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MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

April 11, 2000: Why Linux on a Floppy?

Kevin McGregor, MUUG's ever-informative newsletter editor, will be describing and demonstrating a few Linux distributions that go against the current "bigger is better" trend. Why would anyone want to run an operating system from a floppy? And how much functionality can you fit on one of those, anyway? We're not talking even a Zip disk here! Kevin will answer these questions and more.

New Location: Once again this month, and from now on, the meeting will be at the ISM 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.

Limited parking is available for free on the street, or in a lot across Ellice from ISM, for $1.00 for the evening. Indoor parking is also available nearby, at Portage Place, for $2.00 for the evening.

May 9, 2000: Network Security at Home

Michael Doob, of the University of Manitoba's Math department, will be joining us again, to talk about home networks. First, this talk will address the following questions: what information about Internet security is already on my computer and how can I get more if necessary? Then we'll then look at some precautions and software available to check who's doing what. Finally we'll see how to set up and configure a firewall.

Linux for the Enterprise

Fujitsu Siemens Computers, Siemens Business Services (SBS) and Siemens IT Service (ITS) have extended their Linux offering by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with SuSE Linux AG. The agreement is part of a major drive to bring the benefits of Linux as an Enterprise IT platform, and combines the strengths of all four organisations to provide European organisations with a powerful partner for all their Enterprise Linux requirements.

The new partnership integrates the expertise and global commitment of the companies to deliver comprehensive Linux system solutions. Working with Fujitsu Siemens Computers, SBS, ITS and SuSE, customers can now opt for a Linux-based system from a reliable, competent support partner that supports the quality and development of a Linux systems implementation throughout its life-cycle.

Nuremberg-based SuSE Linux AG enhances the development potential of SuSE Labs with its Professional Services operation, which offers an effective support organization and direct contact with developers. Fujitsu Siemens Computers brings extensive IT expertise, backed by the business implementation capabilities of SBS and the Europe-wide support strength of ITS which guarantees rapid response times for Linux customers.

"With this new service offering, we are bringing together global service capacity and many years experience in hardware and corporate consulting from the Siemens side, and SuSE's wide-ranging expertise with Linux and Open Source Software," commented Roland Dyroff, CEO of SuSE Linux AG. "Customers will thus be enjoying the full efficiency of both companies, and will profit from the combined competence of the two firms."

"This co-operation deal is an important step towards guaranteeing 24 x 7 Linux support for our customers," added Dr. Joseph Reger, Vice President for Strategic Marketing at Fujitsu Siemens Computers. "Over the last two years, Linux has been the subject of an enormous amount of technical development within Fujitsu Siemens Computers. We have supported this process through both our own product development, such as Networker for backup purposes, and our high availability Reliant Monitoring Software, and through our Open Source contributions - such as the development of an extension which allows the use of up to four

GB of memory on Intel-based servers."

The co-operation with SuSE covers the certification and marketing of Fujitsu Siemens Computers platforms with SuSE Linux for all Intel-based systems, including PRIMERGY servers and Celsius workstations. The agreement extends across training and continuing education, and the provision of Linux know-how and support services for the Siemens Groups: Fujitsu Siemens Computers, ITS and SBS.

Siemens AG is one of the world`s largest providers of complete solutions in the field of corporate IT and communications infrastructures. The Linux strategy of global players such as Siemens calls for a Linux distribution that is properly localized, available in many languages and backed by comprehensive support facilities. SuSE Linux is developing and maintaining an international presence and high-quality Linux distribution in the marketplace, available on a large number of hardware platforms.

With more than 340 employees, SuSE Linux AG is one of the world's largest Linux specialists. Thanks to its stability and quality, SuSE Linux is currently being employed by over one million private users and more than 50,000 business customers around the world. The development and sales center in Nuremberg is backed up by branches in Oakland/USA, London, Prague and Marano sul Panaro/Italy, dedicated to the further development and dissemination of SuSE Linux.

The SuSE Labs are making a major contribution to the development of Linux, especially in the areas of Linux-Kernel, glibc, XFree86, KDE, ISDN4Linux, ALSA (Advanced Linux Sound Architecture) and USB (Universal Serial Bus), as well as high availability and Multiplatform Support. SuSE received the award for "Best Linux Distribution" at LinuxWorld Expo 2000 in New York. More information is available at http://www.suse/de/en

Teamware Now On Linux

Teamware Group announced the open pre-release download of Teamware Office 5.3 for Linux platform. It is a ready-to-run groupware product with a customizable user interface and state-of-the-art communications features.

Teamware Office 5.3 for Linux is an ideal intranet solution for small and medium size organizations who need cost effective and vendor independent support for common industry standards. The Linux software is a Teamware Office server component with no native Linux clients. The server is accessed through the Web Service. Windows PC clients also work with a Teamware Office Linux server. There is client support for POP3 and IMAP4 mail standards.

Teamware Office 5.3 for Linux is ready-to-run groupware where you can immediately build a communication infrastructure on Linux for users through Web browsers and standard interfaces. People can then access mail, discussion forums, library folders and calendars from any computer connected to the network. If the computer is connected directly to the Internet, then these services are available from anywhere in the world.

The customizable user interface and layout based on HTML templates empower the user to change the look and feel to match the corporate identity.

Teamware Office 5.3 for Linux also provides state-of-the-art scheduling of meetings, allocating of resources and arranging your own time. Communication features including notifications of meetings and attaching of documents to appointments are easy to perform. PDA browsers such as the one in Nokia Communicator are supported through Teamware's WebService, so mobile users can access their mail and other Teamware Office services.

Teamware Office is a complete groupware suite for corporate collaboration and communication and it has about 2.5 million users in 34 countries worldwide. Teamware Office is used for mission critical operations from corporations with tens of thousands of users to small 10-user offices. It is the number one groupware in the Japanese market and it is very well known in the European market. Teamware Office 5.3 is currently available on Windows NT and Sun Solaris platforms.

This download can be used on Linux distributions that use the Red Hat Package Manager for installing binary files. This is currently supported on Red Hat Linux, SuSe Linux and Turbo Linux. The product is available for a 90-day evaluation period with a 50-user license at www.teamware.com/linux/. After registering for the download an e-mail will be sent with a

Unique Serial Number and Activation Key. This evaluation version can then be upgraded to a production system. The final product will ship in mid-April.

WordPerfect Office 2000 for Linux

Corel Corporation announced its much anticipated WordPerfect(r) Office 2000 for Linux(r) began shipping March 21st and will be on store shelves in early April.

WordPerfect Office 2000 for Linux will be offered in both Standard and Deluxe Editions. Both editions will install on major Linux distributions, and are compatible with the Windows(r) version of WordPerfect Office 2000 and Microsoft(r) Office 2000. The Standard Edition will sell for a suggested retail price of US $109 or CAN $149. The Deluxe Edition will be available for a suggested retail price of US $159 or CAN $199.

"Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 for Linux fulfils Corel's promise to provide world-class applications for Linux and is the turning point in making Linux a reality on the desktop," said Dr. Michael Cowpland, president and chief executive officer for Corel Corporation. "This outstanding program puts Corel out in front as a leader of Linux technology on the desktop and brings us closer to the use of Linux in the mainstream!"

Response to Corel's Linux products has been very strong. Corel(r) WordPerfect(r) 8 for Linux(r) has had over 1.5 million downloads while Corel LINUX OS has had over 200,000 downloads. Both products continue to be the number one and number two most popular downloads from CNET's download.com site.

WordPerfect Office 2000 for Linux is a comprehensive office productivity suite for Linux users who are seeking a powerful and compatible solution at an exceptional value. The Standard Edition includes: WordPerfect(r) 9, Quattro(r) Pro 9, Corel(r) Presentations(tm) 9, CorelCENTRAL(tm) 9, Netscape Navigator(r), WordPerfect Office 2000 user guide and clipart manual, Adobe(r) Acrobat(r) Reader, over 100 TrueType(r) and PostScript(r) Type 1 fonts, 1,200+ clipart images, 20+ photos, and 30-day free installation support.

WordPerfect Office 2000 for Linux—Deluxe Edition also offers: Paradox(r) 9, Netscape(r) Communicator, 1,000 True Type and PostScript Type 1 fonts, over 12,000 clipart images, 200+ photos, an entertainment pack (Railroad Tycoon II(tm)- Gold Edition Limited Version and demo games by Loki Games) and a Linux bean-filled Penguin.

Both the Standard and Deluxe Editions of WordPerfect Office 2000 for Linux will also include the download version of Corel(r) LINUX(r) OS featuring the latest enhancements such as an updated 2.2.14 kernel and X-server 3.3.6, new control panels for hardware management and USB support, improved hardware support during the automatic install, preliminary RPM support in Corel(r) Update, more hardware drivers for video and sound, and improved Windows connectivity in the File Manager.

The enhanced version of Corel LINUX OS also includes Corel Application Printing Services Library. The printing library allows an application to have more control over printer settings and printer selection. The open source library project is currently hosted on opensource.corel.com and Sourceforge.

Existing and new users of Corel LINUX OS download, Standard and Deluxe standalone editions can download the enhancements from the Corel Linux Web site (http://linux.corel.com) as of March 27. Customers can also purchase a CD-ROM of Corel LINUX OS download version with the latest enhancements from Corel Customer Service for US $4.95 + $10 shipping and handling by calling 1-800-772-6735.

Concise Guide to PHP

An open source, cross-platform alternative to Microsoft's Active Server Page (ASP) technology, PHP is a freely available script language and interpreter now running on over 700,000 web sites. PHP is proving to be a powerful tool for building dynamic, database-driven websites.

As with ASP, PHP (the initials refer to the first version of the program "Personal Home Page Tools") script is embedded within a Web page along with its HTML. Before the page is sent to a user that has requested it, the Web server calls PHP to interpret and perform the operations called for in the PHP script. This allows scripts to be built into HTML code that can access back-end databases, enabling on-the-fly creation of pages.

O'Reilly & Associates has just published a handy reference to PHP- "The PHP Pocket Reference." Written by Rasmus Lerdorf (who started the PHP Project back in 1995 and has been actively involved in PHP development ever since), this small book acts both as a perfect tutorial for learning the basics of developing Web applications with PHP and as a reference to the vast array of functions provided by PHP. "The PHP language itself borrows concepts from other common languages, such as C and Perl. If you have some experience with one of these languages, you should feel right at home with PHP," says Lerdorf.

A sample section from the book is available free online at: http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/phppr/chapter/php_pkt.html

For more information about the book, including Table of Contents, index, author bio, and samples, see: http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/phppr/ For a cover graphic in jpeg format, go to: ftp://ftp.ora.com/pub/graphics/book_covers/hi-res/1565927699.jpg

PHP Pocket Reference By Rasmus Lerdorf, 1st Edition January 2000, 1-56592-769-9, 120 pages, $9.95; order@oreilly.com (1-800-998-9938) or http://www.oreilly.com

Sending Us E-Mail?

Due to the increase in the amount of e-mail MUUG receives, we've set up an auto-reply filter to give immediate feedback, and hopefully redirect some of the e-mail to the appropriate places. We will try to personally respond to your e-mail promptly, but please note that our group has a very small board of directors, consisting of a few very overworked volunteers.

In order to make our job easier, and save yourself unwanted delays, please make sure you have used the right address, and are requesting information that is not found on our web site (www.muug.mb.ca). The following contact addresses are available, for the stated purposes only:

<membership@muug.mb.ca> For inquiries related to your membership status (if you are a member), notification of address changes, requests to become a member, or to find out more about membership. But please read this web page first: http://www.muug.mb.ca/about.html

<info@muug.mb.ca> For general inquiries ABOUT THE GROUP ITSELF. This is NOT a UNIX/Linux help line, so please don't e-mail us about installation problems, setup questions, or requests for assistance. Please consider posting such questions instead to Usenet news groups such as man.unix.general, man.unix.help, or man.unix.linux.

<board@muug.mb.ca> For contacting the MUUG board of directors, for matters related to the direction of the group, for offers to help out with the group, etc.

<editor@muug.mb.ca> For matters related to the newsletter, to submit or request material for inclusion in a future edition, etc. To report problems with your newsletter subscription, please contact <membership@muug.mb.ca> instead. To get back-issues of the newsletter, simply download them from our web site: http://www.muug.mb.ca/muuglines.html

<program@muug.mb.ca> For matters related to the monthly meeting program, to suggest/request meeting topics, for offers to present (or help with) a meeting topic, etc. For questions about past or upcoming meetings, see our web site: http://www.muug.mb.ca/meetings/

<vendor-contact@muug.mb.ca> For information and offers from vendors of hardware or software relevant to our group's activities. We do welcome important product/technology announcements, offers of free samples for review or as door prizes, etc. We do not welcome irrelevant, unsolicited, bulk e-mail (spam), and we do block such e-mail.

<www@muug.mb.ca> For matters related to the administration and content of the MUUG Online World Wide Web server.

<ftp@muug.mb.ca> For matters related to the administration and content of the MUUG Online FTP server.