MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Volume 36 No. 6, February 2024 Editor: Wyatt Zacharias

Next Meeting: February 6th, 2024 7:30pm

In Person and Online

The February meeting will be held both physically in person, and online via our Big Blue Button videoconferencing server. We encourage all members to attend in person. If you cannot attend in person, you can watch and interact with the meeting online and partake of our professional-grade camera, microphone, and dedicated stream moderator.

If you show up in person you will be treated to more beverage choices than we've offered in over a decade: coffee, tea, and pop, as well as cookies. And parking is free, copious, safe, and just a handful of feet from the door.

Please stay home if you are sick that day.

To attend via internet, check and refresh the following link after 7:00pm. There is no need to create an account in BBB, nor login. Just enter any name as your screen name and hit **join**.

https://muug.ca/meet

Presentation: Linux Firejail

Want to add an extra layer of protection when using complex or untrusted programs, like browsers or Steam? Short on time and fed up with overbearing whole-system solutions like SELinux or resource-hogging virtualization? Well, protect yourself the easy and painless way with Firejail!

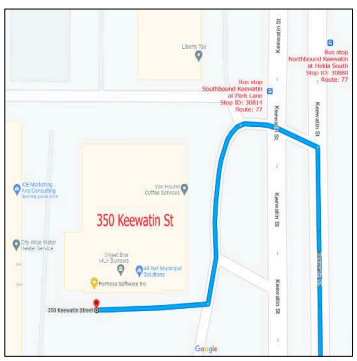
In this month's presentation, Trevor Cordes will outline why you want to use Linux Firejail, how you use it, and why it may be better for your use case than other protection solutions. Cool demos may ensue.

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

Where to Find the Meeting

We are continuing to meet on the first Tuesday of every month.

Fortress Software Inc.
350 Keewatin St – Unit #2



Doors will open at 7:00pm. Meeting starts at 7:30pm.

If driving, enter the lot using the most north-eastern entrance (far right in the top picture) and drive around to the south west corner of the

building (see route in map detail). You can use any of the free, ample, and safe parking spots that say "reserved" or "MUUG" in front of units #1 through #4 before entering into unit #2. Look for the sign over the door!

Bus stops #30814 and #30880 (route 77) are only 150 meters away. The last bus leaves for Polo Park at 10:15 pm and for Garden City at 10:31 pm. Logan Ave. bus routes #19, #26, and #27 are a 600 meter (8 minute) walk to the south.

OpenWRT Turns 20!

The OpenWRT project was first started in 2004 after Linksys released the WRT54G series of wireless routers. These routers utilized open source code in their firmware and thus under the terms of the GPL license Linksys was required to share the source code for their routers. With the firmware source in hand developers were able to easily build custom versions with new features.

OpenWRT has grown to support hundreds of network devices from different manufacturers. Recently the project has announced on their mailing list plans to create their own router package based on already available hardware on the market. They are still in the early stages of the proposal, and are looking for feedback about the proposed hardware from the community.

https://lists.openwrt.org/pipermail/openwrt-devel/2024-January/042018.html

WINE 9.0 Released

Version 9.0 of WINE has been released, featuring better support for WoW64 (Windows on Windows 64 bit) and new experimental support for native Wayland.

> *All modules that call a Unix library contain WoW64 thunks to enable calling the 64-bit Unix library from 32-bit PE code. This means that it is possible to run 32-bit Windows applications on a purely 64-bit Unix installation. This is called the new WoW64 mode, as opposed to the old WoW64 mode where 32-bit applications run inside a 32-bit Unix process.*

Although the new features are included in WINE 9.0 they are not yet enabled by default, and require either command line flags or registry key changes to take effect.

https://gitlab.winehq.org/wine/wine/-/releases/wine-9.0

YouTube's War With Ad Blockers Continues

YouTube and Google have been in an ad blocking arms race since late last year. In November, 2023, Google began implementing measures on YouTube to display a warning popup to Ad block users that there were violating their terms of service, and would have their playback blocked after several violations.

uBlock Origin, one of the most popular Ad block extensions, available for both Firefox and Chromium based browsers, was quick to respond to the new efforts by Google, and implemented counter-measures in their extension to block the ad block blocker.

While uBlock has managed to stay one step ahead of Google, users have been reporting odd side effects on the site when an ad blocker is enabled. Side effects such as slow buffering of videos, or problems loading the site entirely. Google denies that they are intentionally degrading the performance of the site for ad block users, though they do warn that users "may experience suboptimal viewing" if using an ad blocker.

https://www.tomsguide.com/news/youtube-is-loading-slower-for-users-with-ad-blockers-yet-again

Apple Banned from Selling Latest Smartwatches in the US

The International Trade Commission recently ruled that Apple had infringed on US patents for pulse oximetry tech made by Masimo, a media device manufacturer, in their Series 9 and Ultra 2 smartwatches.

Apple removed the devices from their online store in late December, 2023, however, the ban was recently paused by a federal appeals court, while Apple appeals the decision.

https://www.theverge.com/2023/12/26/24012382/apple-import-ban-watch-series-9-ultra-2

Tetris "Beaten" by 13-Year-Old Pro Player

For years the original version of Tetris, released for the Nintendo NES console was considered to be "unbeatable", that is, the game continues increasing in difficulty to the point that the controls of the NES itself cannot keep up with the speed of the game.

Gamers™ not being able to pass up a challenge found increasingly complex workarounds to the control limitations, surpassing to levels previously thought unobtainable.

As players progressed to level 100 and beyond work began on determining just how far the game could actually go. In 2021 Programmer Greg Cannon used a Tetris playing AI bot to push the game to its limits, discovering the first crash points in the game. This work continued in order to find all the various progression points that would crash the game.

13-year-old Willis "Blue Scuti" Gibson was the first human player to reach one of these crash conditions when at level 157 of the game he scored a single line, which is known to have a high probability of crashing the game.

Although Gibson is the first human to beat the game, others may be able to surpass his record. The earliest currently known crash point occurs at level 155.

Another potential record lies at level 255 where the game will then reset to level 0.

https://www.techspot.com/news/101383-13-year-old-first-human-beat-tetris.html

Bcachefs Added to Linux Mainline 6.7

Bcachefs has been given the green light by Linux Torvalds to be merged into the new Kernel 6.7 release.

Bcachefs is an advanced new filesystem for Linux offering futuristic features lacking from traditional filesystems such as ext4 and xfs. Some exciting features of Bcachefs include copy-on-write, full data and metadata checksumming, replication, and multi-device access.

https://www.phoronix.com/news/Bcachefs-Merged-Linux-6.7

Dave Mills, Inventor of NTP has Passed Away

Dave Mills, inventor of the widespread Network Time Protocol (NTP) passed away on January 17th.

Mills began working at COMSAT in 1977, where he was tasked with synchronizing the time between computers connected to ARPANET. This led to the development of NTP. Mills was the lead of the NTP reference implementation until the mid 2000s when he passed control of the project to Harlan Stenn.

A big thanks to Les.net for providing MUUG with free hosting and all that bandwidth! Les.net (1996) Inc. is a local provider of VoIP, Internet and Data Centre services. Contact **sales@les.net** by email, or +1 (204) 944-0009 by phone.

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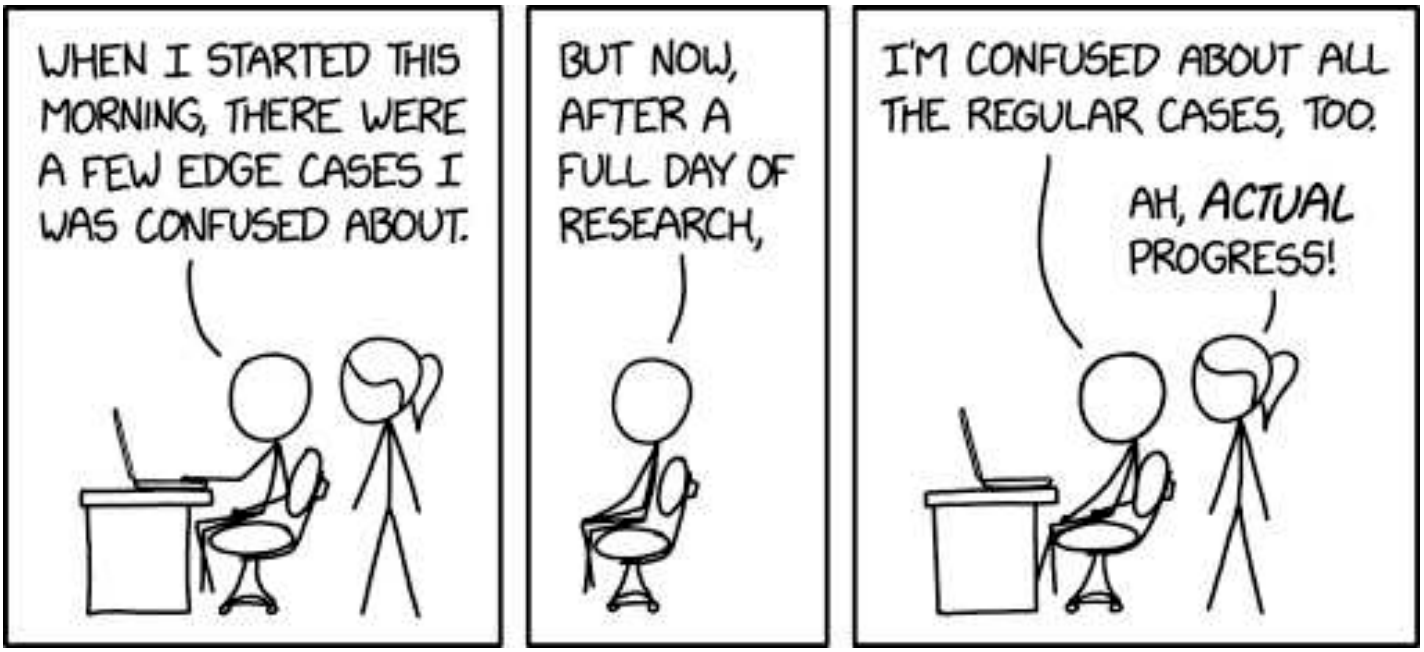
MUUG would like to thank Michael W. Lucas for donating one of his ebooks every month as a door prize. You can view and purchase his tech books here:

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

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



Comic by XKCD - https://xkcd.com/2797/