



MUUG Lines

Manitoba UNIX® User Group

Newsletter of the Manitoba UNIX® User Group

Media Backlash

By David Hipschman

From Time magazine to ABC news, it seems like all the media cares about is the “dark side” of the net. What’s going on here?

Given the media’s performance over the past six months or so, it seems fair to ask: Why have the media dropped the ball on coverage of the Internet? It may seem simple, but even journalists who provide the content tend to forget what William Randolph Hearst and P.T. Barnum understood all the way to the bank — that sensationalism, not journalism, sells papers.

Today’s sensational stories about bombmakers and pedophiles running wild through cyberspace may have nothing to do with what happens on 99% of the Internet, but it rarely matters — because they sell.

But is it really that simple? Did Time magazine throw over journalistic integrity just to run a sensationalistic Internet story?

So we asked.

We asked why mainstream reporters don’t do a better job on Internet stories, why editors and fact checkers don’t catch the ball dropped by their reporters. We asked about cultural and technological change and even asked about conspiracy theories — you know, a corporate media conspiracy by moguls wary of competition in a new world.

What we heard, among other things, was the old joke that facts should never be allowed to get in the way of a good story. The facts certainly didn’t get in the way of the “good story” told on Nightline’s “Policing the Net” or Time’s

Cyberporn cover story. No matter which high-minded journalistic philosophy you subscribe to, there’s no denying that those stories boosted ratings and newsstand sales. With that in mind, headlines like the Calgary Sun’s “Lethal Advice Travels Net,” about DeathNet — or Ted Koppel telling his audience that downloading porn off the Net is easier than watching it on cable TV — make a certain sense.

Does Koppel really believe what he said? Has he or anyone at ABC tried to download an obscene file and compared the expertise it took, stopwatch in hand, with calling a cable company and ordering an XXX-rated film? He refused to talk with us about it, although ABC’s press liaison said Koppel felt questions about his Net expertise weren’t “germane,” and that he “stood by the story.”

Sources at ABC, however, guessed that fewer than 10% of the Nightline staff had any experience on the Net. “To most journalists the Internet is a black hole, and they rely on the conventional wisdom when reporting about it,” one said.

That curse of the conventional wisdom, a mind-deadening process of believing what you are told rather than what you know — relying on wire service copy rather than researching your own story — is nothing new. In my 20 years in mainstream newspapering I saw countless instances of editors questioning or overriding stories filed by their own colleagues because The New York Times or Los Angeles Times news services had the story differently.

Lash out and voice your opinion at <http://gnn.com/gnn/wr/features/backlash/lash.com.html>. ➔

This Month's Meeting

Meeting Location:

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, at 7:30 PM. Once again, the meeting will be held in the auditorium of the St-Boniface Hospital Research Centre, just south of the hospital itself, at 351 Taché. You don’t have to sign in at the security desk — just say you’re attending the meeting of the Manitoba UNIX User Group. The auditorium is on the main floor, and is easily found from the entrance.

Meeting Agenda: See inside for details.

Inside This Issue

Newsletter Editor's Ramblings	2
President's Corner	3
SIG Sideline	4
Meeting Agenda	4

Welcome Back!

By Andrew Trauzzi

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer! The days are becoming shorter and the nights a little cooler which can only mean that Winter is around the corner!! (sorry) For those of you that would like something to do on those cold,

dark nights, here is a schedule of newsletter submission deadlines. This schedule is tentative and may be subject to change. In any case, welcome back to another MUUG year, and I hope to see you at the September meeting. ⇨

MUUG Lines Newsletter Deadlines for 1995-1996

Issue Number	Month	Articles	Deadlines Final Copy	Mailing	MUUG Monthly Meeting Date
Volume 7, No. 10	October	September 17	September 24	October 1	October 10, 1995
Volume 8, No. 01	November	October 21	October 28	November 4	November 14, 1995
Volume 8, No. 02	December	November 18	November 25	December 2	December 12, 1995
Volume 8, No. 03	January	December 16	December 23	December 30	January 9, 1996
Volume 8, No. 04	February	January 20	January 27	February 3	February 13, 1996
Volume 8, No. 05	March	February 17	February 24	March 2	March 12, 1996
Volume 8, No. 06	April	March 16	March 23	March 30	April 9, 1996
Volume 8, No. 07	May	April 20	April 27	May 4	May 14, 1996
Volume 8, No. 08	June	May 18	May 25	June 1	June 11, 1996
Volume 8, No. 09	September	August 17	August 24	August 31	September 10, 1996
Volume 8, No. 10	October	September 14	September 21	September 28	October 8, 1996

Mailing deadline is always 10 days prior to meeting date, to ensure sufficient advance notice of motions, etc. All copy (ads, columns, meeting notices, etc.) must be submitted by noon on the final copy deadline date, which is one week prior to the mailing deadline. Articles and any other material that isn't time sensitive must be submitted by the articles deadline, which is one week prior to the final copy deadline.

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Advertising Rates

Quarter page	\$50
Half page	\$75
Full page	\$100
Insert (1-4 pages)	\$100

Above prices are per issue. The first ad is charged at the full price; each successive month is 1/2 price.

Ad copy must be submitted by the final copy deadline for an issue (usually 3 weeks prior to the monthly meeting) in a format acceptable to the editor. (Please make arrangements with editor beforehand.)

Internet E-mail: editor@muug.mb.ca

Group Information

The Manitoba UNIX User Group meets at 7:30 PM the second Tuesday of every month, except July and August. Meeting locations vary. The newsletter is mailed to all paid-up members one week prior to the meeting. Membership dues are \$25 annually and are due as indicated by the renewal date on your newsletter's mailing label. Membership dues are accepted at any meeting, or by mail.

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Better Late than Never

By Bary Finch

This is your first, rather brief, and somewhat tardy newsletter to announce that we are recommencing our 1995/1996 season on schedule, as you would expect. We are as usual holding our meetings at the St. Boniface Research Centre auditorium, on the second Tuesday of every month, at 7:30 p.m.

As well, the Linux SIG will be continuing on the third Tuesday of every month, except for December and June.

This announcement is coming at a rather late date due to the board not being quite as organized as it should have been. There has also been a

number of people that have had to leave the board due to other commitments, so we are a little short staffed at this point.

We have a number of speakers lined up for later in the season, so you should see a variety of interesting topics coming. Unfortunately we were not able to arrange for a specific speaker for the September meeting, so the topic is as yet undetermined.

But come on out, and renew your coffee time acquaintances at the first MUUG meeting of the season! ➡

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SIGNificant Happenings

By Gilbert Detillieux

Well, summer's drawing to a close, and we're back for another season of meetings. I hope everyone has had a great summer, and had a chance to take advantage of the wonderful weather, and mostly bug-free days, to enjoy our great outdoors.

The Linux/System-Administration SIG will be meeting again, on the third Tuesday of the month - that's September 19 this month, at 7:30 PM. As in the past, our meetings will be held at ISM, 400 Ellice Ave. (just behind Portage Place). Try to get to the lobby by 7:15, so that you'll all have time to sign in beforehand, so that we can then go up to the meeting room promptly.

Expect to see some new faces at the meeting. The popularity of Linux has really been increasing, and that means new people have been exposed to this system, perhaps without any prior knowledge of UNIX. People on the net have been asking about the existence of a local Linux user group, and I've been putting in a good word about the SIG meetings.

Given that, the amount of time that has passed since our last meeting, and the changes that have happened with Linux in that time, it should make for a lively round-table session on September 19. As well as discussing some of the updates to Linux and Slackware, there will also be an announcement about some freebies and special offers that have been brought to the board's attention during the summer - these should be of interest to any serious Linux user.

Hope to see you all at the next MUUG general meeting, and at the SIG meeting the following week!

The Fortune File

Top Ten Signs That You Are An Internet Geek

Submitted by Gilbert Detillieux

10. When filling out your driver's license application you give your IP address.
9. You no longer ask prospective dates what their sign is, instead your line is "Hi, what's your URL?"
8. Instead of calling you to dinner, your spouse sends email.
7. You're amazed to find out spam is a food.
6. You "ping" people to see if they're awake, "finger" them to find out how they are, and "AYT" them to make sure they're listening to you.
5. You search the Net endlessly hoping to win every silly free T-shirt contest.
4. You introduce your wife as "my lady@home.wife" and refer to your children as "client applications".
3. At social functions you introduce your husband as "my domain server".

Agenda

for

Tuesday, September 12, 1995, 7:30 PM
Samuel N. Cohen Auditorium
St-Boniface Hospital Research Centre
Main Floor, 351 Taché

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|----|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1. | President's Welcome | 7:30 |
| 3. | Business Meeting | 7:35 |
| 4. | Short Topic | 7:40 |
| 5. | Coffee Break and Informal Discussion | 7:50 |
| 6. | Feature Topic | 8:00 |
- As of press time, this month's feature topic is TBA. Watch for updates on www.muug.mb.ca and man.unix.general.

Note: Please try to arrive at the meeting between 7:15 and 7:30, to avoid disrupting the meeting in progress.

Coming Up

Meeting:

Next month's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, at 7:30 PM. Meeting location will be the St-Boniface Research Centre, as usual. The October meeting topic is TBA. Stay tuned for details.

Got any ideas for meeting topics? Any particular speaker, company, or product you'd like to see at one of our meetings? Just let our new meeting coordinator, Doug McLean, know. You can e-mail him at [<dmclean@muug.mb.ca>](mailto:dmclean@muug.mb.ca).

Newsletter:

If you are interested in a particular topic, let me know. I'm sure I could coerce you into writing an article! I could use a few articles — especially shorter ones — half a page to one page (400 to 1000 words) would be fine.

Monsieur Ex has also let me know that his mail-box has room for more of your wonderful queries again — please submit your questions to the old guy via e-mail to [<m-ex@muug.mb.ca>](mailto:m-ex@muug.mb.ca). He may be old, but he's not ready for retirement yet!

2. After winning the office super bowl pool you blurt out, "I feel so "colon-right parentheses!"

...And the number one sign you are an Internet Geek:

1. Two Words: "Pizza's Here!"

Source: <http://www.li.org/linux-int/humor/internet.html>
 Enjoy! ↔