



The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Next Meeting: November 14th, 2006: SUSE Linux Enterprise 10

“The platform for your Open Enterprise needs.” That’s how Novell describes SUSE Linux 10. Since it’s purchase of SUSE, Novell has been positioning SUSE Linux as the one product line that will work from the desktop to the enterprise server. With this goal in mind, Novell has taken steps to provide greater power and security as well as to increase the “user friendliness” of SUSE Linux.

In this presentation by Wayne Billing, of the University of Manitoba, we will see a brief overview of some of the things (AutoYAST, 3D desktop, AppArmor, XEN) that Novell is counting on to make SUSE Linux a viable choice for enterprise desktops and servers.

As an added bonus, we will be giving away 10 copies of SuSE 10 at the meeting.

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 (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. (But don’t come too early either, since security may not be there to let you in before 7:15 or so.)

Limited parking is available for free on the street, either on Ellice Ave. or on some of the intersecting streets. Indoor parking is also available nearby, at Portage Place, for \$3.00 for the evening. Bicycle

parking is available in a bike rack under video surveillance located behind the building on Webb Place.

OpenBSD 4.0 Released

On November 1st, 2006 OpenBSD 4.0 was officially released. It is the 20th release of OpenBSD in it’s 10 year history. This release introduces support for UltraSPARC III, ARM, and the Sharp Zaurus SL-C3200.

You can find a list of changes for 4.0 here...

<http://www.OpenBSD.org/plus40.html>

Microsoft and Novell Announce Broad Collaboration on Windows and Linux Interoperability and Support

Companies also announce a patent agreement covering proprietary and open source products.

WALTHAM, Mass.—02 Nov 2006—Microsoft Corp. and Novell Inc. today announced a set of broad business and technical collaboration agreements to build, market and support a series of new solutions to make Novell and Microsoft® products work better together. The two companies also announced an agreement to provide each other’s customers with patent coverage for their respective products. These agreements will be in place until at least 2012. Under this new model, customers will realize unprecedented choice and flexibility through improved interoperability and manageability between Windows® and Linux.

“They said it couldn’t be done. This is a new model and a true evolution of our relationship that we think customers will immediately find compelling because it delivers practical value by bringing two of their most important platform investments closer together,” said Steve Ballmer, CEO of Microsoft. “We’re excited to work with Novell, whose strengths include its heritage as a mixed-source company. Resolving our patent issues enables a combined focus on virtualization and Web services management to create new opportunities for our companies and our customers.”

Under the agreement, Novell is establishing clear leadership among Linux platform and open source software providers on interoperability for mixed-source environments. As a result, Microsoft will officially recommend SUSE Linux Enterprise for customers who want Windows and Linux solutions. Additionally, Microsoft will distribute coupons for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server maintenance and support, so that customers can benefit from the use of an interoperable version of Linux with patent coverage as well as the collaborative work between the two companies.

“Too often technology companies ask their customers to adapt to them. Today we are adapting to our customers,” said Ron Hovsepian, president and CEO of Novell. “Microsoft and Novell are enabling customers to take advantage of each other’s products where it makes sense in their enterprise infrastructure. We jointly believe that our business and patent agreements make it possible to offer the highest level of interoperability with the assurance that both our companies stand behind these solutions.”

Oracle Announces The Same Enterprise Class Support For Linux As For Its Database

Dell, Intel, HP, IBM, Accenture, AMD, BP, EMC, BMC, and NetApp Join Unbreakable Linux Program

REDWOOD SHORES, Calif., 25-OCT-2006 01:03 PM Today Oracle announced that it would provide the same enterprise class support for Linux as it provides for its database, middleware and applications products. Oracle starts with Red Hat Linux, removes Red Hat trademarks, and then adds Linux bug fixes.

Currently, Red Hat only provides bug fixes for the latest version of its software. This often requires customers to upgrade to a new version of Linux software to get a bug fixed. Oracle's new Unbreakable Linux program will provide bug fixes to future, current, and back releases of Linux. In other words, Oracle will provide the same level of enterprise support for Linux as is available for other operating systems.

Oracle is offering its Unbreakable Linux program for substantially less than Red Hat currently charges for its best support. "We believe that better support and lower support prices will speed the adoption of Linux, and we are working closely with our partners to make that happen," said Oracle CEO Larry Ellison. "Intel is a development partner. Dell and HP are resellers and support partners. Many others are signed up to help us move Linux up to mission critical status in the data center."

"Oracle's Unbreakable Linux program is available to all Linux users for as low as \$99 per system per year," said Oracle President Charles Phillips. "You do not have to be a user of Oracle software to qualify. This is all about broadening the success of Linux. To get Oracle support for Red Hat Linux all you have to do is point your Red Hat server to the Oracle network. The switch takes less than a minute."

"We think it's important not to fragment the market," said Oracle's Chief Corporate Architect Edward Screven. "We will maintain compatibility with Red Hat Linux. Every time Red Hat distributes a new version we will resynchronize with their code. All we add are bug fixes, which are immediately available to Red Hat and the rest of the community. We have years of Linux engineering experience. Several Oracle employees are Linux mainline maintainers."

Linux Annoyances for Geeks

By Michael Jang
O'Reilly Media, Inc., 2006

Reviewed by Michael Doob

The title of this book is something of a misnomer. While it ostensibly is a book for sys admins trying to cope with inexperienced users, it is in fact a book on elementary/intermediate system administration. The "users" are an artifact to introduce a wide variety of problems that might occur during the day to day operation of a Linux system in a business environment, or, more importantly, would be ones of interest to relatively new Linux users who would like add to their ability to administer their own systems. The format adds a lot of humour to the presentation.

The topics covered in successive chapters reflect the purpose of the book. It starts with very easy things: how to configure the basic desktop in gnome and kde, for example. It then gradually moves on to somewhat deeper topics: installing Office products, connecting to the Internet and dealing with different file formats (pdf and mp3, for example) with the different tools.

The next section of this book covers problems with system installation and modification. Again the book uses humour to good effect. For example, the section on good security practices is called "My Boss Told Me to Secure the Server Without Locking the Room." Again, the level is intermediate, with some good hand holding for those doing tasks such as do a new install or recompiling the kernel for the first time.

The final part of the book involves somewhat more advanced problems: methods of coping with many users wanting to utilize limited shared resources, for example.

All in all, this book is really fun to read. If you've administered a multi-user Linux system for any period of time, most of the problems addressed will be ones you've seen before. Nonetheless, there are

enough useful tips that something will be new. For Linux users who have spent most of their time working with built-in applications, this book will give an indication of just how much power is actually available. It gives lots of fun to the curious.

It should also be noted that the author gives information for many different Linux implementations (Fedora, Red Hat, SUSE, Debian).

Ubuntu Edgy Announcement

The Ubuntu team is proud to announce the release of Ubuntu 6.10, codenamed "Edgy Eft". This release includes both installable Desktop CDs and alternate text-mode installation CDs for several architectures.

Ubuntu is a Linux distribution for your desktop or server, with a fast and easy install, regular releases, a tight selection of excellent packages installed by default, every other package you can imagine available with a few clicks, and professional technical support from Canonical Limited and hundreds of other companies around the world.

Ubuntu 6.10 will be supported for 18 months on both desktops and servers. Note that the previous stable release (6.06 LTS) is a long-term support release, and so users requiring a longer support lifetime may choose to continue using that version rather than upgrade to or install 6.10.

You can get it here...

<http://www.ubuntu.com/>

USENIX 2007 Call For Papers

On behalf of the 2007 USENIX Annual Technical Conference program committee, we request your ideas, proposals, and papers for tutorials, refereed papers, and a poster session.

The program committee invites you to submit original and innovative papers to the Refereed Papers Track of the 2007 USENIX Annual Technical Conference.

Authors are required to submit full papers by 11:59 p.m. PST, Tuesday, January 9, 2007.

We seek high-quality submissions that further the knowledge and understanding of modern computing systems, with an emphasis on practical implementations and experimental results. We encourage papers that break new ground or present insightful results based on experience with computer systems. The USENIX conference has a broad scope.

Specific topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Architectural interaction
- Benchmarking
- Deployment experience
- Distributed and parallel systems
- Embedded systems
- Energy/power management
- File and storage systems
- Networking and network services
- Operating systems
- Reliability, availability, and scalability
- Security, privacy, and trust
- System and network management
- Usage studies and workload characterization
- Virtualization
- Web technology
- Wireless and mobile systems

More information on these and other submission guidelines is available on our Web site:

<http://www.usenix.org/usenix07/cfpa/>

IMPORTANT DATES:

Paper submissions due: Tuesday, January 9, 2007, 11:59 p.m. PST

Notification to authors: Monday, March 19, 2007

Final papers due: Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Please note that January 9 is a hard deadline; no extensions will be given.

We look forward to your submissions.

On behalf of the Annual Tech '07 Conference Organizers,

Jeff Chase, Duke University
Srinivasan Seshan, Carnegie Mellon University
2007 USENIX Annual Technical Conference
Program Co-Chairs

usenix07chairs@usenix.org

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**](mailto:editor@muug.mb.ca).