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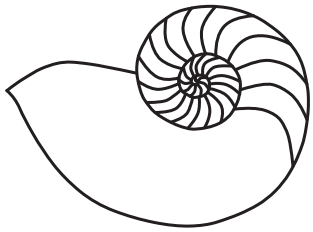
$2.50



MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

February 12, 2002: IMP – Web-based E-mail

Companies are being challenged daily by their employees to provide access to company information from various locations. E-mail is one such source of information and can be accessed using Web-based tools.

This presentation will focus on IMP. IMP is the Internet Messaging Program (formerly, among other things, the IMAP webMail Program), a web mail system and a component of the Horde project. IMP offers most of the features users have come to expect from their conventional mail programs, including attachments, spell-check, address books, multiple folders, and multiple-language support. John Schulz, from Pollard Banknote Ltd., is back to present this month's topic.

March 12, 2002: GNU Privacy Guard (GPG)

GnuPG allows multiple parties to communicate over e-mail in a secure manner. Using strong cryptography, not only can it protect documents from being read by other parties, but it can verify the integrity and sender.

This talk will cover the problems associated with ensuring the security of e-mail, and the use of GnuPG to solve them. Sean Walberg will be presenting this month's topic.

Where To Find Us

No, we haven't changed locations again. This is just a reminder to come to our **new** meeting location: 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 7:15 PM, so the meeting can start promptly at 7:30 PM. 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.

Local Linux Courses

The University of Manitoba Downtown offers Linux courses that may be of interest to MUUG members. Take a look at the course description below. Even if you are a Linux expert, you might want to have courses like this under your belt to further impress future potential employers!

If you require more information, please contact Tracey Wright at wrightt@cc.umanitoba.ca or 982-4234. For more information of the University of Manitoba Continuing Education Information Technology program, visit http://www.umanitoba.ca/coned/it/.

Linux+

April 29 - May 3

Linux+ is a five-day course designed to prepare students for the Linux+ exam by teaching them how to install, configure, and maintain a Linux system. Students learn how to:

- Install and navigate a Linux system
- Customize the login environment
- Use the vi editor
- Manage files, directories and permissions
- Manage shared libraries

By the end of the course, students will understand networking, printing, shell scripting, the X-Window system, and backup. They will learn to control processes, understand the role of the kernel, manage hard drives and troubleshoot hardware and software problems. From using shell wildcards at a terminal to using cron, students will learn essential Linux skills.

Prerequisites: This course is intended for existing system administrators. Previous experience with networking concepts, including practical ap-

plication with NetWare and/or Windows 2000 is an asset.

Advanced Linux Seminars

Using Linux as a Mail Server - March 14-15
Using Linux as a Web Server (Apache) - April 15
Using Linux as a File Server (Samba) - April 16, 17

See FOSDEM

O'Reilly Teams Up With FOSDEM to organize the Free and Open Source Software Developers' European Meeting (FOSDEM), February 16-17, 2002 in Brussels. Speakers include DJ Adams, Ian Clarke, Philip Hazel, Miguel de Icaza, Richard M. Stallman, and many others. Also in February, O'Reilly will release a new book on Richard Stallman and the Free Software Foundation, "Free as in Freedom." Check out http://www.fosdem.org/

Open Source Research?

Does publicly funded research have to result in open source code? Read two opposing viewpoints on whether all software created by publicly funded research should be licensed as open source. For further discussion on this issue, don't miss the upcoming O'Reilly Bioinformatics Technology Conference. Visit http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2002/01/12/openinf.html

The CerfCube?

It's tiny, it's powerful, it's perfect – for developing Internet devices.

Intrinsyc has introduced the CerfCube for Linux User Group Members . At just 3" x 3" x 3", and at the special price of $299, its one of the tiniest, most powerful reference designs on the market.

Based on the Intel SA-1110 processor, its perfect for creating Internet-ready devices, or Internet-enabling existing equipment. And is ideal for server appliances, data collection devices, scanners and home automation products - virtually any embedded application.

Check out these specs:

- Web-ready, low cost server device
- 3" x 3" x 3: stackable aluminum cube
- High performance 206 MHz Intel® StrongARM(tm) 1110 processor
- 32 MB RAM and 16 MB Flash
- Ideal for headless Internet devices
- Pre-loaded with Linux and Apache embedded web server

To purchase your CerfCube at this special price, visit http://www.intrinsyc.com/products/referencedesigns/cerfcube.asp and enter the promotion code CERFCUBE3-5147.

Get Local Assistance

Nearly every MUUG meeting includes a “round table”, an open question–and–answer period in which every attendee can ask about something they would like help with or information about. In addition, there is a corresponding MUUG-managed mailing list where more questions can be asked and follow-ups posted. It seems that not everyone has been made aware of the existence of the latter.

Some of you have already signed up at http://www.muug.mb.ca/mailman/listinfo/roundtable. The more people there are on the list, the more valuable it becomes. Even if you don’t currently have questions or answers, sign up today and join in when you see an opening!

While you’re there, sign up at an additional cost of nothing to the MUUG-Announce list, which is used to notify list-members of upcoming meetings, other events and last-minute changes. Traffic on this list is low, so don’t worry about your Inbox filling up on account of this one!

HP Announcements at LinuxWorld

In her keynote address at LinuxWorld, Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina declared this the breakout year for Linux, the open source technology that is finding favor with big businesses for its flexibility and cost-effectiveness.

Fiorina highlighted a number of innovative Linux solutions already deployed by customers in the entertainment, banking, service provider, Internet infrastructure and technical computing arenas. Adoption in these markets, along with

retail, financial services and public sector, is helping fuel growth in Linux.

"These representatives from the business community aren't supporting Linux because it's popular. They're doing it because it meets their needs and those of their customers, and they're putting their money where their mouths are," she said.

She also commented on the growing influence of Linux in consumer applications, a milestone that "further demonstrates the mainstream nature of Linux today."

In her opening remarks, Fiorina recognized the audience for being part of a vanguard of pioneers and innovators who accelerated the idea of Linux and turned it into an undeniable force.

Fiorina praised the open source community for enabling Linux to stay true to the spirit of its revolutionary roots while developing into a solution that can meet the needs of big business.

She encouraged attendees not to become distracted by the industry discussions surrounding the deployment of Microsoft® and Linux solutions. "The reality is that Microsoft solutions on industry-standard hardware are a mainstay of many corporations, especially on the desktop, and will continue to be so," Fiorina said. "Likewise, Linux solutions have found their way into a number of mainstream enterprise applications, are already on the desktop in niche applications, and will continue to make inroads.

"HP offers both solutions, as well as HP-UX, because we see opportunity in offering our customers a choice of building blocks for their heterogeneous environments. That's what we're about. We're the company that others come to when they want to run a multi-platform environment for mission-critical services. Right now we're taking a pragmatic approach. The question for us isn't 'Will Linux dominate the world?' but 'What part of the world will Linux dominate?'"

Fiorina outlined several initiatives where the open source community should continue to apply its energy to keep moving Linux forward for customers. These included ease of use, support of the Linux Standard base to reduce the complexity of Linux development and the resolution of the royalty-free standards issue currently being debated in standards circles.

"In HP's view, even the so-called 'Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory' patent licensing would distort the standards selection process to an unacceptable level for Web infrastructure software standards," she said. "We continue to work to draft a policy that requires the W3C to endorse only those recommendations which can be used free of royalties."

HP's CEO also described her company's initiatives to contribute to the advance of Linux. This includes taking a comprehensive approach to help build customer confidence in Linux platforms by offering a full range of sales, consulting, support and education; seeking out the open source community and software, hardware and channel partners to accelerate the delivery of innovative solutions for customers; and delivering a line of security-enhanced servers, blade servers, appliances, workstations, storage media, printers, business PCs and telecommunications racks.

"We see HP's role as helping to increase Linux' credibility in the business world," she said. "One of the primary motivations of HP's merger with Compaq is our deeply shared belief in standards-based platforms and technologies, and the contributions of the open source movement in helping customers take full advantage of these platforms.

Linux On PS2

Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc. announced at LinuxWorld that it is set to release "Linux (for PlayStation 2)" Release 1.0, targeted toward the Linux development community in North America.

Designed as a hobbyist development environment, users can not only run the wide variety of computer applications written for the Linux operating system, but also create original programs and applications designed to run on "Linux (for PlayStation 2)." The company expects the kit to sell for about $199 USD when it is made available in May 2002

exclusively through its website, http://www.us.playstation.com.

As announced, "Linux (for PlayStation 2)" will for the first time allow developers in North America complete access to the PlayStation 2 runtime environment and system manuals. The "Linux (for PlayStation 2)" Release 1.0 kit includes:

- Internal hard disk drive for PlayStation 2 (HDD) with 40 GB capacity
- Network Adaptor (Ethernet) (for PlayStation 2) with 100 Base T Ethernet interface
- Linux Kernel version 2.2.1 (with USB device support)
- "Linux (for PlayStation 2)" Version 1.0 software distribution on two DVDs
- gcc 2.95.2 and glibc 2.2.2 with VU assemblers
- XFree86 3.3.6 with PlayStation 2 GS support
- Computer monitor adaptor (for PlayStation 2) (with audio connectors)
- USB Keyboard and mouse (for PlayStation 2)

In addition to the "Linux (for PlayStation 2)" kit, users must have a standard North American PlayStation 2, a Memory Card (8M), and a VESA monitor. The graphics output requires a high-resolution computer display, with standard output set as XGA (1024 x 768 resolution); home televisions cannot be used as monitors. Computer displays supporting "sync on green" are mandatory.

Customer support and other community-based features will be handled through the North American PlayStation 2 Linux website, http://www.playstation2-linux.com. More details regarding the "Linux (for PlayStation 2)" release, FAQs and related news will be disseminated through this website, as it becomes available.

HP And DreamWorks

Hewlett-Packard and DreamWorks SKG announced a three-year, multi-million dollar technology strategic alliance aimed at revolutionizing animation production.

HP will provide computing infrastructure for DreamWorks' next-generation digital studio at its main facility in Glendale, which will make it possible to create the latest computer-generated animation more quickly, cost effectively and with greater artistic quality than ever before.

In addition, HP and DreamWorks will explore technologies that could enable creative collaboration by producers, directors, animators and others working from remote locations. The two companies also have agreed to jointly explore other technologies that may translate into new products, process improvements or solutions.

The two companies established the alliance after HP helped DreamWorks with the completion of "Shrek". Four months before the film was released, HP delivered more than 40 HP Netserver lp1000 systems that enabled the studio to meet the production schedule.

Subsequently, engineers from HP's graphics labs developed enhancements to Linux software to help power DreamWorks' proprietary animation software, ToonShooter. This tool was essential to the production of DreamWorks' next animated film, "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron," a tale about a wild mustang stallion and its journey through the untamed American frontier. The film, which was created on more than 200 Linux-based HP workstations and servers, will be released nationwide May 24.

HP will provide a broad range of products, services and integration expertise to create the new DreamWorks production facility at the Glendale campus. The facility will include the addition of more than 200 high-end Linux-based workstations, a 500-processor Linux renderfarm, 15 terabytes of storage and a high-speed Ethernet-based infrastructure.

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?

We Like To Hear From You

So e-mail us with your comments on the newsletter, whether it's criticisms or commendations, and continue to send in some ideas for articles! Submit personal anecdotes, stories of your use of Unix, Linux, BSD or related operating systems to editor@muug.mb.ca.