MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

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Next Meeting: February 9th, 2021 (Online Jitsi Video Meeting)

Feature Presentation: OBS Studio workflow

Wyatt Zacharias will give an overview of OBS Studio. Open Broadcaster Software is a free and open-source software suite that provides real-time capture, scene composition, encoding, recording and broadcasting!

Have you ever noticed that some live video looks professional? They have multiple camera angles, flashy titles *(not to be confused with Adobe Flash)*, social media tickers and clear audio, while other streams are just painful to watch and look like it's done on a shaky old cell phone? One of the possible reasons for this is the effort put into polishing the video with a software suite like OBS Studio.

So whether you want to take your streaming video business presentations to the next level, enhance your gaming livestream on Twitch or similar platform, or you want to make your live webcam shows appear more professional, - you do not want to miss this presentation!

Where to Find the Meeting:

`jitsi.merlin.mb.ca/muug.2021.02`

This month (just like last month) we are using our own online Jitsi meeting server hosted by merlin.mb.ca.

The virtual meeting room will be open around 7:00 pm, with the actual meeting starting at 7:30 pm.

You do not need to install any special app or software to use Jitsi: you can use it via any modern webcam-enabled browser by going to the aforementioned link.

Thank you `MERLIN` *(the Manitoba Education Research and Learning Information Networks)* for providing the hosting and bandwidth for our meetings.

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

Ubuntu 20.04 running successfully on Apple's ARM-based M1 chip!

The developers Corellium have managed to get Ubuntu 20.04 running – the **full Ubuntu desktop experience** – on Apple's latest Mac Mini.

Despite Linus Torvalds predicting a slower timeframe, there is a fully usable version now. Linus Torvalds was not entirely wrong in expecting struggles, as the GPU support is still a sticking point. Correllium's Linux on M1 does not yet include M1 GPU support (meaning all the graphics handling is done via software rendering).

So it's usable, but not perfect yet. The above mentioned graphic core and M1's built-in machine learning (ML) cores are both unusable at the moment.

Corellium code is able to work with the following hardware interfaces:

- Apple AIC interrupt controller
- Apple UART driver
- SMP support
- PMGR support (power gating)
- DART support (Apple IOMMU)
- GPIO
- I2C
- USB Type-C controller adaptation
- USB (on the Type C ports only)

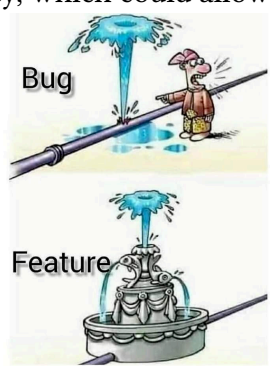
Corellium will be making it's Linux for M1 code freely available under an open source license.

In supporting news, an independent crowd-funded initiative called the Asahi Linux project is currently attempting to reverse engineer/create a Linux-compatible graphics driver for M1 chips, as well as bring the Arch Linux distro to Apple's M1 architecture.

Sudo Root Privilege Escalation Vulnerability Patched

Sudo 1.9.5p2 was released Jan 26,2021. It patches two security issues:

- CVE-2021-3156 (a.k.a. Baron Samedit), discovered by Qualys Research Labs. It could allow local users (sudoers and non-sudoers) to obtain unintended access to the root account.
- CVE-2021-23239, a vulnerability discovered in Sudo's sudoedit utility, which could allow a local attacker to bypass file permissions and determine if a directory exists or not. This security flaw affected Sudo versions before 1.9.5.



Where is Chromium?

Reports are indicating that certain Linux distros might be removing Chromium from their official repositories very soon. This is due a lot of frustration expressed by the Linux Dev community when Google team member Jochen Eisinger mentioned they will be banning the sync support system of Chromium on March 15, 2021.

What key features is Google cutting off?
(hint: spell checking, translation and account syncing)

- Google account sync
- Geolocation
- Click to Call
- Chrome spelling API
- Contacts API
- Chrome translate element
- Safe browsing

Why is Google suddenly removing support for these features in Chromium? "Security" is the reason Google stated. Google says access to these features is not supposed to be accessible out of Google Chrome.

So I guess access to things like spill chucking...I mean spell checking on these API's for the past 7 or so years outside of Google Chrome has been putting people at risk all this time?

It is worth noting that **all versions of Chromium** will be affected by this on March 15, 2021, regardless of version of method of installation.

However, not every "Chromium-based" browser will be as affected by the API change. Vivaldi uses its own sync engine, as does Microsoft's Edge (although Edge for Linux currently does not support it).

Mozilla Firefox 85 released

- The 1st release of Firefox without support for the Adobe Flash Player plugin.

- Major privacy features: "Network Partitioning" - eliminates cross-site tracking by partitioning network resources instead of sharing them. This option was available in Firefox 84, but is now turned on by default.

  For those of you that like to be watched, you can disable the "Network Partitioning" anti-tracking feature by setting the **privacy.partition.network_state** option in **about:config** to *false*.

  While Mozilla claims the performance impact is negligible for most users, websites will technically take longer to load since website data will now be downloaded for each top-level domain with the feature defaulted on.

- Firefox 85 now "isolates so-called super-cookies". Super-cookies? Did you think clicking the "clear cookies" button cleared all the cookies? Nope. Super-cookies are a type of tracker hidden in your web browser which nicely track everything you do even after you "clear the cookies". They survive activities that normal cookies couldn't – kind of like superheroes or supervillians…but without spandex.
  So now these super-cookies are "isolated".

- Ability to remove all your saved logins with a single mouse click

Feel like Firefox 85 is so yesterday's news? Firefox 86 is in the beta channel for public testing!

"Basic" support for AVIF (AV1 Image File Format) – a lossless, royalty-free open source image file format that encodes AV1 bitstreams in HEIF (High Efficiency Image File Format), around 50% smaller sizes than JPEG while being lossless.

"Basic" support means no advanced features like colorspace support or animated images.

GParted 1.2 Partition Editor Released with exFAT Support

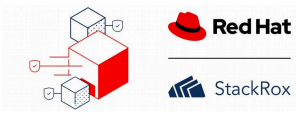
- Microsoft's exFAT file system is now supported when partitioning disks
- Gparted 1.2 also sets the default alignment to cylinder for the Amiga partition table…
  I do not know how many of you are still using an Amiga or modifying Amiga partition tables, but as a former Amiga user, I'm happy to hear about this change if it helps you.
- Waits for udev changes on /dev/DISK before erasing signatures
- improves support for FAT file system

AWS to Fork Elasticsearch

elasticsearch

Elastic's license had changed from open source ALv2 to SSPL (Server Side Public License), which is more restrictive. Amazon Web Services will be publishing their new forks of Elasticsearch and Kibana in new Git repos "within the next few weeks".

Red Hat Acquires StackRox



This can strengthen Red Hat's position with their Hybrid Multi-Cloud Strategy, with a price tag of roughly $100 million.

JingOS – Linux Distro Inspired by the iPad

JingOS is a new Ubuntu-based distro focused on a touch-centric UI for tablets first, and a "laptop-lite" experience second.
This is not a desktop Linux distro that runs tablet apps. It is a tablet Linux distro that can run desktop ones.

Rocky Linux Gets a New Sponsor!

A new startup company called Ctrl IQ, founded by Gregory Kurtzer (co-founder of the now defunct CentOS Linux distribution) will be a sponsoring company for the upcoming Rocky Linux distribution.

Ctrl IQ's business seems to be in supplying relatively turn-key infrastructure for computing workloads capable of running in distributed systems, such as:

- Rocky Linux: enterprise Linux
- Warewulf: scalable systems management
- Ctrl Computing Stacks: computational stacks designed for intensive workflows
- Fuzzball: workflow/data orchestration
- Ctrl IQ Cloud: secure hybrid platform

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

Tails 4.15 released

Tails (The Amnesic Incognito Live System) describes itself as "a portable operating system that protects against surveillance and censorship".
"Shut down the computer and start on your Tails USB stick instead of starting on Windows, MacOS or Linux. Tails leaves no trace on the computer when shut down."

Tails is a Debian-based live image (DVD/USB) designed specifically for anonymous browsing on internet sites, and includes several internet applications such as web browser, IRC client, mail client, instant messenger, using the TOR network.

How's Your Jitsi experience?

MUUG wants to hear from you about your experiences with Jitsi, the open source software MUUG is using for its online meetings. Have you had any trouble or glitches? Has performance been OK? The MUUG board is here to help if you are still experiencing issues. Email the **roundtable** mailing list, or board@muug.ca.

We've made it mandatory you enter a screen name in order to join the Jitsi meeting.

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