



MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Next Meeting: September 12th, 2006: Surviving with a Non-UNIX Desktop

A few months ago, Gilbert Detillieux, a die-hard UNIX user since around 1980, did the unthinkable: he switched to using a Windows-based system as his primary desktop at work! *Has he lost his mind?* Or were there mitigating factors that affected his decision? How can a UNIX user survive in a Windows environment? Are there tools available that can ease the pain, and allow one to work effectively in a heterogeneous environment, without going through UNIX withdrawal?

Come hear how this one person did it. This will be a fairly informal, interactive presentation, which will hopefully lead to some lively discussion on alternative desktop solutions, and the pros and cons of each.

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.

MUUG Board Elections - Call for Nominations

Every October the Manitoba Unix User Group holds its Annual Meeting, the main goals of which are to elect a new Board of Directors and to pass any special resolutions. (Aside from that, it is a regular meeting)

Any member in good standing can be nominated to run for a position.

As of this writing, the following members of the current Board have let their names stand for re-election:

Gilbert Detillieux

Systems Analyst - University of Manitoba

Michael Doob

Professor - University of Manitoba

Kevin McGregor

Systems Specialist - City of Winnipeg

Doug Shewfelt

Systems Specialist - City of Winnipeg

Adam Thompson

Consultant - athompso.net

Shawn Wallbridge

System Administrator - Frantic Films

Of course, this list is just a starting point. Any member in good standing of the group can be nominated simply by getting the support of one other member. If you feel you would like to contribute to the group by running for a board position, please don't hesitate to do so. (In fact, we'd like to see the number of board members increase.)

If you want to be nominated, or to nominate someone else, send a letter to the group's postal box or deliver it in person to a current board member. The letter must contain the name, title, and employer of the nominee, along with a short (100 word or so) biography, and must contain the signatures of the nominee and one other member. The letter must be received no later than September 26, 2006, which is 14 days prior to the October 10 meeting.

Although the by-laws require that the nominations be done in writing, with signatures, you can speed up the process by sending us e-mail to election@muug.mb.ca, with the above information, and sending the signed paper copy later. In this case, please include the e-mail address of both the nominee and the supporter on the CC: list of the message, so that all parties concerned have a record of the communication.

Nominees should familiarize themselves with the MUUG bylaws, found here:

<http://www.muug.mb.ca/pub/bylaws/>

If you have any questions about the election or the nomination process, please contact Gilbert Detillieux, either by phone (474-8161) during business hours, or by e-mail to election@muug.mb.ca anytime.

Gilbert Detillieux
Election Committee Chair

ZFS ported to FreeBSD in 10 days

Pawel Jakub Dawidek has managed to port ZFS from Solaris 10 to FreeBSD in about 10 days. It isn't

complete yet, but the majority of the work is done. His post to the OpenSolaris zfs-discussion list is here:

<http://shorterlink.org/1044>

Google TechTalks

Google has been kind enough to record and put online various technical talks given at the Google campus. There are talks on all kinds of topics, including Networking (<http://shorterlink.org/1045>), GeoServer (<http://shorterlink.org/1046>), Code Generation with Ruby (<http://shorterlink.org/1048>), Privacy Preserving DataMining (<http://shorterlink.org/1049>), and even "Winning the DARPA Grand Challenge" (<http://shorterlink.org/1047>). You can find the entire series here: <http://shorterlink.org/1050>

Have You Been Counted?

There has been an ongoing Linux counter on the Internet since 1999, but many people don't know about it. Their website explains the purpose behind it...

"The Linux Counter is started as a "for fun" project to find out how many Linux users there are worldwide. The basic idea is for people to register themselves as being a Linux user. Of course, this way you won't get all Linux users counted as not every Linux user will register himself at the Linux Counter site.

Thus, the only way to "know" the number of Linux users worldwide, is to make a guess, preferably a not-too-wild guess of the number of Linux users. Not making wild guesses there is only one way to go: statistics.

So, the main purpose of the Linux Counter is to deal with statistics on all kinds of numbers related to Linux usage. It started with statistics on the number of Linux users and it extended to statistics on Linux users, the machines they use, software they use and in what part of the world Linux users are actually living.

A second purpose of the Linux Counter is to make it possible for Linux users to find each other. The Linux Counter is reporting Linux users sorted per almost any place in the world. So, when Linux users want their information to be public, you can quite simply find those users who live in places near you.”

You can register your machines here...

<http://counter.li.org/>

NetBSD 4.0 Beta Announced

Subject: Announcing the start of the NetBSD 4.0 release process

To: None <netbsd-announce@NetBSD.org>

From: Jeff Rizzo <riz@NetBSD.org>

On behalf of the NetBSD release engineering team, I'd like to announce the beginning of the NetBSD 4.0 release process. NetBSD 4.0 will be the twelfth major release of the NetBSD Operating System.

As some of you may have noticed, NetBSD 4.0_BETA was branched on August 8, 2006 (UTC), and the beta-testing process has officially begun.

It is expected that we will remain in beta until approximately October 1, at which time the first Release Candidate will be tagged, and binaries and ISO images will be made available within a few days.

New release candidates will be tagged approximately every two weeks following, to address any critical bugs which may arise. It is anticipated that at least three Release Candidates will be required, putting the approximate release date of NetBSD 4.0 around December 1.

PLEASE NOTE, this is independent of the release process for NetBSD 3.1, which is also occurring during this time.

You can check the progress and status of the beta at:

<http://www.netbsd.org/releng/releng-4.html>

How You Can Help

Please test NetBSD 4.0_BETA on your hardware! A lot of work has gone into getting us this far, but we don't have access to every piece of hardware out there. If you've used previous releases of NetBSD, please make sure all your devices continue to work; if you have spare machines, please test the installation procedures. With your help, this will be the best release of NetBSD yet!

As always, problems should be reported using send-pr, or you may use the web submission form at:

<http://www.netbsd.org/cgi-bin/sendpr.cgi?gndb=3Dnetbsd>

Gentoo Linux 2006.1 Unleashed

Aug 30th, 20:23 UTC

The Gentoo Release Engineering team proudly announces the release of Gentoo Linux 2006.1

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico., Aug. 30th -The Gentoo Release Engineering team proudly announces the release of Gentoo Linux 2006.1, the second release of the year. It builds on the strength of previous releases with several improvements. Featuring all of Gentoo's well-documented advantages in flexibility, performance and portability, this release is now available on all supported architectures. It is a compelling choice for people desiring a flexible, powerful community-based Linux distribution.

The 2006.1 release features many highlights that improve upon 2006.0. The AMD64, HPPA, x86, 32- and 64-bit PowerPC releases are built with and include GCC 4.1, a great improvement over version 3.4 used for 2006.0. Also included are the GNU C library version 2.4 and Gentoo's baselayout 1.12.1, with improved system startup scripts. Alpha, x86 and AMD64 also feature a new profile layout, with separate sub-profiles for desktop and server systems. This makes customization much easier as the profile

defaults can be pre-tuned to the type of system being used.

The Gentoo Linux Installer for the x86 and AMD64 platforms now features a networkless install mode, with a more streamlined configuration interface making a typical installation quicker and easier than ever. It also includes new and improved partitioning code that can make better use of existing partition setups with unusual arrangements and improved error handling to minimize the chances of damaged partition tables.

For the Alpha platform, the InstallCD now features the option to use a serial console for installation with minimal effort, and the stages are once again unified into one set for LinuxThreads and NPTL systems. The compiler used has been upgraded to GCC version 3.4.6, and it includes an updated glibc, to allow the unified stages for LinuxThreads and NPTL.

The SPARC release includes several improvements over 2006.0, including InstallCD support for systems with more than 4GB of memory and an updated toolchain bringing fixes for various compilation problems. Also new is InstallCD and kernel support for the new UltraSPARC T1 processor used in the Sun T1000 and T2000 systems.

Gentoo Linux 2006.1 now brings official support for the dual-core G5 processor on the PPC platform, support for the serial console on Apple Xserve machines and improved support for installation from a FireWire disk. Official stages are built for 64- and 32-bit userlands on generic PPC64, POWER5 and PowerPC 970 (G5) platforms, and GRP packages are available for the latest KDE, Gnome and XFCE releases on all of the above configurations.

Gentoo is also offering experimental stages for SuperH, the embedded processor developed by Hitachi in the early 1990s and most notably found in the SEGA DreamCast and several models of HP PDA. The port presently supports, and was developed on, the LanTANK system, with support for more systems planned in the future.

About Gentoo Linux

Gentoo is committed to producing a high-quality open source distribution, the latest release of which can always be found at

<http://www.gentoo.org/main/en/where.xml>

More information regarding this release can be found on the Gentoo Release Engineering team's project pages.

You may obtain Gentoo Linux 2006.1 via our bouncer system;

<http://www.gentoo.org/main/en/where.xml>, or if you prefer, contribute to the available bandwidth using our BitTorrent tracker
<http://torrents.gentoo.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**.