

MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Volume 30 No. 2, October 2017

Editor: Kevin McGregor

Next Meeting: October 10, 2017 7:30pm

RTFM: Kid3

Wyatt Zacharias will present and demonstrate **Kid3**, the KDE ID3 Editor.

Presentation: VLAN Theory and Implementation

Gilbert Detillieux will be presenting VLAN Theory and Implementation. **VLANs** (Virtual Local Area Networks) allow you to partition a physical network at the data link layer, “creating the appearance and functionality of network traffic that is physically on a single network but acts as if it is split between separate networks.” (Wikipedia) VLAN tagging ([IEEE 802.1Q](http://www.ieee.org/802.1Q)) allows traffic from multiple VLANs to travel between Ethernet switches over the same physical link. In this presentation, Gilbert Detillieux will introduce some of the basic concepts of VLAN setup, and show you how this can be implemented. Examples of implementation will be given using Cisco IOS commands and typical Linux network interface configuration.

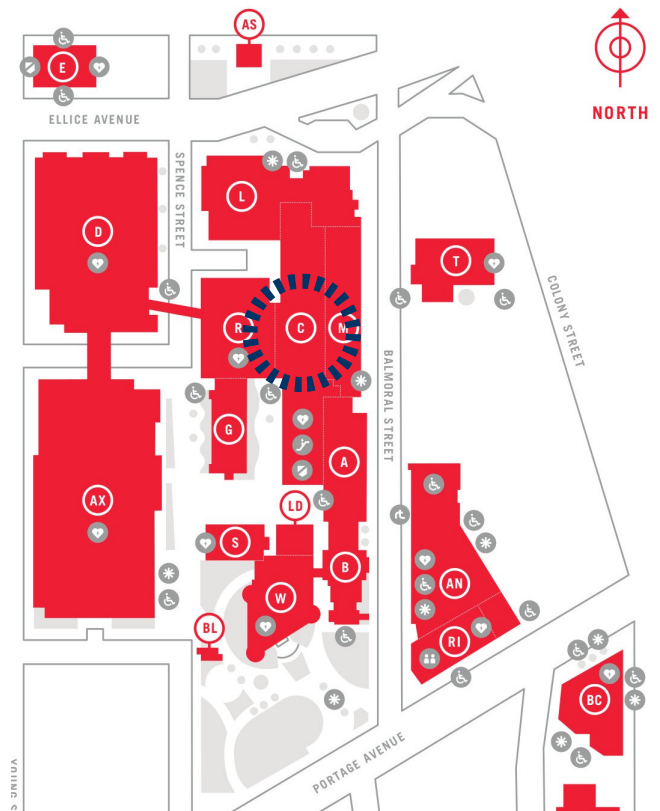
Door Prizes

We will be giving away a couple of e-books and the usual assortment of magazines and miscellanea. Come to the meeting for your chance to win!

This Month’s Meeting 1C16A Centennial Hall

This month’s meeting is in Centennial Hall. Look for a sign on the door. There are elevators and escalators scattered around the buildings. A convenient one might be the elevator located right at the Ellice Ave entrance. Doors are usually open by 7:00 pm with the meeting starting at 7:30 pm.

Parking is available on the surrounding streets. Please see <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/maps> for further information about parking and access to the campus.



The latest meeting details are always at:
<https://www.muug.mb.ca/meetings>

MUUG Board Elections

Call for Nominations

Adam Thompson, 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 2017 to November 2018. 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 8 members are allowing their names to stand for re-election:

Trevor Cordes

Owner – TecnoPolis Enterprises

Gilbert Detillieux

Systems Analyst – University of Manitoba

Kevin McGregor

Systems Specialist – City of Winnipeg

Katherine Scrupa

Term project ending, please hire me?

Adam Thompson

Proprietor – CustomHosting.ca

Tyhr Trubiak

Systems Admin – Thorkelson Consulting

Brad Vokey

Owner – Fortress Software

Wyatt Zacharias

Unix/Linux Administrator – Manitoba Blue Cross

O'Reilly Shutters Shop

by Trevor Cordes

As readers of the MUUG RoundTable mailing list already know, computer book publisher extraordinaire O'Reilly Media (ORM) made some major changes over the summer. On June 28, without a word of warning, they shutdown their online store. You can no longer buy ebooks, videos or print books from them directly. They have switched to a publisher-only role, and while

you can still get information regarding their titles on their website, you have to go to a retailer such as Amazon to actually purchase their products.

They do still have their Safari book library subscription service: indeed, they are promoting that as their preferred sales model. However, at \$400USD a year it is tough to stomach for the average home or micro-business user. (There are occasional sales of \$100-\$200 off, and it seems that subsequent renewals are also locked in at the lower rate.) Also, Safari only works while you are connected to the internet, which is not always affordable or possible (e.g. on airplanes).

The biggest uproar came from people who realized that this means you can no longer obtain DRM-free copies of ORM ebooks you legally purchase. If you choose to use Amazon, you are now locked into their Kindle ecosystem and all of its limitations and cruft. Almost as bad is the loss of the PDF format for ebooks, which, many people agree, is superior for content with many figures or complicated formatting.

They have made it clear that they intend to continue as normal in terms of book production, output level, and conferences. This is purely a move to exit the direct-sales space, excluding their Safari model. Some have speculated that they may have been under pressure from behemoth Amazon in order to reduce competition.

Another fascinating tidbit I learned is that a few years ago ORM switched to a publish-on-demand model for their print books. That means there are no large professional press print runs; instead it's more like a book-making laser printer operated by a third party that prints batches as they are needed to fulfill orders. Looking back, that makes sense as their books started to have a different feel around that time, and many more of them were in full colour. Personally, I have no complaints about the new format, and have enjoyed reading many of them.

If you want more info, or want to comment or complain directly to ORM's official support forum, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ya88rzua>

Apache Optionsbleed

No, it's not a new Apache-sponsored project. It's a newly-revealed bug having to do with leaking possibly-secret chunks of memory. The formal description reads:

Optionsbleed is a use-after-free error in Apache HTTP that causes a corrupted Allow header to be constructed in response to HTTP OPTIONS requests. This can leak pieces of arbitrary memory from the server process that may contain secrets. The memory pieces change after multiple requests, so for a vulnerable host an arbitrary number of memory chunks can be leaked.

It is tricky to reproduce (it's non-deterministic) and it only affects servers where the webmaster tries to use a "Limit" directive with an invalid HTTP method.

Still, if you're running an Apache server, you should apply the patch and restart immediately. See [CVE-2017-9798](#) and the article at [Fuzzing Project](#) for more details.

Time, Revisited

Last month's meeting had a presentation and ensuing discussion of various implementations of the NTP time-synchronization protocol.

In short, the different implementations trade off things like accuracy, precision and security, as well as ease of use. An [article over at tuxfamily.org](#) compares three of them: **chrony**, **ntp** and **openntpd**. The article consists largely of feature-comparison tables (which won't be reproduced here lest the editor be accused of laziness) and a summary at the end which breaks down the individual differences in a more understandable way.

Red Hat is Boring

James Governor over at **Redmonk** had some comments about the recent Red Hat (European) Analyst Day. He points out that Red Hat just chugs along providing open source software that works as advertised, without the excitement.

Enterprises trust Red Hat precisely because it makes open source boring. Excit-

ing and cool, on the other hand, often means getting paged in the middle of the night. Enterprise people generally don't like that kind of thing.

See the full comment at

<http://redmonk.com/jgovernor/2017/09/21/red-hat-is-pretty-good-at-being-red-hat/>

Red Hat is Kinda Nice

As reported over at The Register, The 2,000+ patents Red Hat has collected won't be enforced – so long as they are used in properly-licensed open source projects.

The company has made more or less the same offer since 2002, when it first made a "Patent Promise" in order to "discourage patent aggression in free and open source software." Back then the company didn't own many patents and claimed its non-enforcement promise covered 35 per cent of open-source software. The Promise was revised in order to reflect the company's growing patent trove and to spruce up the language it uses to make it more relevant. The revised promise "applies to all software meeting the free software or open source definitions of the Free Software Foundation (FSF) or the Open Source Initiative (OSI)." [...] It's not a blank cheque. Hardware isn't covered and Red Hat is at pains to point out that "Our Promise is not an assurance that Red Hat's patents are enforceable or that practicing Red Hat's patented inventions does not infringe others' patents or other intellectual property." But the company says 99 percent of FOSS software should be covered by the Promise.

Busted

Jim Zemlin, President of the **Linux Foundation**, was caught using MacOS while trumpeting "2017 is officially the year of the Linux desktop!" at the Open Source Summit 2017. I guess he couldn't be bothered to figure out Impress.

This wasn't the *first time*, either.

Nice Idea, But... Security?

The Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) has its proponents and detractors, but it exists and some people find it useful. As happens all too often, though, the security implications may not have been thought out. **BetaNews** reports:

While many people welcomed the arrival of Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) in Windows 10, it has been found to be a potential security issue. A new technique known as a Bashware has been discovered by security researchers that [makes it possible for malware to use the Linux shell to bypass security software](#).

While administrator access is needed to execute a Bashware attack, this is fairly easily obtained, and the technique can be used to disguise malicious operations from antivirus software and other security tools. Researchers from Check Point Research point out that the danger stems from the fact that “existing security solutions are still [not adapted to monitor processes of Linux executables running on Windows](#).”

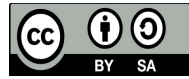
I Don't Think That Word Means...

Mozilla has released the Firefox 57 beta, which will be called Firefox Quantum when it arrives in stable form next month. A Mozilla marketeer wrote:

Since the version number 57 can't really convey the magnitude of the changes we've made, and how much faster this new Firefox is, we're calling this upcoming release **Firefox Quantum**.

“Quantum” is actually defined as the smallest possible discrete unit of energy or matter, so perhaps they should have used a different code-name. At any rate, the beta is getting [good reviews](#).

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MUUG has gone social!



Twitter:
twitter.com/manitobaunix



Facebook:
facebook.com/ManitobaUnix



MeetUp:
meetup.com/Manitoba-UNIX-User-Group

Book & User Group Discounts

O'Reilly, No Starch Press and Les.Net continue to offer discounts to MUUG members. Remember to take advantage when you're buying anything from them!

<http://www.oreilly.com/>
<https://www.nostarch.com/>

A big thanks to Les.net for providing MUUG with free hosting and all that bandwidth! Les.net (1996) Inc., a local provider of VoIP, Internet and Data Centre services, has offered to provide a 10% discount on recurring monthly services to MUUG members. Contact sales@les.net by email, or +1 (204) 944-0009 x2 by phone, for details.

<https://les.net/>

