MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Volume 26 No. 6, February 2014 Editor: Wyatt Zacharias

Next Meeting: February 11, 2014

Presentation and RTFM

Wyatt Zacharias will be presenting the Raspberry Pi along with a Real Time Clock circuit.

"A real-time clock is a computer clock that keeps track of the current time. Although the term often refers to the devices in personal computers, servers and embedded systems, RTCs are present in almost any electronic device which needs to keep accurate time."

Trevor Cordes will be presenting an RTFM of the history command.

Where to Find the Meeting

University of Winnipeg Lockhart Hall (marked "L" on the map), on the south-east corner of Spence and Ellice. Parking is available on the surrounding streets. Muug is normally located in room 1L08, but may occasionally be in 1L06, or 1L07.

Look for a sign on the door of 1L08 indicating the change, or peek in the door windows.

MUUG Mugs!

Back by popular demand! MUUG has ordered coffee mugs, etched with our age old, lovable logo. We are offering them at $15 cash. There are a limited number available, so get yours next meeting!

Print Newsletter Now Optional

You asked for it, now you got it! If you desire, you can now opt out of the dead-tree (paper) newsletter that MUUG mails to members every month. You will instead receive an e-mail copy of the newsletter each month. Alternatively, you can opt to receive **both** the print copy and the e-mail one. (At present we cannot opt you out of both simultaneously.) MUUG is more than happy to continue mailing paper copies to those who prefer, but it is worth noting that a significant portion of MUUG's yearly operating budget goes towards postage.

To change your preferences, e-mail board@muug.mb.ca stating your choice (and preferred e-mail address if relevant), or come see Trevor Cordes during the break or afterwards at any general meeting.

If you have previously requested the e-mail only newsletter, and are still receiving the print version, please e-mail the board, as your preference may have been missed during the database upgrades.

Current limitations in our systems mean you will receive a paper copy of the newsletter plus your renewal form (regardless of your preferences) on your membership renewal anniversary. We are working on e-mail renewal forms as a feature in the future.

Red Hat And The CentOS Team Have Joined Forces

Announced January 7th, Red Hat and the CentOS project are joining forces to build new CentOS capable of pushing forward development and adoption of next-generation open source technologies.

Red Hat hopes that taking a role as a catalyst within the community will enable it to accelerate development of enterprise-grade solutions for customers and partners. Red Hat will contribute its resources and expertise in building thriving open source communities to help establish a more open project governance and roadmap, open pathways for contribution and provide new ways for CentOS users and contributors to utilize the power of open source in all areas of the software stack.

http://goo.gl/NdQ8CW

New Android Powered Spy Phone

Spanish smartphone manufacturer GeeksPhone and Secure Communications firm Silent Circle have teamed up to create a new super secure Android phone named Blackphone. Blackphone will launch at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona taking place from Feb. 24-27, and will be available for pre-order the same week.

Blackphone "is the world's first smartphone which prioritizes user's privacy and control, without any hooks to carriers or vendors" says Silent Circle, developer of the homegrown Android based OS called PrivatOS. Phone calls, texts, web browsing and video chat will be secured, and activities will be anonymized via a VPN.

http://goo.gl/AFuVZr

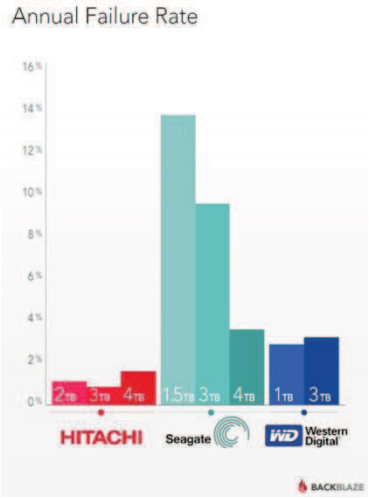
Linksys Has Revived The Classic Blue Router

A year after buying the Linksys home networking division from Cisco, Belkin has brought back the design of one of the most iconic home routers, now with the latest wireless technology. The new WRT1900AC will support the latest 802.11ac wireless standard, and features a 1.2Ghz dual-core processor as well as eSATA and USB ports.

Linksys will be providing early hardware along with SDKs and APIs to the developers of the third-party Open-WRT firmware, and plans to have custom open source firmware available for download.

http://goo.gl/KnIf01

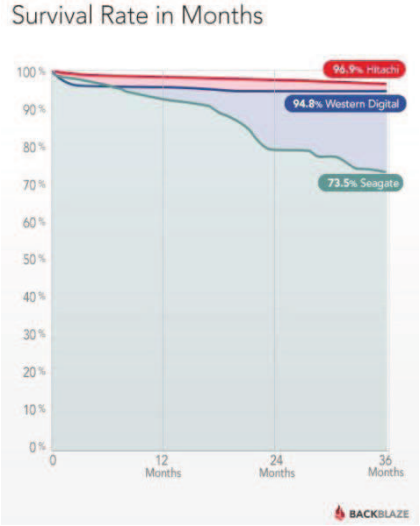
Online Backup Provider BackBlaze Names Seagate Least Reliable Hard Drive Manufacturer



In November, online backup provider BackBlaze released a report on hard drive mortality based on over 25,000 units in active use. The report concluded that failure rates were higher in the first 18 months, then rise again after 3 years. Those conclusions matched the findings of others, including Google, and Carnegie Mellon University. None of those studies, however, include information on specific makes and models.

BackBlaze's report shows Seagate's 1.5TB drive as having nearly a 15% annual failure rate, almost 10% higher than both Hitachi and Western Digital Drives. After 3 years, only 73.5% of Seagate drives are still in operation, compared to 94.8% and 96.9% of the West-Western Digital, and Hitachi drives respectively.

Although BackBlaze uses consumer-grade drives that aren't explicitly designed for RAID environments, comparatively, the Seagates are the worst performers, spending 0.28% of the time in a so-called "trouble state" rather than the 0.17% for the Western Digital, and 0.1% for the Hitachi drives.



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http://goo.gl/ZCEryJ

http://goo.gl/e2rjmj

SteamOS Beta Adds Bios And Partition Support

A month ago Valve released the first beta of its new gaming centred OS, along with the warning "Only touch this if you know what you're doing". The initial build had a lengthy list of requirements, including an NVidia graphics card, and a UEFI enabled motherboard. On top of that, it lacked any ability to dual-boot or partition the system.

This new beta expands its capabilities, adding support for AMD graphics, dual-booting, partitioning, and BIOS based systems, however Valve engineer John Vert strongly warns there has been very little testing conducted, especially on dual-boot setups.

http://goo.gl/qF9UDD

http://goo.gl/VaJ9eo

Fedora 21 = null

Thanks to a recent vote by the Fedora board to move away from the existing naming practices, Fedora 21 may not have any special naming at all. Additionally, the release has been moved back from the first half of 2014 to sometime around August 2014.

http://goo.gl/tHG7jx

OpenBSD's Call For Help Has Been Answered

Late last December, Theo de Raadt, founder of the OpenBSD project issued a plea for funding of their development and build machines. The project was facing a serious setback, due to the $20,000 cost of running their machines. Today, OpenBSD can keep the lights on after receiving a $20,000 donation in Bitcoins from Mircea Popescu, creator of the MPEx Bitcoin stock exchange.

Along with other donations, the OpenBSD foundation has now raised $100,000 of their $150,000 goal. This will allow them to continue to sponsor hackathons and other development efforts.

http://goo.gl/GbMs4a

MATE Desktop Will Be Available In Ubuntu 14.04

Version 1.6 of the MATE Desktop, a GNOME 2 fork which preserves the traditional two panel desktop layout used in pre-unity Ubuntu has been uploaded to the Trusty Proposed repository for testing. Assuming no conflicts arise, the desktop environment will be available for install through the Ubuntu software centre.

http://goo.gl/uFgkz0

Google To Start Ranking ISPs By YouTube Performance

Currently Google has only released a video quality report, explaining how video is delivered to you, but ultimately google will start logging ISP connection speeds and ranking them based on YouTube streaming performance.

Google plans to list the best ISPs in each region based off their YouTube performance, and once subscribers are able to watch 90% of YouTube videos in HD (720p) at consistent quality, they will be branded as "YouTube HD verified".

http://goo.gl/82OyWA

http://goo.gl/oI5flt

Could Android Powered PCs Disrupt The Desktop Market?

Recently featured at CES 2014 Lenovo launched an Android all-in-one designed for living room usage, while HP followed up with an all-in-one targeted at business. Android is familiar, has a thriving app ecosystem and PC makers can add more value than they could with a Chromebook.

A year ago the idea of using Android as a PC operating system may have seemed silly, but with the latest improvements offered by Google, combined with the growing app ecosystem, Android's viability is steadily growing.

PC operating systems such as Windows are often viewed as complicated to use by the general population, likely one of the reasons that mobile operating systems, which provide a much more user friendly experience have gained such popularity with the general consumer. As more Android powered PCs enter the market, we will likely see the highest adoption being with those who want a simple user interface, while still getting the diversity provided by a large app ecosystem.

http://goo.gl/DfJ2Tl

Libre Office 4.2 Released, Focuses On Performance And Windows Interoperability

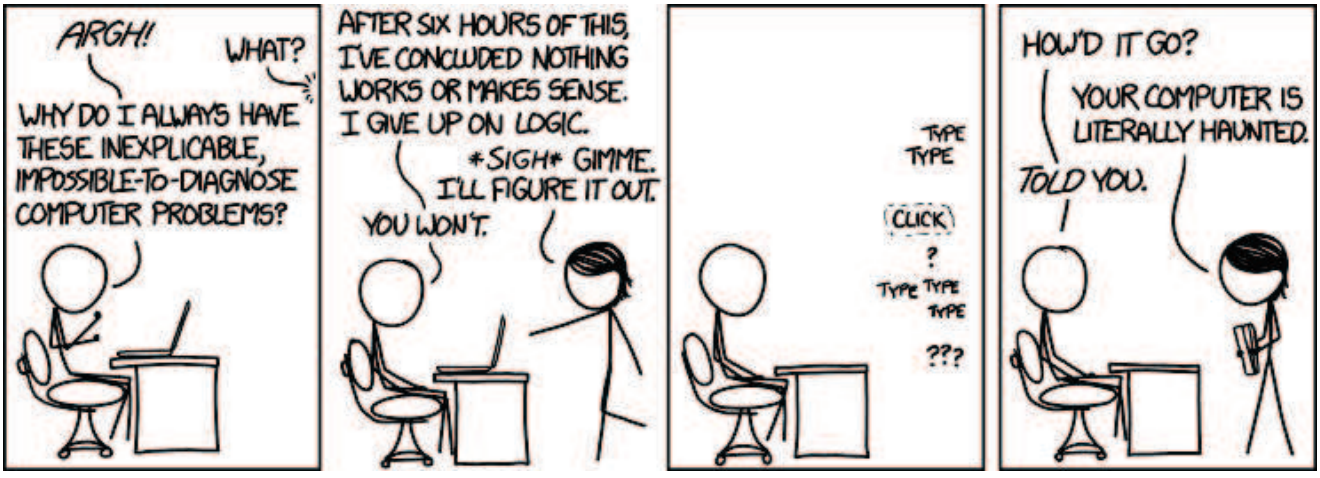
Released January 30, 2014 Libre Office 4.2 is the latest major release, featuring a number of performance and interoperability improvements, including better compatibility with Microsoft Office.

Libre Office Calc has undergone the largest code refactoring ever, giving major performance boosts for calculating cell data, while an optional new formula interpreter enables massively parallel calculation using the GPU via OpenCL.

The Libre Office UI continues to undergo significant cleanup with 70% of dialogs now refreshed and many distributed UI tweaks. Version 4.2 now ships with the new icon theme "Sifr" and an updated set of default document styles.

LibreOffice
The Document Foundation

http://goo.gl/at6xHx



Source: XKCD