMware Server is feature-packed with the following market-leading capabilities:

- Support for any standard x86 hardware
- Support for a wide variety of Linux and Windows host operating systems, including 64-bit operating systems
- Support for a wide variety of Linux, NetWare, Solaris x86 and Windows guest operating systems, including 64-bit operating systems
- Support for Virtual SMP, enabling a single virtual machine to span multiple physical processors
- Quick and easy, wizard-driven installation similar to any desktop software
- Quick and easy virtual machine creation with a virtual machine wizard
- Virtual machine monitoring and management with an intuitive, user friendly remote console

VMware Server is the first commercially available server virtualization product with support for 64-bit virtual machines and Intel Virtualization Technology, a set of Intel hardware platform enhancements specifically designed to enhance virtualization solutions.

IBM Introduces DB2 Express-C Data Server

ARMONK, NY - 30 Jan 2006: IBM today announced the availability of DB2 Universal Database Express-C (DB2 Express-C), a versatile and easy to deploy data server openly available for download, at no cost, to customers, developers and partners.

With DB2 Express-C, IBM is increasing its commitment to enabling and supporting the growing community of DB2 developers and customers by offering a no-cost version of the product, making it easier for them to create and deploy applications and solutions that meet their changing information management requirements.

DB2 Express-C offers the same core DB2 data server in a smaller package specifically designed for use in software development, deployment, redistribution and embedding within applications. No charge community support for DB2 Express-C is available via a new public forum on developerWorks, IBM's resource for developers, with optional for-fee support offered by IBM.

DB2 Express-C supports the Windows and Linux operating systems on various 32-bit and 64-bit processor architectures.[1] Several of these Linux distributors have also announced that they will include DB2 Express-C in their Linux distributions.

"The partnership between IBM and Novell is focused on delivering Linux solutions to the market that enable customers to meet their requirements for IT and network infrastructure workloads, said David Patrick, Vice President & General Manager - Linux, Open Source Platforms and Services Group for Novell. "We support IBM's initiatives to enable more IT professionals to evaluate and deploy DB2 Express and look forward to working together to bring to market compelling solutions based on DB2 Express-C and Linux."

DB2 Express-C may be deployed on all systems up to 2 processor cores, and on AMD or Intel x86 with up to 2 dual core chips. With this offering there is no limit to database size. The maximum amount of memory supported is 4GB.

Linux powers autonomous military ground vehicle

iRobot used embedded Linux to build an autonomous unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) aimed at military

scouting, guarding, and hauling applications. The "R-Gator" is based on John Deere's diesel-powered, 658cc M-Gator military utility vehicle platform, with control, navigation, and object-avoidance systems based on BlueCat Linux from LynuxWorks.

iRobot describes R-Gator as "an intelligent UGV that can autonomously perform dangerous military missions, including acting as an unmanned scout, 'point man,' perimeter guard, [and] pack/ammo/supply carrier for soldiers, marines, and airmen." The R-Gator can be shifted quickly between remote operation, autonomous, and manual modes, a feature that lets military personnel evaluate unmanned vehicle technology in "numerous operational scenarios," the company says.

In autonomous mode, the vehicle can provide robotic following, as shown in the photo above. Or, it can autonomously navigate to GPS waypoints, using "teach and playback," iRobot says.

The R-Gator's control, navigation, and obstacle avoidance systems are based on LynuxWorks's BlueCat Linux, which features a 2.6 Linux kernel. LynuxWorks says BlueCat provides a stable, reliable COTS (commercial, off-the-shelf) embedded OS suitable for both small, consumer-type devices and large-scale, multi-CPU systems.

LynuxWorks CEO Inder Singh stated, "We continue to see Linux and open standards gain tremendous momentum [in] mission-critical military systems. Linux is rapidly becoming the leading de-facto open standard embedded platform in both commercial and military systems that require a high degree of interoperability and software reuse."

Retired Navy Vice Admiral Joe Dyer stated, "The iRobot John Deere R-Gator can perform treacherous and strenuous duties, keeping soldiers out of harm's way."

In addition to the R-Gator, iRobot makes several other military robots based in Linux. "All our military robots are based on Linux," said Osa Fitch, program executive of iRobot's government and industrial robotics division, speaking today at LynuxWorks's invitation-only "Vision Summit" in San Jose.

iRobot's other Linux-powered military robots include three variations of its tractor-like "PackBot" design, including Scout, Explorer, and EOD models respectively targeting reconnaisance, intelligence, and EOD (explosive ordnance disposal).

Additionally, iRobot markets "roomba" and "scooba" robots aimed respectively at domestic floor vacuuming and mopping.

Sending Us E-Mail?

Due to the amount of e-mail MUUG receives, we've set up an auto-reply to give you immediate feedback, and redirect some of the e-mail to the appropriate places. Why not look at **http://www.muug.mb.ca/about.html#contacts** first?

Share Your Thoughts

E-mail us with your comments on the newsletter, whether it's criticisms or commendations, and continue to send in articles or ideas for the same. Specifically, what sort of material you would rather see: Announcements, technical articles, new products, or…?

If you have a How-To or other idea, and aren't ready to give a presentation at MUUG, an article is a great alternative! If you can write better than the editor, that's terrific; if you can't, submit it anyway and we'll get it into shape for publication. We know that many of you have some great ideas and lots of knowledge. Why not share? Send Mail to: **editor@muug.mb.ca**.