

MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

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Editor: Katherine Scrupa

Next Meeting: April 14th, 2015

RTFM: ionice

This month's RTFM segment will be ionice, by Adam Thompson. ionice gets or sets the scheduling class and priority for a program.

Arch Linux

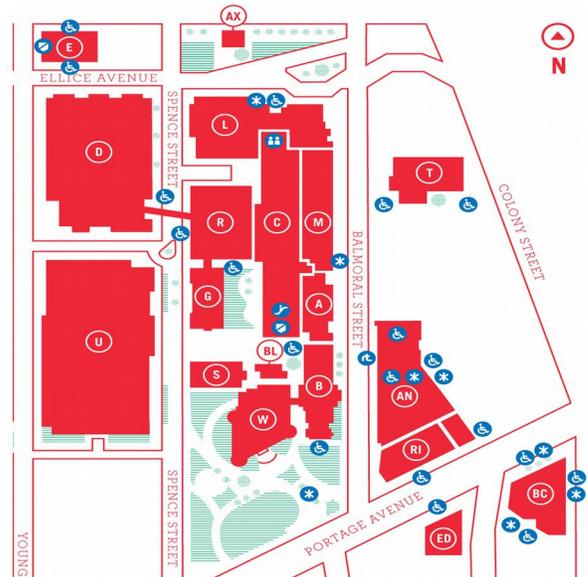


Paul Sierks will be presenting an overview of the Arch Linux operating system. From installing the base system and desktop environment, to updating and managing it. We'll cover some of the advantages in this distribution. Arch focuses on simplicity, minimalism, and stability. Users can create their own ideal environment, installing only what is needed or wanted. A rolling release model, Arch strives to be bleeding edge, providing the latest stable software. Paul will be performing a live demonstration of the Arch install process.

Where to Find the Meeting

Temporary New Location – Room 1M28!

This month's meeting is on the east side of campus in room 1M28, close to Balmoral Street. We usually hold meetings in room 1L08, but occasionally get relocated to nearby rooms. The room change will be conveyed via a sign on the door to 1L08. Parking is available on the surrounding streets. Please see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/maps> for further information about parking and access to the campus.



MUUG Mugs and... Stickers!

MUUG has only a few coffee mugs left!

Cobalt blue and deep laser-etched with our age old, lovable logo for only \$15. They are quality mugs, made in the USA, and have a fairly large volume capacity.

Want a mug but can't make meetings? Ask on the mailing list and more than likely a board member can deliver one to you within Winnipeg.

Our proofs for stickers are being finalized and will be here soon. Stay tuned!

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Share Your Thoughts

**WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM
YOU!**



Please email MUUG with your comments and suggestions regarding the newsletter and the meetings. Whether it's criticisms or commendations, we want to hear from you. Specifically, what sort of material would you like to see and or hear/about.

Also, if you have a How-To or any 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(s), 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 an email to: editor@muug.mb.ca.

Spread The Word!

Do you have a friend or co-worker that has shown an interest in Unix, Linux, BSD, etc?

Bring them along to a meeting or at least tell them about us. The more the merrier!

Linus Committed to Patching Things Up

<http://www.linux.com/news/featured-blogs/158-jim-zemlin/815318-on-the-linux-kernels-code-of-conflict>

During the first week of March, over sixty kernel developers, including Linus Torvalds, signed off to include a simple Code of Conduct in the documentation.

Kernel development is notorious for being rife with colourful language and dialogue, and sometimes devolving from there. Although the conflict is inevitable, the Code specifically mentions personal insults, threats, and abuse as being unacceptable.

Complaints can be made to The Linux Foundation's Technical Advisory Board at tab@lists.linux-foundation.org, and they will oversee complaints process.

As a general recommendation, the Foundation suggests: "Try to keep in mind the immortal words of Bill and Ted, "Be excellent to each other."

1002 Steam Games for Linux and Next-Gen Linux Driver API Development

http://www.phoronix.com/scan.php?page=news_item&px=Valve-Intel-Vulkan-Driver

http://www.phoronix.com/scan.php?page=news_item&px=SteamOS-Linux-Games-1K

LunarG (supported by Valve) has been developing a Linux Intel Vulkan driver. Vulkan is an OS-agnostic API initially referred to as the "next generation OpenGL initiative". The code is slated to go open-source and promises better performance than Mesa-era drivers. The alpha Vulkan API is currently available so early-adopters can test their code.

Deeper progress and possibly major version release is expected towards end of year.

Steam recently passed the 1000-title mark for Steam games on Linux, whereas less than a year ago it had passed the 500 mark. The Steam market share on Linux is only around 1%, but with developments like these, Steam is clearly committed to improving those numbers.

Better initial native development and support for new graphics cards will benefit Linux users with non-fps urges as well.

New Release of BlackArch Linux for Penetration Testing

<http://blackarch.org/downloads.html>

The tagline for this security distribution on every release seems to be "we have lots of tools!"

The 2015.03.29 release of BlackArch brags "over 1200 tools". BlackArch is a relative newcomer, but is out of beta as of last year. It can apparently be a little

difficult to install, but seasoned users should be able to get by.

Since it's based on Arch, the OS itself is lightweight. If you're new to penetration testing, the immense arsenal of i686 and x64 tools will give you a limitless tickle trunk of toys to play with and investigate.

On your own network, of course.

Canadian DRAM Class Action Deadline June 23, 2015

Did you buy an electronic device with DRAM between April 1, 1999 and June 23, 2015? Claimants will receive at least \$20 per claim, and possibly more. Individuals, businesses and governmental entities may apply for the claim.

To complete the short form, go to <https://themoneyismine.ca>

A \$20 refund pays for your MUUG membership!

Speaking of DRAM...

<http://googleprojectzero.blogspot.ca/2015/03/exploiting-dram-rowhammer-bug-to-gain.html>

Researchers were suspicious last year about an attack vector on DRAM memory dubbed "rowhammer". The idea is that higher-density memory cells are capable of having smaller charges, and are vulnerable to lower operational noise margins. Activity in the cells that are physically close to others can cause disturbance errors in the memory. The problem was originally thought to be only a reliability problem.

However, there is potential for exploits. A memory cell has an even greater potential to be manipulated if it's physically attacked from more than one side. Purposeful "noise" results in the ability to flip bits in memory *even though those memory cells have not been directly accessed*.

Researchers Mark Seaborn and Thomas Dullien via Google Project Zero indicated two actual working exploits March 9, 2015. In one exploit, they were able to accomplish kernel privilege escalation by manipulating a page table entry which results in read/write access to all of physical memory.

Pebble Watch vs Apple Watch – Go!

<http://www.zdnet.com/article/five-things-the-pebble-time-can-do-that-the-apple-watch-cant/>

	Pebble	Apple
OS Support	iOS and Android. Blackberry and Windows phone using 3rd-party apps.	iOS
Battery Life	7 days (Pebble Time) 10 days (Pebble Steel)	18 hours (As with all usage stats, YMMV. Remember to charge your wristwatch at every opportunity.)
Watchband	Standard interchangeable 22mm band. Five bucks at Canuckistan Tire, if you like, or take a rad one from your Swatch.	Proprietary Apple bands are \$49 to \$449.
Pedometer	Able to use with open fitness systems (currently Misfit and Jawbone UP).	Works with Apple HealthKit only (with no known ability to export data to other systems.)
Expansion via Smart straps	Straps embedded with devices aid in further complementary development Developers can add GPS, NFC, longer battery life, and more to extend the features of the watch itself.	Not so much.

Another SSL/TLS Vulnerability - FREAK

On Tuesday, March 3, 2015, researchers announced a new SSL/TLS vulnerability named the FREAK (“Factoring RSA Export Keys”, for the curious). Attackers can intercept HTTPS connections between vulnerable clients and servers and force them to use weakened encryption, which the attacker can break to steal or manipulate sensitive data. To test whether you're vulnerable, please visit

<https://freakattack.com>

“Let's Post Credentials in Plaintext on a Public Code Repository” Says Some Guy and 269,000 of his Closest Friends

<http://arstechnica.com/security/2015/03/ubers-epic-db-blunder-is-hardly-an-exception-github-is-awash-in-passwords/>

A search on GitHub reveals a surprising amount of sensitive information such as the IP address, hostname, usernames, and passwords to servers and Secure FTP sites. Similar searches on Wordpress apparently generated about 2 million hits.

Similarly, this past month, it was found that coders for Uber had made this mistake, leaving the driver's license numbers of more than 50,000 drivers available to anyone who looked at their code.

Writers at ArsTechnica point out that with a bounty of information like this, malicious hackers find that being given the keys to servers and databases (and

potentially important ones, at that) is better worth their time than attempting hacks on client machines.

systemd Now Enabled by Default in Ubuntu 15.04 “Vivid Vervet”, April Release

<https://lists.ubuntu.com/archives/ubuntu-devel-announce/2015-March/001130.html>

This was already the case for the betas that were released on March 9 onward, and the final release in April will now have it enabled by default.

Maintainer Martin Pitt recommends that if you're in a state just before then where you want to switch it manually, it's advisable to do a one-time boot first (if you never booted with systemd before).

If you feel like expressing strong feelings on the matter (for any side), join the discussion at... well, just do any search online for “systemd”.

“The Linux philosophy is 'Laugh in the face of danger'. Oops. Wrong One. 'Do it yourself'. Yes, that's it.

Linus Torvalds

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