MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Volume 35 No. 6, February 2023 Editor: Chris Audet

Next Meeting: February 7, 2022

Presentation: CheckMK

Alberto Abrao will present CheckMK, a great platform for monitoring various IT infrastructure components.

CheckMK has powerful tools to monitor all different kinds of devices that comprises a regular Enterprise IT environment. Agents are available for Linux, *nix (AIX, Solaris), *BSD, Windows, VMware, AWS, Azure, Kubernetes, Docker, among others. These can be easily enhanced with plug-ins for custom functionality. It also allows for the monitoring of devices that support SNMP.

Easy to get started with, but packed with features and infinitely customizable, CheckMK is an excellent choice for the monitoring of any IT environment.

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

Where to Find the Meeting:

This month's meeting is a virtual, online video meetings using the open source meeting software Big Blue Button. If you haven't tried it yet, we recommend joining the meeting a little early to familiarize yourself with the controls.

The virtual meeting room will be open by around 7:00 pm on the day of the meeting, with the actual meeting starting at 7:30 pm. You do not need to install any special app or software to use Big Blue Button: you can use it via any modern web-cam-enabled browser by going to the website link above.

Please note that the meeting link will not be active until approximately 30 minutes before the actually meeting date and time. If you access the page beforehand, click your browser's reload button after 7:00 pm to get into the meeting.

Door Prizes

Even more new titles will be added to the list of e-book choices this month. Make sure you attend the meeting and sign up! Entry is free to all attendees, though the first draw is reserved for members. Other special perks are given to members, so consider joining MUUG today: it's only $20 a year!

Wine 8 Released

Attention, duelists! The day where Windows becomes an optional library sometimes used on Linux systems slowly approaches.

This release contains bug fixes and new features – it's a bit technical though so I'd recommend checking the official announcement if you're curious.

https://www.winehq.org/announce/8.0

Wikipedia Redesign has gone live

Wikipedia has replaced the stock, mediawiki interface with something modern looking - causing much wailing and gnashing of teeth among netizens.

The new layout brings the desktop UI closer to what's been used on mobile for some time, with the

goal of improving readability of a wider range of devices.

How do you feel about the new UI? Personally I've been enjoying having the table of contents always visible in the left sidebar.

https://twitter.com/Wikipedia/status/1615756186640334848

Linux Foundation Announces Launch of Open Metaverse Foundation

No, it's not April yet, and yes this is real.

The OMF's mission is to "provide a collaboration space for diverse industries to work on developing open source software and standards for an inclusive, global, vendor-neutral and scalable Metaverse."

Taken at face value, it's an ambitious goal, and definitely preferable to handing the keys to future online social spaces to corpos. I wish them luck.

https://www.linuxfoundation.org/press/open-metaverse-foundation

IBM moves remaining AIX development to India

Many MUUG members will have worked with AIX (IBM's commercial Unix OS) in some capacity over the decades.

The AIX story has been winding down for some years now, and this announcement continues that trend. The Register reports that all AIX development has been moved to India.

Quick aside – my only experience with AIX was in 2015 at a company that developed satellites, the engineers had a few AIX towers that ran some kind of specialized space calculation software.

https://www.theregister.com/2023/01/12/ibm_aix_developer_jobs/

Nextcloud works with EU government agencies to build digital sovereignty office

Europe continues to demonstrate leadership in open source, this initiative being another example.

The collaboration aims to streamline deployment of open source collaboration tools for municipalities, cities, and other government organisations.

https://nextcloud.com/blog/press_releases/european-governments-work-with-nextcloud-to-build-digitally-sovereign-office/

Appliance makers sad that 50% of customers don't connect smart appliances to the web

Considering the sorry state of consumer privacy law in Canada (PIPEDA refactor when?), this could probably be considered a net win.

https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2023/01/half-of-smart-appliances-remain-disconnected-from-internet-makers-lament/

Discourse 3.0 released

Forum software is thriving in 2023 – if you haven't visited a forum since the web 2.0 glory days of phpBB then you owe it to yourself to visit a community powered by Discourse.

(I'd recommend `community.librenms.org`, they are pretty cool).

Many open source projects use Discourse to provide support or have developer discussions. The software is thoughtfully designed in a way to nudge participants towards civil discussion.

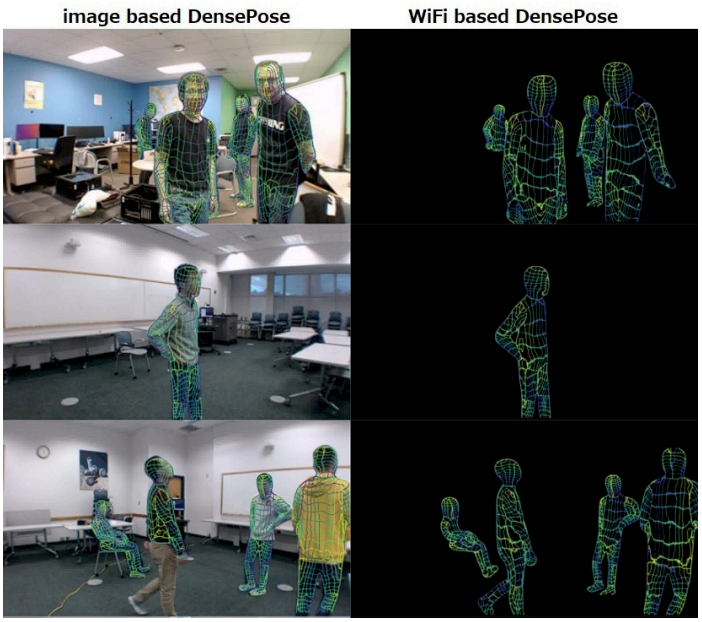
It's honestly refreshing participating in a Discourse community after you've grown used to commercial social media sites, that tend to optimize for engagement and outrage at the user's expense.

The 3.0 release includes UI changes to notifications and a new realtime chat feature, similar to something like Rocket.Chat or Discord.

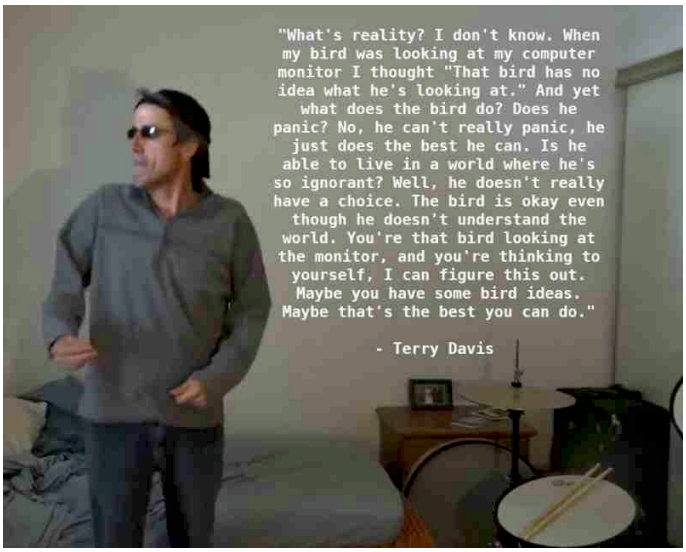
https://blog.discourse.org/2023/01/discourse-3-0-is-here/

Neural network trained to use WiFi signal for human occupancy sensing

https://arxiv.org/abs/2301.00250



How I sleep knowing my computer's wifi chip can be used by my CPU's hardware backdoor as an antenna to map my room and count the number of people in my house



MUUG would like to thank Michael W. Lucas for donating one of his ebooks every month as a door prize. You can view and purchase his tech books here:

https://www.tiltedwindmillpress.com/product-category/tech/

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