

MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

February 2012

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Next Meeting: February 21st, 2012

This month's meeting will be on the *third* Tuesday of the month – a week later than usual – so that you're free to make other plans for the 14th, if you so choose.

RTFM: traceroute(1)

February's RTFM will feature the traceroute(1) command, presented by our president, Katherine Scrupa.

Topic: Linux's Logical Volume Manager

One of the most important new developments in the Linux 2.6 kernel was the Logical Volume Manager, version 2 (or LVM 2). Logical volume management is a widely-used technique for deploying logical rather than physical storage. With LVM, “logical” partitions can span across physical hard drives and can be resized (unlike traditional ext3 “raw” partitions). Kevin McGregor will summarize the basic principles behind the LVM and provide examples of basic operations which can be performed with it.

Upcoming Meetings

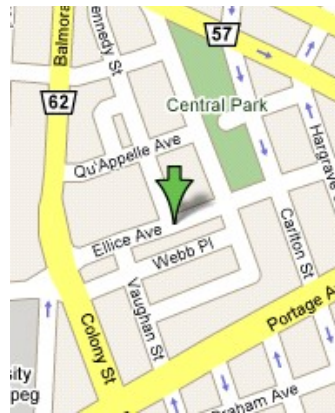
March 13th, 2012: An Introduction to the Cloud, by Rob Keizer.

Topics?

Your board has been coming up with a great variety of presentation topics for years. Have we missed something that you'd like to know more about? Just

let any board member know, and we'll put it in the queue. Contact us at <board@muug.mb.ca>.

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.

NASA Clears Runway For Open Source

MOFFETT FIELD, Calif. -- The NASA Open Government Initiative has launched a new website to expand the agency's open source software development. In 2009, the White House issued the Open Government Directive, which requires federal agencies to take specific steps to achieve milestones that are transparent. NASA's Open Government Plan has been recognized as one of the best, with two leading practices awards from the White House.

“The site represents a natural extension of NASA's efforts to inform, educate and include the public in our mission to pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery and aeronautics research,” said Deborah Diaz, NASA's Deputy Chief Information Officer. “Citizen involvement in our work is a critical component of our success.”

NASA Open Government launched the new site as part of its Open Source Software Flagship Initiative with the goal showcasing existing projects, providing a forum for discussion, and guiding internal and external groups in open development, release and contribution.

"We believe tomorrow's space and science systems will be built in the open, and that **code.nasa.gov** will play a big part in getting us there," said William Eshagh, NASA Open Government co-lead on the project at NASA's Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Calif.

<http://code.nasa.gov>

Root Exploits for Linux /proc Bug

Time to update your Linux kernel again! A vulnerability “identified as CVE-2012-0056, was discovered by Jüri Aedla and is caused by a failure of the Linux kernel to properly restrict access to the /proc/self/mem file,” according to IT World.

The bug was introduced into the kernel in March 2011, and affects versions 2.6.39 and above. (It may also affect earlier versions, if the feature was back-ported.) A patch was submitted in January 17th, by Linus Torvalds himself. However, proof-of-concept exploit code has already surfaced.

Ubuntu and Red Hat have already released patched kernel updates, and other vendors will likely have done so by the time you read this.

<http://www.itworld.com/244019/linux-vendors-rush-patch-privilege-escalation-flaw-after-root-exploits-emerge>

Linux Distributions and US Presidential Candidates?



According to a humorous article, various Linux distros are more closely aligned, ideologically, with particular US presidential hopefuls. Mitt Romney may be a Debian man. Ron Paul and Newt Gingrich would be harder to pin down.

And what about current president, Barack Obama? “He'd doubtless run Ubuntu.” Why? Well, you'll just have to check out the article...

<http://www.thevarguy.com/2012/01/17/aligning-linux-distributions-with-presidential-hopefuls/>

New Controversy with Windows 8 Secure Boot

According to IT World's site (and other sources), “Microsoft's Secure Boot plans for Windows 8 stirred up quite a hornet's nest of controversy in the Linux world last fall, and recently that debate has started up again. Part of the controversy this time around stems from the revelation that the Microsoft's *requirements* for ARM-based Windows 8 devices include a mandatory Secure Boot feature, effectively locking down such devices and preventing them from booting non-Windows Oses.”

“Disabling Secure [Boot] MUST NOT be possible on ARM systems,” reads page 116 of the Microsoft's **Windows Hardware Certification Requirements**, according to **Computerworld UK** blogger Glyn Moody.

Red Hat's Matthew Garrett doesn't expect things to be much better on PC's either, “custom mode” or not. “It's effectively impossible to document Linux installation when the first step becomes (a) complicated and (b) vendor specific,” said Garrett.

<http://www.itworld.com/software/242487/windows-8-secure-boot-controversy-continues>

CIRA's Consultation on Accented Domain Names Continues

According to MUUG's Trevor Cordes, in a recent roundtable mailing list post, “looks like they got it right” this time around. Cordes provided a link to a revised policy document.

http://strategiccounsel.hosted.jivesoftware.com/servlet/JiveServlet/previewBody/1141-102-1-1107/revised_policy_final_en.pdf

Months earlier, CIRA started the consultation process with an initial policy proposal which generated a lot of comments, most of them opposed to the proposal. Among the main concerns were the potential for domain spoofing, cost of registering all variants on a particular name, and methods for resolving conflicts.

CIRA responded with a revised policy which attempts to address these concerns, and may be more readily accepted.

<http://www.idnconsultation.ca/community/en/>

IPv6: This Time For Sure?

[Washington, D.C., USA and Geneva, Switzerland] – 17 January 2012 – Major ISPs, home networking equipment manufacturers, and web companies around the world are coming together to permanently enable IPv6 for their products and services by 6 June 2012.

Organized by the Internet Society, and building on the successful one-day World IPv6 Day event held on 8 June 2011, World IPv6 Launch represents a major milestone in the global deployment of IPv6.

Committed ISPs include AT&T, Comcast, Free Telecom, Internode, KDDI, Time Warner Cable and XS4ALL. Committed equipment manufacturers include Cisco and D-Link. Major web sites that are also participating include Facebook, Google, Microsoft Bing and Yahoo!

<http://bit.ly/yUUu53>

<http://www.engadget.com/2012/01/18/june-6th-2012-ipv6-goes-live/>

Google Announces Privacy Changes

If you have a Google account, for Gmail or other Google services requiring login, you will likely have received an e-mail from them recently, outlining changes to their privacy policy:

“We're getting rid of over 60 different privacy policies across Google and replacing them with one that's a lot shorter and easier to read. Our new policy covers multiple products and features, reflecting our desire to create one beautifully simple and intuitive experience across Google.”

“We believe this stuff matters, so please take a few minutes to read our updated Privacy Policy and Terms of Service at <http://www.google.com/policies>. These changes will take effect on March 1, 2012.”

What the e-mail doesn't make clear, but was pointed out in a Washington Post article by Cecilia Kang, users can't opt out of this new policy (which affects users logged into any of Google's services).

Do we need to be worried about these changes? That depends on whose opinion you believe. And many have already chimed in, including advocacy groups, politicians and others concerned about privacy.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/google-tracks-consumers-across-products-users-cant-opt-out/2012/01/24/gIQArgJHOQ_story.html

Ubuntu “HUD” Interface to Do Away With Menus

A new interface is coming in Ubuntu 12.04 “Precise Pangolin,” which will “ultimately replace menus in Unity applications and recognize voice commands,” according to an IT World article. “Called ‘HUD,’ or ‘Head-Up Display,’ the new interface is designed to recognize users' intent in interacting with the desktop rather than forcing them to navigate a rigid menu system.”

According to Canonical founder Mark Shuttleworth, “using the HUD is faster than navigating through a

menu and easier to use than hotkeys.” Shuttleworth also compared the new interface to Microsoft’s Ribbon. But users will still have the option of using menus. “If the HUD lands in 12.04 LTS, we hope you’ll find yourself using the menu less and less, and be glad to have it hidden when you are not using it,” he concluded. “You’ll definitely have that option, alongside more traditional menu styles.”

<http://www.itworld.com/244089/ubuntu-linuxs-new-hud-interface-will-do-away-menus>

A video demonstrates HUD in action:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_WW-DHqR3c

MUUG Annual Financial Statement

Once a year, as our by-laws require, we publish the group’s Financial Statement.

Manitoba UNIX User Group
2010-2011 Season
Income Statement

Income		
GIC Interest		\$517.77
Interest		\$0.04
Membership sales		\$980.00
Total income		\$1,497.81
Expenses		
Bank charge		\$4.28
Mailbox		\$294.00
MUUG Online		\$257.60
Newsletter		\$654.09
Total Expenses		\$1,209.97
Net Income		\$287.84

Manitoba UNIX User Group
2009-2010 Season
Balance sheet

Assets		
Cash		\$1,267.18
Investments (GICs)		\$19,995.80
Total		\$21,262.98
Equity		
Retained Earnings		\$21,262.98
Total		\$21,262.98

“SSH Mastery” E-Book Release

Sean Cody brought to our attention the release, in various popular e-book formats, of *SSH Mastery*, by Michael W. Lucas. (Sean participated as a technical reviewer.)

The book includes lots of good advice on using SSH in real-world situations (the kind of stuff Sean has mentioned in his past presentations on SSH), including how to

- Eliminate passwords,
- Manage access to your SSH server by users, groups, addresses, and more,
- Securely move files around your network,
- Forward graphic displays from one host to another,
- Forward TCP connections,
- Centrally manage host keys and client configurations,
- Use SSH as a secure transport for other applications,
- Secure applications run over SSH,
- Build Virtual Private Networks with OpenSSH,

and more! The e-book is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble, but also through **Smashwords** (in 10 formats for the \$9.99 USD price of one). A printed version is currently in the planning stages.

<http://www.michaelwlucas.com/nonfiction/ssh-mastery>

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