

MUUGLines

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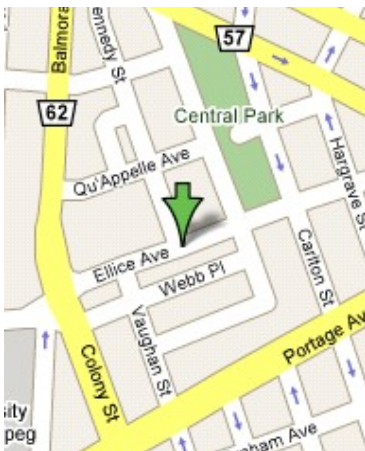
Next Meeting: January 11th, 2010

Topic: KVM

The concept of running a virtual machine within another computer has been implemented for almost 50 years, and yet it has become commonplace in Linux distributions only recently. The creation of these machines has now been made much easier by the inclusion of the appropriate hooks within the Linux kernel.

In this talk, Michael Doob will look at KVM, the main tool that allows the user to create, modify, run, clone and save virtual machines using these hooks. The approach will be hands-on. We'll do this by using both a GUI (virt-manager) and the command line (virsh). Both fully-virtualized and para-virtualized virtual machines will be created and modified.

Where to find the Meeting



Meetings are held at the IBM offices at 400 Ellice Ave. (between Edmonton and Kennedy Streets). When you arrive, you will have to sign in at the reception desk. Please try to arrive by about 7:15pm, so the meeting can start promptly at 7:30pm.

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 \$5.00

for the evening. Bicycle parking is available in a bike rack under video surveillance located behind the building on Webb Place.

Upcoming Meetings

February 8th, 2011

FOSS Games Review. Details to follow.

March 8th, 2011

Details to follow.

Scientific Linux 6 Alpha 3 Development Release

Hot on the heels of the RHEL 6 release in November comes word of the 3rd rolling alpha release of SL6. A December 18th distrowatch.com posting quotes from an e-mail by Troy Dawson from the day before, "We have released the third alpha of Scientific Linux 6. Fixed/changes in alpha 3: SELinux - you no longer get an error about SELinux during the install and the default install has it turned on; NTP error - we believe the NTP error was because of the SELinux problems we were having - when we fixed SELinux, the NTP error went away; package check - we have compared our packages with the upstream vendor's and found several differences; we have rebuilt around 240 packages, resulting in around 360 binary packages that have changed; revisor clean-up and documentation. Known issues: packages that haven't been built and aren't in the release include Ekiga, kdepin-runtime, perl-Sys-Virt. There are no specialized pictures shown during the install."

By the time you read this, we might be seeing the first beta release of SL6, which is estimated for January 7. No official word yet from the CentOS team on their own version 6 release.

WordPress 3.0.4 Important Security Update



WORDPRESS®

According to the **WordPress** web site, in an article posted December 29, 2010 by Matt Mullenweg, update version 3.0.4 of WordPress is available immediately. It “is a very important update to apply to your sites as soon as possible because it fixes a core security bug in our HTML sanitation library, called KSES. I would rate this release as critical.”

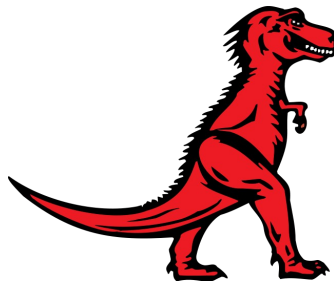
Mullenweg added: “I realize an update during the holidays is no fun, but this one is worth putting down the egg nog for. In the spirit of the holidays, consider helping your friends as well.”

Consider yourself duly warned, and helped! :)

<http://wordpress.org/news/2010/12/3-0-4-update/>

Mozilla Discloses User Data Was Open to Access

Chris Lyon, Director of Infrastructure Security at Mozilla, reported that on December 17th “Mozilla was notified by a security researcher that a partial database of addons.mozilla.org user accounts was mistakenly left on a Mozilla public server.” The issue was reported to Mozilla via their web bounty program. Lyon adds “We were able to account for every download of the database. This issue posed minimal risk to users, however as a precaution we felt we should disclose this issue to people affected and err on the side of disclosure.”



“The database included 44,000 inactive accounts using older, md5-based password hashes. We erased all the md5-passwords, rendering the accounts dis-

abled. All current addons.mozilla.org accounts use a more secure SHA-512 password hash with per-user salts. SHA-512 and per user salts has been the standard storage method of password hashes for all active users since April 9th, 2009.”

“It is important to note that current addons.mozilla.org users and accounts are not at risk. Additionally, this incident did not impact any of Mozillas infrastructure. This information was also sent to impacted users by email on December 27th.”

GnuCash 2.4.0 Released

The GnuCash development team announced, via their web site and mailing list, the newest stable release of GnuCash 2.4.0 Free Accounting Software. “With this new release series, GnuCash can use an SQL database using SQLite3, MySQL or PostgreSQL. It runs on GNU/Linux, *BSD, Solaris, Microsoft Windows and Mac OSX.”

Major changes in the 2.4.0 release include;

- In addition to the XML backend, GnuCash can now use a SQLite3, MySQL or PostgreSQL database to store the data. This is a new implementation using libdbi. It supports all features including the business features. In order to build with this, add --enable-dbi to the configure command. In addition to the libdbi-dev package for your distribution, you will also need the appropriate DBD (libdbi driver) package for sqlite3, mysql or postgresql.
- As a replacement for the current GtkHTML HTML engine used to display reports and graphs, GnuCash can use WebKit. WebKit is the engine used by Google Chrome on Windows and Safari on Apple. In order to build with this, add --with-html-engine=webkit to the configure command. You will need an appropriate webkit-dev package. On win32, you will need to download the webkit-1.1.90-win32.zip file from the source repository and put it into the downloads directory of your GnuCash build area.
- Updated AqBanking on Win32.

The announcement warns: “You should uninstall any earlier GnuCash version from your system prior to installing 2.4.0. Failing to do so may result in startup errors. In particular on Windows this may cause 'Parse error: entry point not found' errors.”

Blender 2.56 Beta

As 2010 drew to a close, the Blender Foundation and online developer community announced the release of

Blender 2.56 Beta, the “fourth official beta release of the Blender 2.5 series, representing the culmination of many years of redesign and development work.”

“This version is called a 'Beta' because it's now for the most part feature complete. The Python API has had some extensive changes, most notably in naming conventions and in creation and access of properties.”

Blender 2.55 Beta was released not long before, but with this latest release, “over 440 bugs were fixed!”

The Blender release announcement includes a couple important notes. “Between 2.53 and 2.56 an extensive renaming operation has changed the scripting API a lot, with repercussions also for loading 2.53 .blends with animation into 2.56. The day after release, a very bad bug in 'undo' for using Cloth/Fluid sim has been solved. We'll probably release a 2.56a update soon.”

Reports of Procmal's Death Not Terribly Exaggerated?

According to an article on **lwn.net**, the procmal mail filter is getting rather long in the tooth, and hasn't been updated in close to a decade! While this may not be a problem to some, since it continues to work well at what it does, many are concerned that the last release, version 3.22, was from September of 2001, leaving some bugs and potential security vulnerabilities unfixed for a long time.

The article mentions a couple more up-to-date alternatives that people may want to consider: Maildrop, an application developed by the Courier MTA project,



and Dovecot's Local Delivery Agent (LDA) module, which has a plugin for filtering rules in the Sieve language. “Maildrop has an advantage over LDA, though, in that in addition to Courier, it is also designed to work with the Qmail and Postfix MTAs.”

<http://lwn.net/Articles/416901/>

Ten Cool “vi” Tricks

An IBM DeveloperWorks article claims “Ten cool commands sure to impress your friends”! OK, maybe if your friends are really geeky...

The article includes tips such as turning line numbering on & off, advanced search techniques (case-insensitive searches, compound searches, replaying patterns), using bookmarks, switching character case, using external filters and saving sections.

<http://rootprompt.org/article.php3?article=11719>

Parted Magic 5.8 Released

“After several months of work, a new version is ready for release,” states the news on the Parted Magic web site.

“[Many] bugs have been fixed and many core programs have been updated. You will notice the Linux 2.6.36 kernel and the newest version of the Gnome Partition Editor (GParted). There is also a mess of new stuff as well. Parted Magic now includes the SciTE text editor! For the first time the ISO image can be fully loaded into RAM and Booted. This means, for example, that the default syslinux menu can be used for a PXE boot.”

Updated programs: clonezilla-1.2.6-40, plpbt-5.0.11, psensor-0.4.4, linux-2.6.36.2, busybox-1.17.4, nwipe-0.03, simpleburn-1.6.0, syslinux-4.03, clamav-0.96.5, e2fsprogs-1.41.14, gparted-0.7.1

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A photograph showing a person from behind, sitting at a desk and using a laptop. The laptop screen displays a website with text and images.

New programs added: zerofree-1.0.1, cmospwd-5.0, open-iscsi-2.0.871, hfsprescue-0.1, gscite223.

<http://partedmagic.com/doku.php>

FreeBSD 8.2-RC1, 7.4-RC1 Developer Releases



According to distrowatch, “Ken Smith has announced the availability of the first release candidates for FreeBSD 8.2 and 7.4.” Smith’s announcement states “The first release candidate for the FreeBSD 7.4/8.2 release cycle is now available. For 7.4-RC1 the amd64, i386, pc98, and sparc64 architectures are available, for 8.2-RC1 those architectures plus ia64 and powerpc are available. Files suitable for creating installation media or doing FTP based installs through the network are available on the FreeBSD mirror sites. For this release candidate no packages (except for the doc package set for 8.2-RC1) have been provided in any of the images. If you are updating an already running machine the CVS branch tag for 8.2-RC1 is RELENG_8_2, for 7.4-RC1 it is RELENG_7_4. If you prefer SVN use 'releng/8.2' or 'releng/7.4'.”

<http://distrowatch.com/6431>

Solaris 11 Release Plans

According to an InfoWorld article from early December, Oracle execs announced their plans for the release of Solaris 11, due sometime this year. The OS will include networking capabilities for scalability and performance, a boot time in seconds rather than minutes, “risk-free” updates and fault management, secure boot and enforced role-based access.

Sometime in November, Oracle had released Solaris 11 Express, a developer-only, preview release not intended for production or commercial environments.

On Oracle's Linux plans, (Oracle's CEO) Larry Ellison stated “Solaris is clearly the number one Unix, and we're working very hard at making Oracle Enterprise Linux the number one Linux.”

Why the New Label & Renewal Form?

You may have noticed a slightly different format on your mailing label this month. Also, if you happen to have received a renewal form, you will probably have noticed a very different format to that form. We're switching over to a new membership database, which will allow us more flexibility in providing you with newsletters in the future, as well as (eventually) allowing online renewals and updates to your membership data.

The new database was developed by MUUG member Alan Pollard, using PHP and MySQL. It is hosted on the MUUG Online server, and the hope is that members will soon be able to update their own membership information online. (Online renewal of membership fees is also being considered, but that may be a longer term project.)

With the new form, you can opt to have the newsletter delivered to you by e-mail rather than (or in addition to) letter post. We're not quite ready to handle e-mail delivery of the newsletter just yet, but we hope to be there really soon! So, feel free to state your preference as you complete the form, and we'll hopefully be able to honour that request in the months ahead.

This is also a good time to review the contact information on the form carefully, and make sure we have valid phone numbers, postal and e-mail addresses, for both your home and work. Having as much information as possible helps us to stay in contact with you, even if you happen to move and forget to give us your forwarding address.

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