MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Volume 37 No. 4, December 2024 Editor: Bradford C. Vokey

Next Meeting: December 3rd, 2024 *** In Person Pot-Luck Meeting! ***

As 2024 draws to a close, MUUG will continue the now 13 year old tradition of turning the December meeting into more of a social event.

This will be a pot-luck snack event

Members are encouraged to bring their own food to sample and share with others. Feel free to bring your own special drink as well – just remember that we don't have a liquor license!

Bring your favorite gadget

Bring your favourite gadget! We will have the usual (brief) round-table session, a gadget show & tell, and then have some time for mingling, eating, and drinking.

We will also attempt to simulcast the live round-table and any short presentations over Big Blue Button for those that can't attend in person for any reason: https://muug.ca/meet

December Door Prizes:

Along with our usual selection of e-books Wyatt Zacharias has generously donated two (2) Cisco Catalyst network switches for us to give away.

Prize may not be exactly as illustrated

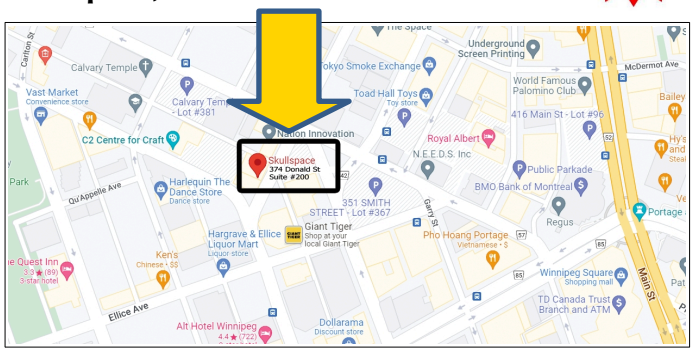
Be sure to attend in person ***and bring a donation for Harvest Manitoba*** (see page 2) for a chance to take home a highly configurable network switch!

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

Where to Find the Meeting:

NEW LOCATION

Skullspace, 374 Donald St - Suite #200



Just like last year, Mark Jenkins has graciously let us use the Skullspace location at 374 Donald St., for our December meeting. We will be in room 200.

Please note that this location is not mobility accessible. There are 3 flights of stairs and it is 1.5 stories up.

There is a Winnipeg Jets home game on December 3rd so close downtown street parking may be harder to find.

One of the best blocks for street parking is Notre Dame after Hargrave. There is also lots of commercial parking lots in the area including right behind the Skullspace building.

The 66 bus route has a southbound stop on the same block of Donald (useful for departure) in front of the Yellow Dog Tavern. For arrival by bus, it's quite reasonable to walk from stops on Graham and Portage or if taking the 66 get off at northbound Smith at Portage or northbound King at Notre Dame.

Doors will be open starting at 7:15 pm with the meeting starting at 7:30 pm. After 7:45 pm the doors may be locked so you will need to call the Skullspace number (204-480-4092) and we'll answer and come down to let you in.

Meet Your New Board

The MUUG Board for the 2024-2025 year was elected by acclamation at the November general meeting.

Your MUUG board now consists of the following 8 members:

1. Kevin Abedi
2. Alberto Abrao
3. Trevor Cordes
4. Gilbert Detillieux
5. Kevin McGregor
6. Tyhr Trubiak
7. Brad Vokey
8. Wyatt Zacharias

A big thank you to all the nominees who let their names stand for election and an even bigger thank you to Kevin Abedi for joining the board this year!.

Board Positions

Your new board held their first board meeting on November 12th, and for the 10th year in a row they elected the same executive officers:

President:	Wyatt Zacharias
Vice-President:	Trevor Cordes
Secretary:	Gilbert Detillieux
Treasurer:	Brad Vokey

Wyatt Zacharias

Benevolent Dictator For Life

10 years as our BDFL!

We also appointed the following *unofficial officers*:

Stand-In Social Media Ninja:	Brad Vokey
Door Prize Don:	Trevor Cordes

Your **banking committee** now consists of: Brad Vokey, Gilbert Detillieux, Kevin McGregor, and Wyatt Zacharias.

Your **server committee** continues to be: Alberto Abrao, Trevor Cordes, and Wyatt Zacharias.

The new board looks forward to serving you over the next year. If you have any questions or requests, feel free to send an email to <board@muug.ca>.

Food Bank Donations Requested

As in previous years, we are combining our pot luck event with a food drive for Harvest Manitoba.

Over 108,000 Manitobans rely on Harvest Manitoba every month for food and hope. This holiday season, your donation can help ensure no one goes hungry.

Any member who donates at least $1 or brings at least 1 food item will be given an entry into the door prize!

Just like last year, any cash donation made to Harvest Manitoba at this event will be matched dollar for dollar by Bradford Vokey (up to a total $500 limit)!

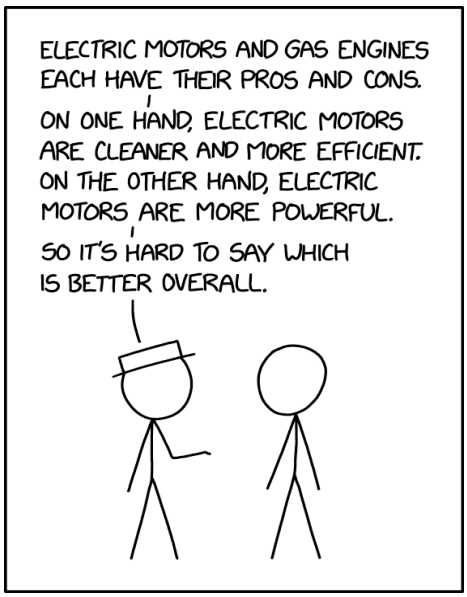
Last year MUUG members donated $130 which Brad had to match for a total donation of $260 to Harvest Manitoba.

Let's all chip in to make Brad donate more this year!

Top 10 Most-Wanted Food Items

1. Canned Fruit	6. Pasta Sauce
2. Canned Soup/Stew	7. Rice
3. Canned Tuna	8. Peanut Butter
4. Canned Vegetables	9. Baby Formula/Food
5. Pasta	10. Instant Oatmeal

Electric vs Gas



https://xkcd.com/2948/

TypeScript conquers the command line: The end of Bash?

Creating a CLI application with TypeScript – what sounds like a crazy idea at first, in practice offers advantages over classic bash scripts.

JavaScript and its type-safe sister language TypeScript seem to be unstoppable in their popularity. Whether in front-end or back-end development, the languages are now the first choice of many developers. It is therefore not surprising that developers are increasingly creating CLI scripts – typically written in Bash, PowerShell or Python – using TypeScript.

Using a web scripting language to create shell applications seems absurd. However, thanks to the Node runtime environment, TypeScript is platform-independent, widely used and has an extensive standard library. The ecosystem also includes many packages that simplify the creation of CLI applications. The barrier to entry is therefore low – in contrast to Bash, a scripting language that is repeatedly criticized for its peculiarities, difficulty and unreadable syntax.

Read the full opinion article by full-stack software developer Timo Zander on Heise online:

https://www.heise.de/en/background/TypeScript-conquers-the-command-line-The-end-of-Bash-9981220.html

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Linus affirms expulsion of Russian maintainers

Linux creator Linus Torvalds affirmed the removal of about a dozen kernel maintainers associated with Russia on October 23rd.

Mailing list participants pushed back, asking for further explanation about the removed names, all of which appear to be Russian and most of which are associated with a Russian (.ru) email address.

Torvalds responded to the mailing list challenges in the style for which he's become famous by attributing the blowback to Russian trolls:

> *Ok, lots of Russian trolls out and about.*
>
> *It's entirely clear why the change was done, it's not getting reverted, and using multiple random anonymous accounts to try to "grass root" it by Russian troll factories isn't going to change anything.*
>
> *And FYI for the actual innocent bystanders who aren't troll farm accounts - the "various compliance requirements" are not just a US thing.*
>
> *If you haven't heard of Russian sanctions yet, you should try to read the news some day. And by "news", I don't mean Russian state-sponsored spam.*
>
> *As to sending me a revert patch - please use whatever mush you call brains. I'm Finnish. Did you think I'd be *supporting* Russian aggression? Apparently it's not just lack of real news, it's lack of history knowledge too.*

https://www.theregister.com/2024/10/23/linus_torvalds_affirms_expulsion_of/

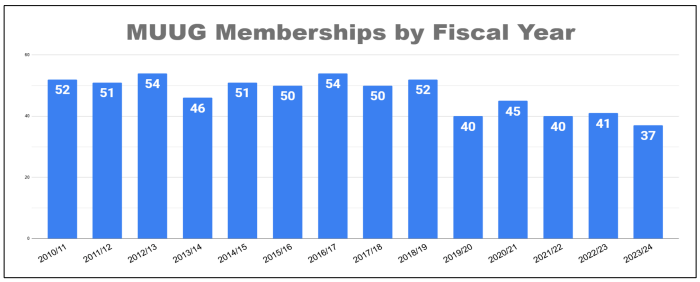
Help us promote this month's meeting, by putting this poster up on your workplace bulletin board or other suitable public message board:

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

MUUG Annual Financial Statements

By Bradford C. Vokey, MUUG treasurer

MUUG membership decreased by 4 members last year. We now have a total of 37 paying members.



Thanks to all our members who have continued renewing their memberships.

If your MUUG membership has lapsed, please help support us by renewing today! Payment can be made via e-transfer, credit card, or PayPal here:

`https://muug.ca/about.php#payment`

MUUG Balance Sheet

as at 2024-10-31

Assets	
Bank and Cash Accounts	
Chequing Account	1,650.98
Savings Account	0.00
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	12,087.13
Total Bank and Cash Accounts	**13,738.11**
Other Assets	
Computer Equipment *(see note 1)*	878.36
Prepaid Expenses *(see note 2)*	563.76
Steinbach Credit Union Share	5.00
Total Other Assets	**1,447.12**
Total Assets	**15,185.23**
Liabilities	
Prepaid Membership Dues	**160.00**
Owed to Members	
Trevor Cordes	321.33
Kevin McGregor	70.28
Bradford Vokey	181.72
Total Owed to Members	**573.33**
Total Liabilities	**733.33**
Net Worth	**14,451.90**

MUUG Income and Expenses

2023-2024 Fiscal Year (2023-11-01 through 2024-10-31)

Income	
Membership Dues	740.00
GIC, Savings, and Chequing Interest Income	716.78
Donations	9.00
Total Income	**1,465.78**
Expenses	
Bank Charges	
PayPal	14.96
Square	7.02
Steinbach Credit Union	2.60
Total Bank Charges	**24.58**
Server Expenses	
Depreciation *(see note 1)*	439.18
Total Server Expenses	**439.18**
Meeting Expenses	
Board Meeting Snacks & Drinks	269.31
Regular Meeting Door Prizes *(see note 3)*	159.91
Regular Meeting Snacks & Drinks	240.25
Regular Meeting Supplies	50.39
Summer BBQ	190.35
Total Meeting Expenses	**910.21**
Other Expenses	
Name Registration Costs *(see note 2)*	70.46
Printing Costs	2.19
Total Other Expenses	**72.65**
Total Expenses	**1,446.62**
Total Surplus	**19.16**

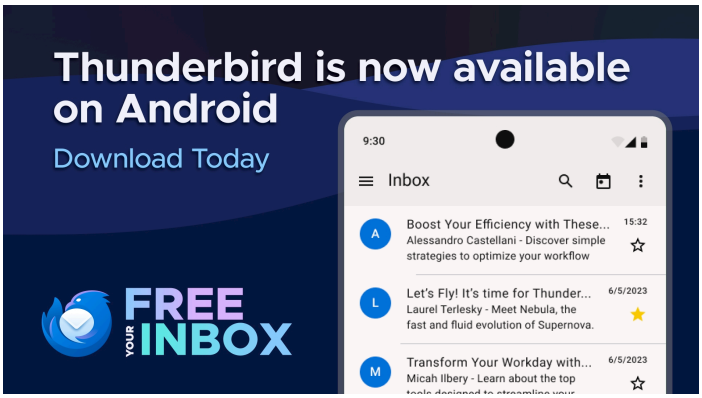
Note 1: *Computer equipment has been recorded at a cost of $2,195.90 and is straight line depreciated at an expense of $439.18 per year for 5 years until 2025/2026.*

Note 2: *Domain name registrations have been recoreded at cost:*
- $488.11 for 9 years of DNS Pro for muug.ca expensed at $54.23 per year.
- $146.11 for 9 years of DNS Plus for muug.mb.ca expensed at $16.23 per year.

Note 3: *Door prizes consist of:*
51 ebooks, 2 physical books, and 2 Raspberry Pi Zero 2W's

As per our bylaws (11.(h)) *"The books and records of MUUG may be inspected by any member at the Annual Meeting or at any time upon not less than fourteen days notice in writing to the Executive."*

Mozilla's Thunderbird email app is now officially available on Android



Just over two years ago, Mozilla announced their plans to bring Thunderbird to Android by taking K-9 Mail under their wing. The journey took a little longer than they originally anticipated and there was a lot to learn along the way, but the wait is finally over! For all of you who have ever asked *"when is Thunderbird for Android coming out?"*, the answer is – now!

Thunderbird for Android can import your settings from K-9 Mail, from Thunderbird on the desktop or via a file from Thunderbird for Android or K-9 on another Android device.

https://blog.thunderbird.net/2024/10/thunderbird-for-android-8-0-takes-flight/

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=net.thunderbird.android

Neofetch is abandoned, now what?

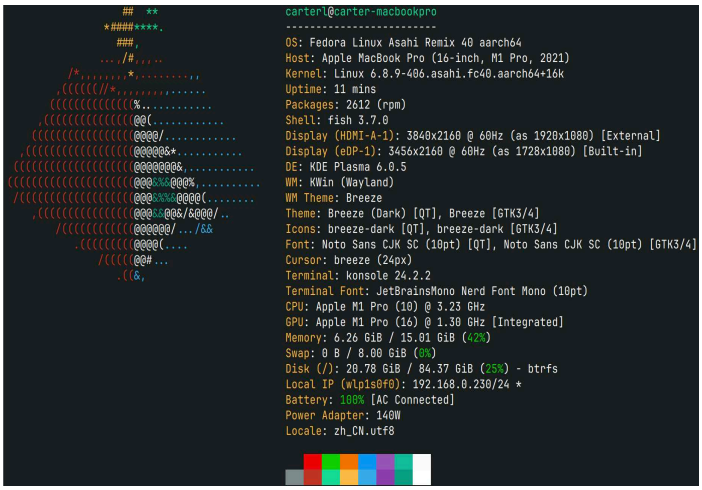
The developer of `Neofetch`, the trendy, cool, system information script was official archived in April 2024 with the author simply putting *"Have taken up farming"* in his `README.md`.

Since it's a Bash script, it will likely continue to work for a long time, until the applications it relies on eventually become outdated.

So what do you use now to make your terminal look cool every time you log-in?

Here are 2 slick alternatives to get your system information to pretty-print to your terminal screen:

Fastfetch



`Fastfetch` is a faster, lighter, and up-to-date alternative to neofetch. It is written mainly in C and compatible with various platforms like macOS, Linux, and Windows. Fastfetch is actively maintained with community support and regular updates. Furthermore, it is easy to install and provides more information than neofetch, including desktop environment, window theme, and font.

https://github.com/fastfetch-cli/fastfetch

Screenfetch

`screenFetch` is another handy terminal utility just like neofetch that displays system information in a terminal. In fact, screenFetch is older than neofetch. While it may not have the same level of visual appeal as some of the newer options, screenFetch is a reliable and well-established tool that gets the job done.

https://github.com/KittyKatt/screenFetch