



MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Next Meeting: January 9th, 2007: IBM Server Virtualization with VMware ESX

Scott Jordan, IBM's Technical Support for the Prairies System x Sales Team, will talk about IBM blade server technology, and demo VMware ESX. Larger disk arrays, faster processors, and more dense memory packaging is making virtualization a very attractive solution for running multiple operating systems on one hardware platform. Add this to the centralized management, redundancy, and high availability features of VMware and you have a powerful business solution. Come and see Scott put his pet "rack" through its paces.

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 (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, either on Ellice Ave. or on some of the intersecting streets. Indoor parking is also available nearby, at Portage Place, for \$3.00 for the evening. Bicycle parking is available in a bike rack under video surveillance located behind the building on Webb Place.

Fedora Legacy shutting down

From <http://fedoranews.org/cms/node/2320>

In case any of you are not aware, the Fedora Legacy project is in the process of shutting down.

The current model for supporting maintenance distributions is being re-examined. In the meantime, we are unable to extend support to older Fedora Core releases as we had planned. As of now, Fedora Core 4 and earlier distributions are no longer being maintained.

Discussions on the **#Fedora-Legacy** channel have brought to light the fact that certain Fedora Legacy properties (servers) may be going away soon, such as the repository at <http://download.fedoralegacy.org> and the build server. Legacy folks need to let us know what they want to be done with the content in the repository mirrors. If you don't speak up, we may find ourselves in a place where 'yum update' commands will fail in the near future for the Red Hat and Fedora Core releases that Legacy has supported in the past.

If there are any issues you need to discuss regarding these events, you are welcome to discuss them on our IRC channel (channel **#Fedora-Legacy** on the freenode IRC network <http://freenode.net>), or on the Fedora Legacy discussion list:

<https://www.redhat.com/mailman/listinfo/fedora-legacy-list>

Sincerely, Jesse Keating and David Eisenstein of the Legacy Team.

Nokia releases 770 successor

Nokia has quietly released the successor to their 770 Internet Tablet, the N800 Internet Tablet. While their US website has no mention of the device, LinuxDevices.com has reported that the device is on sale at select CompUSA stores in the US.

MySQL AB changes license to avoid GPLv3

MySQL AB, the owner of the copyright for MySQL has changed the license for MySQL to avoid being forced to move to GPLv3 when it is finalized.

Kaj Arno, MySQL VP of community relations, revealed the license change on his blog, on December 22 (<http://www.planetmysql.org/kaj/?p=81>), noting that the license for MySQL 5.0 and 5.1 had changed from “GPLv2 or later” to “GPLv2 only”. As he explained, this was “in order to make it an option, not an obligation for the company to move to GPLv3”.

The 60 Minute Network Security Guide

The NSA’s System and Network Attack Center has released a guide on securing your network. It’s a good read.

<http://www.nsa.gov/snac/support/I33-011R-2006.pdf>

New maintainer for GNUstep

Gregory Casamento has taken over as the new maintainer for GNUstep. He has been involved with the project since 1999.

(<http://heronsperch.blogspot.com/2006/12/chief-maintainer-for-gnustep.html>)

Librarians stake their future on open source

Author - StoneLion

<http://enterprise.linux.com/article.pl?sid=06/12/04/1538214>

A group of librarians at the Georgia Public Library Service has developed an open source, enterprise-class library management system that may revolutionize the way large-scale libraries are run.

The system, Evergreen, whose 1.0 release came in November, is an Integrated Library System (ILS): the software that manages, catalogs, and tracks the circulation of library holdings. It’s written in C, JavaScript and Perl, is GPLed, runs on Linux with Apache, uses a PostgreSQL database, Jabber for messaging and XUL as client-side software. The system allows easy clustering and is based entirely on open protocols.

Evergreen powers the GPLS’ network of libraries, PINES (Public Information Network for Electronic Services), consisting of 44 different public library systems in 123 counties covering almost the entire state of Georgia -- 252 member libraries in all. The system has 8.8 million items in its index and 1.6 million active cardholders. In fiscal year 2006, there were almost half a million loans made between its libraries.

Librarian Brad LaJeunesse, PINES System Administrator with GPLS in Atlanta says that his “main motivator” for Evergreen was that the world of library software is “pretty dismal, and the products are awful. Trying to run a state-wide library system on duct tape and bailing wire is pretty difficult.”

It’s an open secret that ILS systems today are a frustrating mess for smart librarians (and patrons). Asked what problems he had with prior systems, LaJeunesse is quick to tally off a list: “Scalability. The ability to treat organization units as individual entities. Lack of granular permissions. Poor customer service. Lots more,” he says.

Millions of penguins vanish

HOLLYWOOD has turned them into the cartoon stars of the film Happy Feet, but the real life story of the rockhopper penguin is not such a happy tale, scientists have discovered.

Millions of the birds are disappearing in a “sinister and astonishing” phenomenon that is baffling biologists.

In just six years their numbers have fallen from 600,000 to 420,000 in the Falkland Islands - one of its few remaining strongholds - according to the latest survey by Falklands Conservation.

The decline equates to a drop of about 30 per cent, although the Falklands population is thought to have dipped by about 85 per cent since 1932, when there were more than 1.5 million birds.

It is thought that global warming may be behind its decline, as warmer seas are less productive and the penguins may not be able to find enough food to eat, but researchers admit they have not yet established the reasons.

Red Hat's Sales Surge

Red Hat has reported earnings from its third quarter, and it did quite a bit better than expected (http://www.thestreet.com/_yahoo/newsanalysis/techsoftware/10329292.html). Even with the movement within the business by Oracle and SuSE/Microsoft, Red Hat came out quite a bit ahead. TheStreet.com reports on the company's \$29.6 Million dollars windfall, and some of the tough times the company has had in the past year. From the article: “CFO Charlie Peters said on a conference call with analysts that the company is ‘cautiously optimistic that competitive efforts by some of the largest technology companies in the world are actually expanding our opportunity.’”

A Guide to Security Audits.

ITSecurity.com has come up with a checklist for doing a security audit.

<http://www.itsecurity.com/features/it-security-audit-010407/>

Falcon engine for MySQL released as Open Source

The Falcon engine, is being developed by Jim Starkey who worked on the FireBird database and is considered to be a pioneer in the relational database field. It is designed to excel in multi processor machines with large amounts of memory.

Samba author quits Novell over MS deal.

In an email he sent to various Novell lists he stated the following “I have decided to leave Novell.

“This has been a very difficult decision, but one I feel I have no choice but to make.

“As many of you will guess, this is due to the Microsoft/Novell patent agreement, which I believe is a mistake and will be damaging to Novell's success in the future. But my main issue with this deal is I believe that even if it does not violate the letter of the licence it violates the intent of the GPL licence the Samba code is released under, which is to treat all recipients of the code equally.”

He was hired by Google shortly after.

Using Heat to “find” a computer

Steven J. Murdoch from Cambridge University has figured out how to defeat anonymizing services like Tor (<http://tor.eff.org/>) by detecting the clock skew that is caused by a processor heating up. By sending a request that requires a lot of processing, then analyzing the clock skew of suspected servers, he was

able to determine which machine was the server. He presented his paper at the Chaos Communications Congress.

(<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,72375-0.html?tw=rss.technology>).

VMware Fusion Beta Released

The new VMware desktop product for the Mac, codenamed Fusion, allows Intel-based Macs to run x86 operating systems, such as Windows, Linux, NetWare and Solaris, in virtual machines at the same time as Mac OS X. It is built on VMware's rock-solid and advanced desktop virtualization platform that is used by over four million users today.

With Fusion, you can run traditional PC applications on your Mac: if you need to run PC applications, you can now do so by leveraging the power of virtual machine technology.

Fusion allows you to:

- Create and run a wide variety of 32- and 64-bit x86 operating systems on OS X without rebooting. You can simultaneously run PC applications next to your OS X applications.
- Leverage Virtual SMP capabilities to gain additional performance improvements. On any Mac with dual-core processors, you can assign multiple CPUs to your virtual machine to gain additional performance for CPU-intensive workloads.
- Access physical devices from the virtual machine: read and burn CDs and DVDs, and use USB 2.0 devices like video cameras, iPods, printers, and disks at full speed. Even devices that do not have drivers for OS X will work in a virtual machine.
- Drag and drop files and folders between OS X and virtual machines to easily share data between the two environments.
- Leverage the cross-compatibility of VMware virtual machines. VMware virtual machines created with existing VMware products are all cross compatible, including virtual machines created by VMware Workstation, VMware Player, VMware Server and VMware Infrastructure 3.

- Run any of the 360 virtual appliances available from the Virtual Appliance Marketplace (<http://vam.vmware.com>).

Siemens says sets network speed record

FRANKFURT (Reuters) – Germany's Siemens AG has set a new speed record for electrical processing of data through a fiber-optic cable, it said on Wednesday, opening the possibility of cheaper Internet and data networks.

Siemens said in a statement it had processed data using exclusively electrical means at 107 gigabits per second -- roughly two full DVDs per second -- and sent it over a single optical fiber channel in a 100 mile-long (161-kilometre) U.S. network, the first time outside of a laboratory.

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