



MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Next Meeting: June 14th, 2005: It's a surprise!

Unfortunately our scheduled presenter has had to cancel, so at this point, we don't have a presenter scheduled, so it will be a surprise. ;-)

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 Ellice from IBM, for \$1.00 for the evening. Indoor parking is also available nearby, at Portage Place, for \$2.00 for the evening.

US Health Department moves to Linux with Novell

On June 1st, the US Department of Health and Human Services signed a multi-year enterprise site license with Novell for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, Novell Open Enterprise Server and Novell Linux Desktop.

The deal allows the department unlimited use for it's 70,000 users. This is said to be the largest site license between a US federal department and a Linux vendor.

Linux gets automated kernel testing

Thanks to Martin Bligh and IBM, there will now be automated build testing of the Linux kernel on numerous platforms within hours of a release.

Currently they are running on a Quad AMD64 machine, 16processor NUMA-Q, Quad NUMA-Q, 32processor IA32, Power5 PPC LPAR (logical partition, basically a virtual machine), Power4 LPAR, and a bare metal Power 4 machine.

This will provide much quicker feedback to the kernel developers so they can find and fix bugs faster.

<http://shorterlink.org/298>

Linux and Solaris power the BBC Website

The BBC has an article (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/4606719.stm>) on the infrastructure they run for their website. They do an average of 24M page views per day. They run a mix of Linux and Solaris.

OpenSSH project turns five years old

Five years ago, in late September 1999, the OpenSSH project was started. It began with an audit, cleanup and update of the last free version of Tatu Ylonen's legacy ssh-1.2.12 code. The project quickly gathered pace, attracting a portability effort and, in early 2000, an independent implementation of version 2 of the SSH protocol. Since then, OpenSSH has led in the implementation of proactive security techniques such as privilege separation & auto-reexecution.

The free software community were rapid adopters of OpenSSH, with most free operating systems shipping OpenSSH within its first year of existence. Over the last five years OpenSSH has become the most widely used SSH protocol implementation (by a large margin) and has been included in products from major vendors including IBM, Apple, HP, Sun, Cisco and NetScreen. Today, OpenSSH runs on everything from mobile phones to Cray supercomputers.

In providing a free, popular and easy to use secure login and command execution protocol OpenSSH has been instrumental in speeding the deprecation of insecure protocols like telnet and rlogin.

The OpenSSH team would like to thank all those who have supported the project over the last five years, including individuals and vendors who have donated funds or hardware. An extra special thanks to those who have reported bugs or sent patches to the project.

OpenSSH is brought to you by Markus Friedl, Niels Provos, Theo de Raadt, Kevin Steves, Damien Miller, Ben Lindstrom, Darren Tucker and Tim Rice.

<http://www.openssh.com>

Want to write open source this summer? Want to make money? Want to do both?

Google announced the Summer of Code program:

“The open source model of software development is one of the most effective innovations of all time. Who doesn't love the idea of great programmers working on their own time to crank out elegant code that benefits us all?”

“Summer of Code,” Google's latest open source initiative, is expressly designed to get the brightest minds on campus contributing code to open source initiatives and inventing new open source programs. After all, while altruistic motives are praiseworthy and the rewards of peer recognition sweet, the idea of a financial prize for stellar work predates the Nobel

Commission – and who really needs money more than broke college students?”

“So here's the skinny: we'll give \$4,500 to applicants who successfully work with a sponsoring organization or advisor to create innovative or useful open source software. We'll also get you a t-shirt to go along with the cash. Visit

<http://code.google.com/summerofcode.html> to learn more and submit your idea for a project. The deadline for applications is June 14, 2005.”

GPLFlash revival

Some developers are trying to revive GPLFlash with funding from the FSF.

GPLFlash, is based on Olivier Debons original work, which hasn't had a release since June 2000. This project hopes to bring GPLFlash back as a free, portable and useable alternative to the flash-decoder released by Macromedia.

The project contains a decoding library, a player and (perhaps most importantly) a mozilla/netscape plugin

<http://gplflash.sourceforge.net/>

OpenBSD 3.7 Released

Subject: 3.7 is released!
From: Theo de Raadt
 <deraadt@cvs.openbsd.org>
Date: 2005-05-19 16:40:27

We are pleased to announce the official release of OpenBSD 3.7.

This is our 17th release on CD-ROM (and 18th via FTP). We remain proud of OpenBSD's record of eight years with only a single remote hole in the default install. As in our previous releases, 3.7 provides significant improvements, including new features, in nearly all areas of the system:

- New platforms:
 - OpenBSD/zaurus
Expanding the arm porting effort by supporting the Sharp Zaurus SL-C3000, bringing a secure ssh-capable machine to your pocket.
 - OpenBSD/sgi
Starting out support with the SGI O2 machines.
- Support for a number of much faster 64-bit machines (in 32-bit mode) in the OpenBSD/hppa port.
- Many enhancements in the OpenBSD/mac68k port:
 - Switch to a bsd.rd-based install.
 - Improved interrupt system.
 - Create partitions with pdisk(8).
 - Add mc(4) support and enhance zsc(4) support.
- New tools:
 - ospfd(8), implementing the OSPFv2 routing protocol.
 - getcap(1), providing easy access to the capability database.
- New functionality:
 - Repaired mirroring mode in ccd(4).
 - Privilege separation for ftpd(8)
 - Bash-style prompt expansion and POSIX hex and octal constants in ksh(1).
 - Improved TCP send performance.
 - Reentrant getproto*_r(3) and getserv*_r(3) functions.
 - In-kernel pppoe(4) support.
 - pim(4) (Protocol Independent Multicast) support added.

Sun buys StorageTek

On June 2nd, Sun announced that it was buying StorageTek for \$4.1 billion in cash in hopes of reviving it's storage business.

StressLinux 0.3.1rc1 released

stresslinux is a minimal linux distribution running from a bootable cdrom or via PXE.

stresslinux makes use of some utilities available on the net like: stress, cpuburn, hddtemp, lm_sensors ...

stresslinux is dedicated to users who want to test their system(s) entirely on high load and monitoring the health.

You can boot stresslinux from an usb-stic or usb-floppy.

<http://www.stresslinux.org/>

FreeBSD 5.4 Released

Date: Mon, 9 May 2005 17:01:58 -0400

From: Ken Smith <kensmith@FreeBSD.org>

To: freebsd-announce@FreeBSD.org

Subject: [FreeBSD-Announce] FreeBSD 5.4-RELEASE Announcement

The Release Engineering Team is happy to announce the availability of FreeBSD 5.4-RELEASE, the latest release of the FreeBSD Stable development branch. Since FreeBSD 5.3-RELEASE in November 2004 we have made many improvements in functionality, stability, performance, and device driver support for some hardware, as well as dealt with known security issues and made many bugfixes.

For a complete list of new features, known problems, and late-breaking news, please see the release notes and errata list, available here:

<http://www.FreeBSD.org/releases/5.4R/relnotes.html>

<http://www.FreeBSD.org/releases/5.4R/errata.html>

FreeBSD 5.4 will become an "Errata Branch". In addition to Security fixes other well-tested fixes to basic functionality will be committed to the

RELENG_5_4 branch after the release. Both Security Advisories and Errata Notices are announced on the freebsd-announce@freebsd.org mailing list.

It is expected there will be at least one more release from the RELENG_5 branch, most likely two. The current plans are for the RELENG_6 branch to be created within the next few months, and an initial 6.0-RELEASE will be made a few months afterwards. There will be a 5.5-RELEASE following a few months after the 6.0-RELEASE.

For more information about FreeBSD release engineering activities, please see:

<http://www.FreeBSD.org/releng/>

KNOPPIX 3.9 released

KNOPPIX Version 3.9 is now available on the mirrors and via BitTorrent from <http://torrent.unix-ag.uni-kl.de/>. Changes vs. 3.8:

- OpenOffice 2.0 BETA (german and english)
- KDE 3.4
- Kernel 2.6.11 update
- dist-upgrade (all software packages from current Debian/sid)

This will be probably be the last "single CD" version of KNOPPIX. Starting from Version 4.0 (coming soon), the project will be split into a "Light" CD version, and a "Maxi" DVD release. Stay tuned for more news at a later time on the KNOPPIX page.

<http://www.knopper.net/knoppix/index-en.html>

Fedora Core 4 Delayed One Week

The release of Fedora Core 4 has been delayed by one week, to Monday, June 13th. (Although this is only one day before our next MUUG meeting, we still hope to have copies available on CD-R and DVD-R.) According to an e-mail sent to the mirror maintainers, the delay was due to "some unforeseen complications," with no further explanation given.

However, one of the Fedora developers outside of Red Hat suggested they were still waiting on a response from (Red Hat's) Legal Department about the name for the release. This was not confirmed by anyone within Red Hat, though.

Fedora's web site provides the revised schedule, but again, without any explanation for the delay.

<http://fedora.redhat.com/participate/schedule/>

Rare, Collectible MUUG Shirts for Sale!

Don't miss out on the rare (only 35 made) and highly collectible MUUG Golf Shirts. We only have two XL beige shirts left. They are \$40 and are available at the monthly MUUG meeting. Get them while they last!

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.