

MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

September 2011

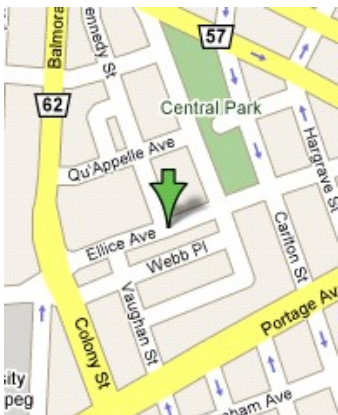
Volume 24 No. 1

Next Meeting: September 13th, 2011

*Topic: Revision Control for System Administrators
(Adam Thompson)*

If you've ever wished you could undo that change you made to httpd.conf, or wanted to know the difference between the sendmail config you're running today and what you had last month (back when it all worked properly, right?) then you need to learn about revision control software. Almost every *NIX install has a revision control package either installed or easily available; come find out how you can get better control over your files with almost no extra effort. We'll try to discussed the entire gamut, from ancient SCCS, simple & easy RCS, the better-but-not-quite CVS, to slightly odd Subversion and even the game-changing latecomer to the party, git.

Where to find the Meeting



Meetings are held at the IBM offices at 400 Ellice Ave. (between Edmonton and Kennedy Streets). When you arrive, you will have to sign in at the reception desk. Please try to arrive by about 7:15pm, so the meeting can start promptly at 7:30pm.

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 \$5.00 for the evening. Bicycle parking is available in a bike rack under video surveillance located behind the building on Webb

Place.

Upcoming Meetings

October 11th, 2011

Topic: TBD

Samba Team Releases Version 3.6 with SMB2 Support

Samba 3.6 now implements Microsoft's SMB2 file serving protocol. SMB2 within Samba is implemented with a brand new asynchronous server architecture which results in performance enhancements (suggested as twofold performance for some networking applications with Windows 7 Clients).

Improvements:

Printing support. The print subsystem has been completely re-written to use automatically generated RPCs and is better compatible with the Windows SPOOLSS print subsystem architecture, including export of printer data via registry interfaces.

Improved clustered file server support as a result of adding in SMB2.

Mapping Linux® and UNIX® identities to Windows users and groups. The new implementation allows automatic allocation of Linux and UNIX identities when Windows clients connect to a Samba server, even in a clustered file serving configuration.

In addition, a modular VFS interface is included, which allows external code to be easily integrated with Samba. Customizable source code examples are provided to vendors.

As are result of the development, some features have

been moved to external libraries (talloc, TDB, clustered TDB, LDB, tevent).

(See more details and the release notes at <http://www.samba.org/samba/news/releases/3.6.0.html>)

4G and CDMA Reportedly Hacked at DEFCON

Some attendees using 4G and CDMA phones at Defcon 19 (August 4-7) were reportedly stealing data and monitoring conversations by means of a man-in-the-middle attack. Hackers were able to gain permanent root access by means of a rootkit on Android and PC devices. Other devices were susceptible to non-persistent user space access.

Up to this point, CDMA and 4G were unhacked.

Forged packets were used to create pop-up legitimate-looking prompts that actually installed a rootkit instead. After that happened, it was only a matter of connecting to the device via SSH to exploit it.

Evidence this took place is a post by “Coderman” on the DEFCON Full Disclosure mailing list, and seems to be supported by attendees encountering these symptoms:

- an upgrade for Android, Java, or other application popped up
- 3G/4G signal anomalies (i.e. full signal yet poor bandwidth or no link)
- Android phones appeared to be fully charged while plugged in, but dropped to <50% charge once unplugged
- 4G download speeds at quarter of usual, yet uploads over twice as fast
- Android services immediately respawn when killed (Voice Search?)
- Android no longer connects to USB debugging yet adb is alive
- PC has an sshd that does not respond to kill -9
- crashing: a hard freeze, and then taking a long time to reboot

As with larger-scale systems, it would be wise to know what updates exist for your system before installing them. Installing updates while attending DEFCON is not the best idea, either, though it would

catch many of us unaware.

(For more details and source, please see <http://www.extremetech.com/computing/92370-4g-and-cdma-reportedly-hacked-at-def-con>)

HTC Opening Up Bootloader on 2011+ Phones

Updates that will allow users to unlock the bootloader will be released in the coming months. Note this does not unlock the SIM, which is still at the discretion of your carrier.

Of course, any claims resulting from unlocking bootloader may not be covered under warranty. Cautions include the possibility of overheating, hearing aid compatibility problems, DRM content becoming invalid, firmware updates causing bricking. You will not be able to return your device to the original state (unless someone writes an app for that!)

(<http://htcdev.com/bootloader>)

25,000 Copenhagen Hospital Staff Being Moved to Libre Office

The move will include almost all workers at thirteen hospitals over the next year. Reasons for phasing out Microsoft’s Office suite is given as “long term strategic reasons”. It is estimated the move will save about 5.3 million euros in proprietary licences.

The hospitals have been moving to virtual desktops. Due to the licensing setup, a single user of the proprietary office suite would force the group to purchase licences for all 15,000 desktop PCs.

The hospitals’ IT spokesperson Vivian Thomsen was quoted as saying “We have spoken to the proprietary vendor about this for over a year, and they acknowledge the problem.”



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The advertisement features a photograph of a person sitting at a desk with a laptop, viewed from behind. The person appears to be working or studying. The text is overlaid on the image, with the O'Reilly logo at the top and a right-pointing arrow below the main text.

The group will use its current 10,000 licences until they run out. At that point, some licences will be renewed for heavy users, until further notice. Over time all of the staff will be moved to Libre Office, apart from a few with advanced spreadsheet tasks.

This is Europe's third largest move involving public administrations using an open source office suite. The largest is the Gendarmerie (France's national military force) which moved over some 80,000 users to Open Office in the mid-2000's. France's Caisse Nationale d'Allocations Familiales (CNAF) and Finland's Ministry of Justice have moved 36,000 and 10,000 users to OpenOffice, respectively.

(<http://www.osor.eu/news/dk-25-000-hospital-staff-copenhagen-region-to-use-open-source-office-suite>)

FreeBSD Now Available on Amazon EC2

It's currently on Amazon EC2 "in an experimental fashion", but it's there!

Version 9.0-CURRENT of FreeBSD is now available in the US East (Northern Virginia) region and can be run on t1.micro instances. Other regions and EC2 instance types should become available over time.

With Amazon's newly-announced "Free Usage Tier", you can sign up and play with FreeBSD for a year for free.

Users are warned that the some of the features are likely to be buggy, so it's not meant for production yet.

(<http://www.daemonology.net/blog/2010-12-13-FreeBSD-on-EC2.html>)

OpenSSH Privilege Separation Tightened

From a CVS log of SSH (on June 22, 2011):

Log message: introduce sandboxing of the pre-auth privsep child using systrace(4).

This introduces a new "UsePrivilegeSeparation=sandbox" option for sshd_config that applies mandatory restrictions on the syscalls the privsep child can perform. This prevents a compromised privsep child from being used to attack other hosts (by opening sockets and proxying) or probing local kernel attack surface.

The sandbox is implemented using systrace(4) in unsupervised "fast-path" mode, where a list of permitted syscalls is supplied. Any syscall not on the list results in SIGKILL being sent to the privsep child.

Note that this requires a kernel with the new SYSTR_POLICY_KILL option.

UsePrivilegeSeparation=sandbox will become the default in the future

so please start testing it now.

The intent is to implement this idea on other platforms as well (where systrace isn't available.)

(<http://undeadly.org/cgi?action=article&sid=20110721123003>)

OpenBSD's Packet Filter Included in OSX Lion

IPFW has been around for some time, but PF was not included prior to 10.7 version.

A fair chunk of Darwin/MacOS X is apparently taken directly from FreeBSD and NetBSD, both of which include PF.

Firefox Beta (7.0b2) and Aurora (8.0a2) Now Available

The latest Mozilla Firefox Beta is now available for testing on Windows, Mac, Linux and Android.

New in Firefox Beta for Windows, Mac and Linux:

- **Optimized Memory Use:** reduces memory use and improves performance areas including responsiveness, startup and page load time, even in complex websites and Web apps
- **Improved memory management:** JavaScript garbage collector works more frequently to free up memory and improve performance
- **Enhanced Firefox Sync:** Your data syncs faster when a bookmark or password is added or changed
- **Azure Direct2D for Canvas:** Helps Firefox speed up HTML5 Canvas-based animation rendering
- **Web timing spec:** Enables developers to measure page load time and site navigation
- **CSS 3 Text-Overflow: ellipsis:** Additional way for developers to display CSS 3 text that overflows the layout area

New in Firefox Beta for Android:

- **Optimized Memory Use:** reduced memory use and improved performance (responsiveness, startup and page load time, even in complex websites and Web apps)
- **Enhanced Firefox Sync:** Your data syncs faster when a bookmark or password is added or changed
- **Copy and paste:** Copy and paste selected text from mobile websites
- **Restored session history and tabs**
- **Language selection:** Firefox can detect the language setting on your Android device or allow you to select from more than 10 languages during initial set up

(<http://blog.mozilla.com/future/releases/2011/08/19/firefoxaurora8/>)

Winnipeg's SkullSpace Moves Into Downtown Building

From their site:

SkullSpace is a recently-founded hackerspace in Winnipeg. SkullSpace is a place for hackers, builders, programmers, artists and anybody interested in how stuff works to gather in a common place and help focus their knowledge and creativity. Whether members are interested in individual or group projects, and whether they're tackling hardware, software, mathematical, design or any other problems, it's our goal to provide the space, tools, freedom, and education to make it happen.

If you like Make magazine, you'll probably be interested. Check them out at <http://www.skullspace.ca/blog/>


Events

Sep 9 - 11 **Ohio LinuxFest 2011** (Columbus, Ohio)
Sep 14 - 16 **Postgres Open** (Chicago, Illinois)
Sep 16 - 18 **Software Freedom Day 2011** (everywhere!)
Sep 17 - 21 **SANS Network Security** (Las Vegas, Nevada)
Sep 26 - 29 **PostgreSQL Conf. West 2011** (San Jose, California)
Sep 27 **1st Nagios World Conference** (St. Paul, Minnesota)
Oct 9 - 14 **O'Reilly Android Open Conference 2011** (San Francisco, CA)
Oct 21 - 23 **PG Day 2011** (PostgreSQL) (Denver, Colorado)
Oct 24 - 26 **18th Tcl/Tk Conference** (Manassas, Virginia)
Oct 27 - 29 **FSOSS/LinuxFest** (Toronto, Ontario)
Oct 31 - Nov 4 **Ubuntu Developer Summit** (Orlando, Florida)
Nov 6 - 9 **ApacheCon North America 2011** (Vancouver, BC)

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