



MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Next Meeting: October 11th, 2005: GPS & Mapping with Open Source tools

If you have ever been lost (and who hasn't), you will know just how important it is to know exactly where you are. With a handy little GPS unit, you can know exactly where you are in the world down to a few meters at the push of a button.

In Part 2 of last month's presentation, Shawn Wallbridge will present on web-based mapping. Primarily covering Mapserver, a web based mapping applications by the University of Minnesota.

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.

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.

Mozilla Thunderbird 1.0.7 Released

Thursday September 29th, 2005

Mozilla Thunderbird 1.0.7 is now available for download. Amongst other changes, this minor release includes fixes for a return receipt regression introduced in version 1.0.2 (bug 289091) and the Linux command line URL parsing security flaw.

Thunderbird 1.0.7 can be downloaded from the Thunderbird product page (<http://www.mozilla.org/products/thunderbird/>). Refer to the Thunderbird 1.0.7 Release Notes (<http://www.mozilla.org/products/thunderbird/releases/1.0.7-release-notes.html>) for more information.

MySQL 5.0 RC1 released

On September 26th, MySQL 5.0 RC1 was released.

Some new features include:

- Views (both read-only and updatable views)
- Stored Procedures and Stored Functions, using the SQL:2003 syntax, which is also used by IBM's DB2
- Triggers (row-level)
- Server-side cursors (read-only, non-scrolling)

NetBSD 2.1 RC5 released

The NetBSD Release Engineering team has announced that NetBSD 2.1 RC5 is available for testing. NetBSD 2.1 RC5 is available in the "daily builds" section of The NetBSD Project's FTP site (<ftp://ftp.NetBSD.org/pub/NetBSD-daily/netbsd-2-1-RC5/>). This is anticipated to be the final release candidate for NetBSD 2.1, barring any major issues or security problems, so testing this release is highly encouraged. For more information see Jeff Rizzo's email (<http://mail-index.NetBSD.org/netbsd-announce/2005/09/25/0000.html>) to the netbsd-announce mailing list.

File sharing is eroding the moral fibre of Canadian Youth

Two recently published studies funded by the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA) have concluded that young Canadians (18-29) were 2 times as likely to download music off P2P networks than the general population. They also found that they were three times more likely to shoplift and 2.7 times more likely to cheat on an exam.

"Not only does music file-swapping harm artists, but it also points to an erosion of respect for intellectual property that threatens Canada's economy and values at the core of our society," said Graham Henderson, president of the Canadian Recording Industry Association, which commissioned the polls.

"The 'if it's there, it's free' thinking extends far beyond entertainment products and software to ideas themselves," Mr. Henderson added, noting a rise in plagiarism in schools and universities.

An article on Ars Technica pointed out that not only is the age group studied more technologically advanced, so would be more likely to try out a new technology, but people in the age group studied are three times more likely to shoplift in general.

(<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20050930-5368.html>)

These studies have been released before a new bill goes before Parliament. Bill C-60 is going to introduce new legislation that would mimic the DCMA in the United States. The summary of which states that the bill is to "clarify the liability of network service providers, to facilitate technology-enhanced learning and interlibrary loans, and to update certain other provisions of the Act."

The bill will restrict Fair-Use right's and will overturn the Copyright Board of Canada's decision that P2P downloading is legal.

Now is the time to read the legislation and call your Member of Parliament and express your opinion of the bill. The bill can be found at the link below...

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/LEGISINFO/index.asp?Lang=E&query=4527&Session=13&List=toc>

GCC 4.0.2 Released

Mark Mitchell announced the availability of GCC 4.0.2. He explains, "this release is a minor release, containing primarily fixes for regressions in GCC 4.0.1 relative to previous releases." A list of bug fixes in 4.0.2 can be found here (http://gcc.gnu.org/bugzilla/buglist.cgi?bug_status=R_ESOLVED&resolution=FIXED&target_milestone=4.0.2).

GCC is the GNU Compiler Collection which includes C, C++, Objective-C, Fortran, Java, and Ada compilers. Download GCC 4.0.2 from a gcc.gnu.org mirror (<http://gcc.gnu.org/mirrors.html>).

OpenBSD 3.8 Raid Management Support

OpenBSD creator Theo de Raadt posted (<http://marc.theaimsgroup.com/?l=openbsd-misc&m=112630095818062>) an overview of some new RAID management functionality that will be found in the upcoming OpenBSD 3.8. At this time, only the ami MegaRAID controllers are supported, however in the future the new biocctl tool will be enhanced to manage additional RAID controllers. In his email, Theo provides examples of using the biocctl command to probe and manage RAID drives. He notes, "I would like to make it clear that for 3.8, this support will only work for the ami(4) raid controllers. Hopefully some other people will come helping us to make controllers from other vendors work too. About half of the code is a framework to permit RAID controller drivers to do the right thing."

The framework is intentionally designed to support only the basic functionality, as it will ultimately be used to support many RAID controllers. Theo explains, "the functionality supplied is also very

basic, almost minimal. But this is done like this on purpose, since we believe that we could support this functionality on all RAID controllers in the same way, without special 'but that controller is so different' mindsets entering the picture. RAID management should (and can be) be no more complicated than ifconfig managing network interfaces." The functionality considered essential includes the ability to know when something wrong, configuration for automatic hot swapping, the ability to locate drives by blinking their lights, the ability to insert new drives and add them into a hot swap configuration, and the ability to turn off the beeper. "Everything else is just icing," Theo concludes. "These are the micro operations which really matter."

Feel Free: Opera Eliminates Ad Banner and Licensing Fee

Oslo, Norway - September 20, 2005

Opera Software today permanently removed the ad banner and licensing fee from its award-winning Web browser. The ad-free, full-featured Opera browser is now available for download - completely free of charge – at <http://www.opera.com>.

"Today we invite the entire Internet community to use Opera and experience Web browsing as it should be," said Jon S. von Tetzchner, CEO, Opera Software. "Removing the ad banner and licensing fee will encourage many new users to discover the speed, security and unmatched usability of the Opera browser."

Opera was previously available free of charge with an ad banner. Users had the option of paying a licensing fee to remove the ad banner and receive premium support.

"Opera fans around the globe made this day possible," said von Tetzchner. "As we grow our userbase, our mission and our promise remain steadfast: we will always offer the best Internet experience to our users - on any device. Today this mission gains new ground."

MUUG Board Election 2005-2006

As part of the October 2005 meeting, we will be holding an election for the positions of directors to the MUUG board. The following nominees are candidates for election. Since the number of candidates (6) is less than the number of vacancies as last set by the board (8), in accordance with MUUG By-laws 5.(c) and 10.(d), the nominees shall be deemed to be elected by acclamation.

Nominee: Gilbert Detillieux, Systems Analyst, University of Manitoba

Gilbert Detillieux has been working with UNIX as a programmer, system administrator, and trainer since 1980. He worked as a computer consultant specializing in UNIX, from 1983 to 1989. He is currently working as a Systems Analyst for the University of Manitoba's Department of Computer Science, where he's worked since 1989, installing, supporting and upgrading the department's network and UNIX server infrastructure. He was co-founder and past president of the Technical UNIX User Group (now MUUG), and has been an active member of the MUUG board ever since. He also contributed to the implementation of the initial MUUG Online system, in 1992, which he's since maintained through two complete replacements and numerous upgrades over the years.

Nominee: Michael Doob, Professor, University of Manitoba

Michael Doob is a member of the Mathematics Department at the University of Manitoba. He has been using UNIX since 1990, primarily as a working environment for mathematical publishing. He has been a member of MUUG for the last decade and has given a number of presentations for that group.

Nominee: Kevin McGregor, Network Analyst, City of Winnipeg

Kevin McGregor provides network administration and system support services for the City of Winnipeg. After having briefly used UTS on an Amdahl mainframe in university in the mid-80s, he dabbled in Coherent and then converted to Linux and OpenBSD. He has been a member of MUUG since the early 90s, edited the group's newsletter for a number of years, presented various topics at MUUG meetings and has served on the board for the majority of his membership.

Nominee: Doug Shewfelt, Systems Specialist, City of Winnipeg

Doug Shewfelt first encountered UNIX in 1980 at the University of Manitoba. He has been worked in various IT positions for the City of Winnipeg since 1985, and currently supports the City's corporate financial systems. He has been a member of the MUUG board for the past several years.

Nominee: Adam Thompson, Consultant, athompso.net

Adam has over 15 years' experience in the IT field, ranging from Programmer to System Administrator to Chief Technology Officer. He currently teaches a variety of IT courses and provides consulting services to clients.

Nominee: Shawn Wallbridge, System Administrator, Frantic Films

Shawn Wallbridge discovered Linux in 1996 while at Red River College. Over the years he has used Unix wherever possible for various functions. He is currently the Systems Administrator for Frantic Films and runs a Web hosting company in his spare time. He has been a MUUG member for over four years and has done numerous presentations for MUUG.

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.

MUUG Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday, October 11th, 2005
7:30pm
IBM Canada, 400 Ellice Ave.**

Please come to our regular monthly meeting, which will also be the annual general meeting, where the new MUUG board will be elected.