MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Volume 30 No. 5, January 2018 Editor: Wyatt Zacharias

Next Meeting: January 9th, 2018

Fusion Compositing Software

Tyhr Trubiak will give a basic introduction to the node-based digital compositing software: Blackmagic Fusion, which now has versions available for free on linux.

Blackmagic Fusion is one of the many different software packages movie studios use to do visual effects in post-production on movies such as Thor, The Martian and Avengers: Age of Ultron. It is a GUI used to manipulate motion graphics. Take a detour from bash command manipulation and give your mouse a chance to have some fun.

RTFM: xargs (redux)

Adam Thompson will present an RTFM on xargs, a command line utility to forward output from one command to the command line of another.

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

December Meeting Nets Largest Winnipeg Harvest Donation to Date!

During our December 2017 Winnipeg Harvest food drive, MUUG collected 2 large (and rather heavy) boxes of much needed food and $122 in cash to donate to Winnipeg Harvest. A big Thank you to all the generous members that donated!

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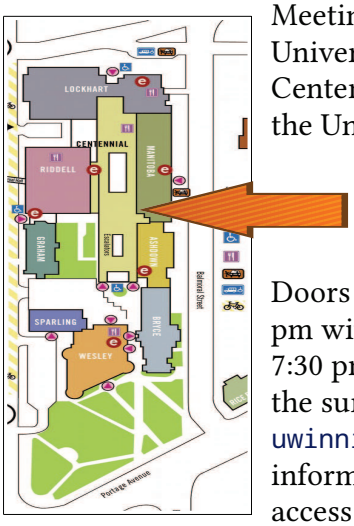
Where to Find the Meeting

University of Winnipeg, Room 1C16A



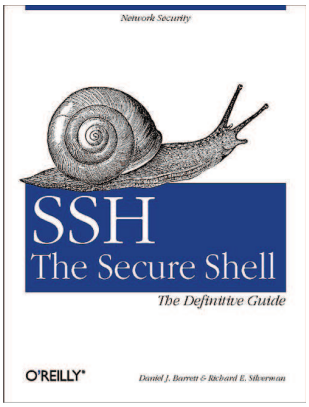
Meetings are held in the University of Winnipeg's Centennial Hall, in the middle of the University Complex.

We can be found in room 1C16A.

Doors are usually open by 7:00 pm with the meeting starting at 7:30 pm. Parking is available on the surrounding streets. See `uwinnipeg.ca/maps` for further information about parking and access to the campus.

January Door Prizes:

Along with our usual e-book give away this month we will also be giving away the printed book:



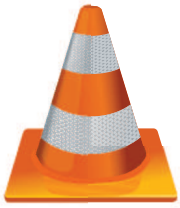
SSH, The Secure Shell

Publisher: O'Reilly Media
Release Date: February 2001
Pages: 560

Secure your computer network with SSH! With transparent, strong encryption, reliable public-key authentication, and a highly configurable client/server architecture, SSH (Secure Shell) is a popular, robust, TCP/IP-based solution to many network security and privacy concerns. It supports secure remote logins, secure file transfer between computers, and a unique "tunneling" capability that adds encryption to otherwise insecure network applications. Best of all, SSH is free, with feature-

filled commercial versions available as well. SSH: The Secure Shell: The Definitive Guide covers the Secure Shell in detail for both system administrators and end users.

VLC Gets EU Funding for Bug Bounty Program



The VideoLAN project, creator of the open source and cross-platform media player VLC, has been granted funding from the European Parliament to run a small scale bug-bounty program for the application, offering hackers a monetary reward for finding and disclosing vulnerabilities in the application to the development team.

https://goo.gl/btfWyQ

Mozilla Found Inserting Hidden Add-On into Firefox for MR. ROBOT Promotion

In a recent update, a new add-on was pushed into the Mozilla Firefox browser called "Looking Glass 1.0.3" with no description other than "MY REALITY IS JUST DIFFERENT THAN YOURS".

MR. ROBOT

Immediately users who discovered the mysterious add-on assumed the worst, that some form of malware had been added to their browser, potentially stealing or modifying and web data the user had viewed.

After multiple forum posts and even bug reports had been filed for the new add-on, Mozilla released more information about the add-on, stating that it was part of an alternate reality game for the promotion of the TV show MR. ROBOT and was only installed for users who were part of the Firefox SHIELD program.

The SHIELD program is where Mozilla releases "studies" for Firefox, which are new potential features that users can submit feedback for. However, what Mozilla failed to mention about these studies is that even though they call it an "opt-in" program, in actuality all users are opted in automatically. In order to disabled the studies, users can type about:studies in the URL bar, or un-check the option "Allow Firefox to install and run studies" in the "Firefox Data Collection and Use" section of the browser preferences.

https://goo.gl/R5P7qH
https://goo.gl/c4qjJL

Linux Journal Ends Publication

Announced on Dec. 1St, Linux Journal has been forced to end publication of the magazine due to a lack of financial resources. The magazine has been in publication for 23 years since the first issue in April, 1994.

As part of the announcement the publisher apologized to their subscribers that they did not even have enough remaining funds to refund subscriptions that would now not be fulfilled. Linux Pro Magazine has offered 6 free issues of their magazine to any subscribers of Linux Journal.

https://goo.gl/6C2UNv

Apple Admits to Purposefully Throttling Old iPhone Models

Early in December, Reddit user TechFire made a post in the iPhone subreddit speculating that his iPhone 6S was throttling its CPU performance at different battery levels after he received differing benchmark scores depending on what level of charge his battery was at, and after he saw significant increases in benchmark scores after having the battery replaced in his phone. The post gained so much attention from other iPhone users experiencing the same throttling behaviour that Apple was forced to respond to the allegations, and confirm that they had implemented power management features that could throttle the performance of phones with aging batteries.

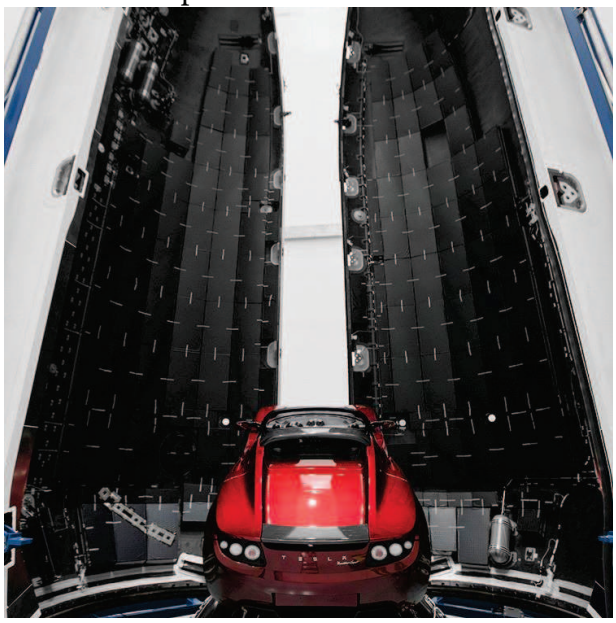
Approximately one year ago Apple launched a repair program for the iPhone 6S after users started reporting that the device would randomly shutdown without warning. Apple claimed the issue was due to a manufacturing defect, affecting a very small set of users, and phones within a certain serial number range would be repaired for free.

A few months after the battery repair program started, Apple released iOS version 10.2.1, and claimed that the new version resulted in an 80% reduction in unexpected shutdowns of 6S devices. After the allegations of CPU throttling came to light, speculation arose that the two issues were related, and that Apple was using throttling to solve the power issues on the older devices.

https://goo.gl/i6KKza
https://goo.gl/v9o89P

First Test Flight of SpaceX Falcon Heavy Rocket Will Put Tesla Roadster in Mars Orbit

SpaceX is finally ready to test their Falcon Heavy rocket, which has been in development for almost 10 years, with an anticipated launch date of January, 2018. The Falcon Heavy consists of a strengthened Falcon 9 rocket along with two more Falcon 9 first stage rockets attached as boosters. Unlike most other test launches which use concrete or steel blocks to simulate cargo load, this test launch will contain Elon Musk's own red Tesla Roadster which will launched into a permanent orbit around Mars.



Elon Musk's Tesla mounted in the cargo bay of the Falcon Heavy.

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https://goo.gl/nZQCqR

U.S. FCC Repeals Title II Classification of Internet Service Providers

On December 14th the U.S. Federal Communications Commission held a controversial vote on repealing the Title II classification of internet service providers which was enacted in 2015. The result of the vote was 3-2 in favour of repealing the classification, thus repealing any current "net-neutrality" protections resulting from Title II classification.

Up until the classification of internet service providers as Title II common carriers in 2015 there was no clear set of regulations enforcing net-neutrality, only sets of published principles that the FCC believed should be followed, which were modified several times between 2000-2015. Although published by the FCC, these principles were essentially unenforceable. In 2008 the FCC issued a cease-and-desist order to Comcast who was found to be purposefully throttling bittorrent traffic on their network. In 2010 the Appeals Court for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the FCC had no legal authority to treat traffic equally. Another blow to the FCC's principles happened in 2014 when the DC Circuit Court ruled that in the case of Verison v. FCC the FCC had no authority to enforce network neutrality rules as long as internet service providers were not identified as "common carriers".

In 2014, FCC chairman Tom Wheeler, who was appointed to the position by President Barack Obama, announced plans to reclassify internet service providers as common-carriers, thus giving the FCC the ability to enact regulation enforcing net-neutrality. On February 26th, 2015, the FCC voted in favour of reclassifying internet service providers as common-carriers under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934. By April 2015, the FCC had published their final rules on net-neutrality and put them into effect.

In January 2017, Ajit Pai was named the new chairman of the FCC by President Donald Trump. Having stated his objection to the reclassification in 2015, he immediately began to roll back certain policies that had been enacted by the FCC since the

2015 vote. On May 18th, 2017 the FCC voted to move ahead with Pai's proposal to roll back the classification, and would accept public comments on whether the classification should be rolled back or not. After the period for comment ended, Ajit Pai announced in November 2017, that the FCC planned to go ahead with the repeal. On December 14th, the FCC voted 3-2 in favour of the repeal, thus removing common-carrier status from internet service providers, and the FCC's ability to regulate them.

https://goo.gl/HNGDyo

Microsoft Adds OpenSSH Client and Server to Windows 10

In development since 1998, PuTTY has been the go to SSH client for windows systems, but that may change with the release of this new Microsoft supported client.

Included in the fall creators update of Microsoft's Windows 10 operating system, users can now enable the native OpenSSH client and server applications for the Windows command line.

https://goo.gl/sQhhTL

Let's Encrypt Announces Wildcard Certificates Coming in 2018

On Dec. 7th the Let's Encrypt project made a blog post on their website detailing their plans for 2018, and statistics from the previous year. Through 2017 Let's Encrypt had over 46 million active certificates and had serviced over 61 million unique domains. They anticipate that those numbers will double throughout 2018, rising to 90 million and 120 million respectively.

The project's major new feature of 2018 will be the issuance of wildcard certificates, which allow users to secure any number of sub-domains with a single certificate. The new certificates will be available through a public test API starting January 4th, with a full launch planned for February 27th.

Also slated for 2018 are a number of hardware replacements to increase compute capacity and retire old servers. Let's Encrypt currently maintains 70 rack units of equipment, spread across two datacenters, with a team of only 6 people. All of these changes, as well as regular operating costs are being squeezed into a $3M budget for 2018, with funding primarily coming from sponsors such as Mozzila, Akamai, OVH, Cisco, Google, and the EFF.

https://goo.gl/m4EU3R

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

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

MUUG Social Links: