MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Next Meeting: May 10th, 2005: The Xen Hypervisor

You may have heard about Virtual Machine Managers (VMMs) such as VMware or Microsoft's Virtual PC, and now Xen. What are they? How do they work? How do they differ from each other? And more importantly, what can they do for you?

Kevin McGregor will be shedding light on these topics at the May 10th meeting.

Where to find the Meeting

Meetings are held at the IBM offices at 400 Ellice Ave. (between Edmonton and Kennedy). When you arrive, you will have to sign in at the reception desk, and then wait for someone to take you up (in groups) to the meeting room. Please try to arrive by about 7:15pm, so the meeting can start promptly at 7:30pm. Don't be late or you may not get in. (But don't come too early either, since security may not be there to let you in before 7:15 or so.)

Limited parking is available for free on the street, or in a lot across Elice from IBM, for $1.00 for the evening. Indoor parking is also available nearby, at Portage Place, for $2.00 for the evening.

Rare, Collectible MUUG Shirts for Sale!

Don't miss out on the rare (only 35 made) and highly collectible MUUG Golf Shirts. We only have two XL beige shirts left. They are $40 and are available at the monthly MUUG meeting. Get them while they last!

Mac OS X Tiger (10.4) Released

OS X Tiger was released with much fanfare on April 29th. This latest release of OS X includes many new features such as:

- Native 64bit on G5 machines
- Spotlight, a new desktop search technology
- Dashboard, informative and useful widgets that can be accessed at the touch of a button
- Automator, a neat way of automating repetitive tasks
- Core Image, which utilizes the GPU on recent video cards to accelerate many GUI tasks
- Updates to many built in apps, including Mail, Safari (now supporting RSS), Quicktime, and iChat AV

The single user edition is $149.

New site launched to help people maintaining Debian systems

Debian-Administration.org has launched as a place where people running Debian can find interesting and useful information related to the administration of Debian systems.

http://www.debian-administration.org/

Novell has hired Jeremy Allison (of Samba fame)

Novell has hired Jeremy Allison, one of the core programmers behind Samba. Allison previously worked for Hewlett-Packard. He said he made the switch because he believes that he can benefit from

the experience Novell programmers have in the area of file servers. "These guys know a lot about file sharing," said Allison.

Terra Soft has released a 64-bit version of Yellow Dog Linux

64-BIT YELLOW DOG LINUX v4.0.90 IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE

Loveland, Colorado -- 27 April 2005 -- Terra Soft Solutions(R), Inc., the leading developer of integrated POWER Linux solutions, is pleased to announce the immediate release of 64-bit Yellow Dog Linux.

"With Tiger 'unleashed' in 48 hours and even Microsoft caught-up in the 64-bit wave, we give into peer pressure and release this interrum set of ISOs. A compilation of our work to date as we move toward the early summer release of v4.1, Yellow Dog Linux v4.0.90 is built upon eighteen months in-house and customer experience with 64-bit," states Kai Staats, CEO Terra Soft Solutions.

In addition to the expected double-precision, support for 16GB RAM, and native runtime environment for both 32- and 64-bit code, v4.0.90 offers:

- A bi-arch (32/64) toolchain.
- Core 64-bit libraries such as ncurses, readline, db4.
- Updated X.org corrects Aluminum Cinema display issues.

Exclusively available to YDL.net Enhanced members v4.0.90 may be downloaded immediately from **http://www.ydl.net/**

Fortinet Settles GPL violation suit

Security vendor Fortinet has agreed to make some of its source code available, following accusations that it violated the GPL, the company said on Tuesday.

Earlier this month, gpl-violations.org founder Harald Welte obtained a court injunction against Fortinet,

banning the company from distributing its products until it complied with the conditions of the GPL. Welte claimed that Fortinet not only misused GPL-licensed code, but also tried to hide its use of GPL code by using cryptographic techniques.

Linux powers 96-node "personal cluster"

Orion Multisystems is shipping a Linux-based "personal cluster" based on 96 Transmeta processors in a case little larger than a normal PC. The DS-96 Deskside Cluster Workstation costs $100,000, draws 1,500 watts, and offers 110 Gflops sustained and 230 Gflops peak performance, Orion claims.

Previously, Orion offered a 12-node personal cluster, the DS-12.

Both the DS-12 and the new DS-96 target supercomputing applications in science, engineering, entertainment, finance, and government. They are intended to free individual researchers from the onus of scheduling computing time in shared cluster facilities.

Orion says the Linux operating system enables its Deskside Cluster systems to run a variety of popular open source scientific applications. The company's website offers FAQs about applications that include Amber, GAMESS, GROMACS, HMMER, iNquiry, gridMathematica, MatLab, mpiBLAST, NAMD, and NCBI BLAST.

The DS-96 is based on eight vertically oriented boards, each with 12 Transmeta Efficeon processors running at 1.2GHz. The boards are connected through a Gigabit Ethernet switch fabric backplane. The backplane offers various uplink options, such as a dual 10-GigE fiber card or 12-port GigE switch cards. Up to four DS-96's can be combined into a single cluster, Orion says.

Each processor node includes a DIMM slot, for a total claimed memory capacity of 192GB. Each board has

room for a 2.5-inch laptop drive, for a claimed storage capacity of 9.6 Tb.

The DS-96 also includes a head node with a DVD/CD-RW, USB port, Gigabit Ethernet port, a single 2.5-inch hard drive, and an ATI Mobility Radeon 9000 with 64MB of integrated DDR video RAM.

The DS-96 measures 17 x 27 x 25 inches, and weighs 150 pounds. It draws a claimed peak of 1,500 Watts through a single 15-amp NEMA (normal) wall outlet.

Jim Lux, an engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, said, "The new 96-node deskside system provides an order of magnitude higher performance than the desktop, still without requiring extensive support staff and infrastructure."

Linus unveils new Linux control system

Linux founder and leader Linus Torvalds has launched a new tool, called Git, to manage his software project, after a dispute led him to drop the previous system.

 Torvalds stopped using a management system called BitKeeper earlier this month, reverting to an older, slower technique of simply e-mailing updates among the hundreds of programmers who contribute to the project. But moving to Git means the Linux project once again will have an automated mechanism to control the flow of updates and track changes.

Debian considering dropping SPARC and S/390

The Debian GNU/Linux project has proposed axing the number of computer architectures for which it actively develops, with Sparc and IBM's S/390 amongst the casualties.

Debian release manager Steve Langasek made the announcement on a mailing list last night.

"This will drastically reduce the architecture coordination required in testing, giving us a more limber release process and (it is hoped) a much shorter release cycle on the order of 12-18 months," wrote Langasek.

The four architectures to survive are Intel x86, AMD64, PowerPC and … IA-64.

"The reality is that keeping eleven architectures in a releasable state has been a major source of work for the release team, the d-i team, and the kernel team over the past year; not to mention the time spent by the DSA/buildd admins and the security team. It's also not clear how much benefit there is from doing stable releases for all of these architectures, because they aren't necessarily useful to the communities surrounding those ports," explained Langasek.

Ports released include SPARC, ARM, MIPS, PA-RISC and S/390. The platforms may be supported in some form, but will no longer be included as part of Debian's famously exhaustive development process.

Sun is listed as a Debian development partner; and the chip on which Sun is now betting the farm, Niagara, was developed by Les Kohn's team at Afara using Debian.

Debian's Steve McIntyre said,"What has been posted so far is just a proposal to the Debian developers, not a concrete plan. Judging from the amount of debate on various mailing lists and IRC channels all day since Steve posted the proposal, there will probably be substantial changes before anything is put into place."

India's fastest Supercomputer runs Linux

Pune University has got India's fastest supercomputer, thanks to the Tata institute of fundamental research (TIFR) and Hewlett Packard (HP). The two institutions have tied up to implement scaleable high-performance computing (HPC)

solutions to create mathematical modelling for a range of scientific research applications.

Priced at around $1 million, the open source (Linux)-based supercomputer is housed at the Computational Mathematics Laboratory (CML) of TIFR, located at the Pune University campus.

Speed, Security and Simplicity: Opera 8 Web Browser Released

Oslo, Norway - April 19, 2005

Opera Software today launched the highly anticipated new version of its browser, Opera 8 for Windows and Linux. Internet users can now surf the Web faster, safer and easier than before. Opera 8 is a substantial upgrade from previous versions, and includes new features such as a unique security information field that indicates the trustworthiness of banking and shopping Web sites and voice interaction capabilities. The new version of Opera also introduces an advanced page-resizing function that adapts Web pages to fit the width of any screen or window. Today's release for Windows is available in English, German, Dutch and Polish, with more languages to follow. The Linux version is available in English, also with more languages to come. A beta version of Opera 8 for Mac (English) is also available today.

"The vast majority of Internet users have had to deal with a slow and insecure browser for too long. People are spending more time online, and with the increase in online fraud it is vital that they have a browser that is fast, secure and easy to use. That's what we offer with Opera 8," says Håkon Wium Lie, CTO, Opera Software. "We've been in the browser-making business for a long time and I can proudly say that Opera 8 is a major leap in browser innovation."

"With 10 years of listening to the needs of Internet users, we believe we have released a product that sets a new standard for Web browsing," says Jon S. von Tetzchner, CEO, Opera Software. "Security has long been a top priority for Opera. To further protect people online we've added the new security information field. Opera 8 is designed for all users, and it has a simple and intuitive interface that can be customized to fit anyone's needs."

Fedora Core 4 Scheduled for June 6th Release

Fans of the Fedora Linux Core releases might be interested to know that the final beta, FC4 test3, is scheduled to be released on Monday, May 9th (i.e. likely by the time you read this). After that, the software goes into a continual freeze, where only critical bugs will be fixed until the final release, on Monday, June 6th. If things stay on schedule, we should be able to have CD's available at the June 14th MUUG meeting.

Details can found at the Fedora web site: **http://fedora.redhat.com/participate/schedule/**

Sending Us E-Mail?

Due to the amount of e-mail MUUG receives, we've set up an auto-reply to give you immediate feedback, and redirect some of the e-mail to the appropriate places. Why not look at **http://www.muug.mb.ca/about.html#contacts** first?

Share Your Thoughts

E-mail us with your comments on the newsletter, whether it's criticisms or commendations, and continue to send in articles or ideas for the same. Specifically, what sort of material you would rather see: Announcements, technical articles, new products, or…?

If you have a How-To or other idea, and aren't ready to give a presentation at MUUG, an article is a great alternative! If you can write better than the editor, that's terrific; if you can't, submit it anyway and we'll get it into shape for publication. We know that many of you have some great ideas and lots of knowledge. Why not share? Send Mail to: **editor@muug.mb.ca**.