MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Volume 38 No. 7, March 2026 Editor: Tyhr Trubiak

Next Meeting: March 3rd, 2026
In Person and Online

As usual MUUG is meeting on the first Tuesday of the month.

Topic – NetworkManager: The ifcfg (But Not) Way

It's coming... are you ready? **NetworkManager** is a replacement for the venerable *ifcfg* or *interfaces* files that let you configure your network interfaces. Red Hat World™ forced every Fedora user to switch to NM in Fedora 41. And a great disturbance in the force was felt.

Just as with *systemd*, your *<insert slower distro here>* will force you to abandon your cherished way of doing things one of these months/years. "But I love my simple text files!" – so did Trevor Cordes, who will demonstrate at the next meeting how to use NM as close to the *ifcfg* way as possible using *nmconnection* files. So when you're forced to change, you can spend 3 minutes on it instead of 3 days.

The latest meeting details are always at:
`https://muug.ca/meetings/`

If your MUUG membership has lapsed, please help support us by renewing today! Payment can be made via e-transfer, credit card, or PayPal here:
`https://muug.ca/about.php#payment`

Where to Find the Meeting:

Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club
598 St. Mary's Rd. Winnipeg, MB.

MUUG has moved to a new location to start the new season. Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club (WSC) has graciously offered to host MUUG meetings going forward. Several current and past MUUG members are also members of WSC. MUUG President Wyatt Zacharias will be our WSC liaison and duty officer.

WSC is located at 598 St. Mary's Road, 2nd Floor, a block South from the St. Mary's / St. Anne's fork, on the West side beside the Miller's Meats. It's in the old fire hall, so you really can't miss it! Look for the red doors.

The meeting space is on the **2nd floor** and there is no elevator, so attendees will have to be able to climb 1 flight of beautiful character style stairs. Apologies to anyone requiring accessibility. It is also possible to attend via online videoconferencing:
`https://muug.ca/meet`

Please Remove Your Footwear

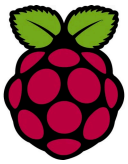
To keep the carpets clean and dry please remove your outdoor footwear at the top of the stairs.

Please feel free to bring your own comfortable indoor slippers. Last month, Trevor's homage slippers to Dr. Who's K9 were a big hit, so feel free to bring any conversational starting footwear!

Entry Log Book

To support WSC operations, we ask all guests to sign the log book provided by WSC as you enter the meeting space.

March Door Prizes:



MUUG member Ihor Mariiko is generously donating a case to go with the Pi Zero 2 W that we are giving away as a door prize.

We will also have our usual selection of e-books and a physical copy of the latest *Linux Pro Magazine,* available to win.

Check out `https://muug.ca/prizes` to see the list of e-books up for grabs.

Linux Kernel 6.19 is here!

Note that unlike Linux kernel 6.18, Linux 6.19 is not an LTS release.
What has improved? Intel's Trust Domain Extensions code receives a major rework for KVM, addressing the issues that were causing the confidential computing feature to behave unpredictably in virtual machines.

Other additions include audio support for Intel's upcoming Nova Lake processors, Linear Address Space Separation (LASS) to handle the exploitation of processor vulnerabilities, and Intel Xeon 6 processors will get better NUMA handling.

AMD powered virtual machines can now handle up to 4096 virtual CPU's with extended x2AVIC support *(the previous limit was 512 vCPUs)...* a very large jump.

AES-GCM encryption gets major speed improvements on AMD Zen 3 processors *(up to 74% faster).*

EXT4 gets optimized online defragmentation by using folios instead of buffer heads. EXT4 has improved to support block sizes larger than the kernel page size.

NTFS3 can now handle timestamps from before the year 1970 *(to help support time travellers...).* The driver switched to signed 64-bit timestamps after the issue showed up during file system testing, fixing pre-epoch date handling.

Older Radeon graphics cards *(Radeon HD 7000 to RX 300 series)* will use the AMDGPU driver. This should result in better performance.

The Armoury driver is now supported, bringing proper hardware control for ROG Ally gaming handhelds and other ASUS gaming hardware under Linux.

Rapid charge support for Lenovo IdeaPad laptops, with the driver handling faster USB-C charging.

Several Logitech *(Logi)* devices get improved support. The G Pro X Superlight 2 wireless gaming mouse works properly now, along with a new Lightspeed receiver version being included. The G13 gaming keypad also gains mainline support.

`https://www.omgubuntu.co.uk/2026/02/linux-6-19-kernel-features-amd-performance`

The End of Linux Kernel 6.x!

Linux kernel 6.19 will be the last in the 6.x lineup. Linus Torvalds reminds users that the version number is mostly symbolic. The next kernel release will likely be Linux 7.0.

Torvalds continues to manage kernel versioning with a lighthearted logic: *increase the major number only when he can no longer keep count on his fingers and toes.*

This pattern began years ago with the 3.x cycle, which increments to the next major number after 19 releases.
eg: 3.19, 5.19 and now 6.19. Linux kernel 4 was the only recent exception to this scheme, with the last version being 4.20 *(...of which I have no idea why 4.20 is special...)*

`https://www.techspot.com/news/111249-torvalds-kicks-off-linux-70-after-619-lands.html`

Ubuntu 24.04.4 LTS is available

Ubuntu 24.04.4 LTS ships with a new hardware enablement stack (HWE) offering Linux kernel 6.17 and Mesa 25.2.8, both back-ported from Ubuntu 25.10.

Updated packages on the new ISO include:

Linux kernel 6.17
Wayland 1.45 protocols
Mesa 25.2.8
Snapd 2.73
LibreOffice 25.8.4
Mozilla Firefox 147 (snap; auto-updates to newer)

The next point release will be Ubuntu 24.04.5 LTS. This will deliver the final HWE update to noble users, backporting the kernel and graphics driver stack from Ubuntu 26.04 LTS.

Long-term support (LTS) versions of Ubuntu are supported for a minimum of 5 years. During the first 3 years, periodical 'point releases' are put out. These refresh the install image (ISO) so new users don't have to download up to 3 years worth of updates after installing.

https://www.omgubuntu.co.uk/2026/02/ubuntu-24-04-4-lts-released
https://www.omgubuntu.co.uk/2026/02/ubuntu-24-04-4-lts-hwe-now-available

Ubuntu 26.04 news

Ubuntu 26.04 LTS will drop the Software & Updates utility from default desktop installs. The reasoning is that these features are *"dangerous or too complex"* for regular users. Currently, users can accidentally toggle off access to the main Ubuntu repositories through the GUI, which would disable their ability to receive updates.

This change affects the Software & Updates tool only, not the Software Updater. The CLI software-properties-common package is staying put.

Note that Ubuntu 26.04 is under active development, and plans can change before the final release.

https://www.omgubuntu.co.uk/2026/02/ubuntu-26-04-drops-software-and-updates-gui

LibreOffice 26.2 is Available

The editors of MUUG use LibreOffice to write the newsletters, so any news of stability and improvements are welcome news to me.

What's new?

Writer gets several pagination and tracking improvements. Floating tables now behave properly with keep-with-next and don't split paragraph attributes, avoiding awkward page breaks.

The editor can now split floating tables for better DOCX export, partly deleted paragraphs in Track Changes don't clutter numbering list, and auto-caption insertion now works when pasting single images if you have configured it via the AutoCaption Images setting.

There are the new "Start" and "End" paragraph alignments that automatically adapt to text direction. This should be useful for documents that combine left-to-right and right-to-left text.

Calc has received major performance and format upgrades. Pasting content from Excel is better now thanks to BIFF12 clipboard format support, and scrolling in sheets with many hidden columns is noticeably faster too.

Connector shapes are a new addition that help with diagram work within spreadsheets, and the Remove Duplicates function and Reject All Changes operations both run faster.

Additionally, the Excel 2010-365 format is now the default when saving XLSX files.

Impress adds better audio/video support on Windows, using the Microsoft Media Foundation integration for providing native playback of common codecs.

The Layouts panel and Theme dialog now use IconView widgets for a cleaner experience, 3D chart performance issues have been fixed and EPUB exports are significantly faster, with a helpful progress bar now being shown.

The import and export of Markdown content is now possible for .md files, including clipboard support

and the ability to use ODT/DOCX templates when importing.

Graphics and core improvements round out the release. Skia rendering is now the standard on Windows and macOS. SVG files with pattern fills render faster on Linux thanks to backend optimizations.

https://itsfoss.com/news/libreoffice-26-2-release/

Try Linux on Your Browser!

DistroSea.com is a website that lets you run and test 60+ Linux distributions straight from your web browser. No need for any installation or even creating a live bootable medium. DistroSea uses virtual machine (VM) technology to allow multiple operating systems (distros, in this case) to run on a single host system. Each Linux distro runs in an isolated VM with its own virtualized resources (CPU, RAM, storage.)

So how does it work? DistroSea downloads and configures the distro ISOs using the quick get script from the Quickemu project. It also uses noVNC libraries to allow you to interact with the distros in your browser. noVNC a web-based VNC (Virtual Network Computing) client that connects to the graphical environment of the Linux distro running on the server and streams it to the user's browser. This allows full interaction with the distro as if it were installed locally.

https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/not-sure-if-youll-like-linux-try-it-from-your-browser/ar-AA1Wg9sy?ocid=BingNewsSerp

Help us promote this month's meeting, by promoting this poster on your workplace bulletin board or other suitable public message board:

https://muug.ca/meetings/MUUGmeeting.pdf

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Less is More with Linux Mint Releases

According to project lead Clement Lefebvre, Linux Mint might be changing how often it releases new versions, moving away from their current release schedule of shipping a new release every six months.

Clement stated that the developers are spending more time fixing, testing, and releasing instead of developing features. He further adds that they have run out of codenames and that the next Linux Mint release will be based on an LTS release (presumably Ubuntu 26.04 LTS).

https://itsfoss.com/news/linux-mint-longer-release-cycle/

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MUUG would like to thank Michael W. Lucas for donating one of his ebooks every month as a door prize. You can view and purchase his tech books here:

https://www.tiltedwindmillpress.com/product-category/tech/

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