



# MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

## Next Meeting: February 8th, 2005: Revolution OS

Since our scheduled presenter (that would be me) had an unexpected business trip, we will be showing Revolution OS. So bring your popcorn.

REVOLUTION OS tells the inside story of the hackers who rebelled against the proprietary software model and Microsoft to create GNU/Linux and the Open Source movement. There are interviews with Linus Torvalds, Richard Stallman, Bruce Perens, Eric Raymond, Brian Behlendorf, Michael Tiemann, Larry Augustin, Frank Hecker, and Rob Malda (from Slashdot).

For more information on Revolution OS, visit the website at:

<http://www.revolution-os.com/>

## 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 Ellice from IBM, for \$1.00 for the evening. Indoor parking is also available nearby, at Portage Place, for \$2.00 for the evening.

## Next Next Meeting: March 8th, 2005: MythTV

Shawn Wallbridge will be presenting on MythTV. MythTV turns your PC running Linux into a Tivo, with some neat features.

- Basic 'live-tv' functionality. Pause/Fast Forward/Rewind "live" TV.
- Support for multiple tuner cards and multiple simultaneous recordings.
- Distributed architecture allowing multiple recording machines and multiple playback machines on the same network, completely transparent to the user.
- Compresses video in software using rtjpeg (from Nuppelvideo) or mpeg4 (from libavcodec). Full support for Hardware MPEG-2 encoder cards (Hauppauge PVR-250 / PVR-350). Preliminary support for DVB cards and the new pcHDTV tuner card.
- Support for the (very nice looking) hardware MPEG-2 decoder and TV out present on the Hauppauge PVR-350.
- Completely automatic commercial detection/skipping
- Grabs program information using xmltv.
- A fully themeable menu to tie it all together.

To find out more on MythTV, see  
<http://www.mythtv.org>

Shawn will show how to get it all set up with the least amount of effort using KnoppMyth a Knoppix based MythTV installer.

<http://mysettopbox.tv/>

## OpenSolaris.org Now “Open” For Business

The Solaris operating system is being released under the terms of the OSI-approved, CDDL (Common Development and Distribution License). Millions of development hours worth of code and over 1,600 patents are being contributed to the open source community.

The opensolaris.org web site will be the center for OpenSolaris activity. Program content will be released in stages. The source code for one of the Solaris operating system's most advanced features – Dynamic Tracing (DTrace) is available now. We invite you to take a look. Expect to see buildable Solaris code in Q2 2005.

## A Mac For the Rest of ‘Us’

Apple released the much-rumored Mac Mini. It has a 1.25 or 1.42GHz G4 processor, 40 or 80GB hard drive, a slot-loading CD-R/DVD-ROM optical drive, 256MB DDR SDRAM and ATI Radeon 9200 graphics chip with 32MB dedicated DDR SDRAM.

All that in a 6.5 inches square and 2 inches tall package that is nearly silent. It starts at \$629.

Numerous sites have already popped up around the Mac Mini including...

<http://www.byodkm.net/> (Bring your own Display, Keyboard and Mouse, from the introduction of the Mac Mini)

<http://www.macminicolo.net/> (A Mac Mini based CoLocation service)

## The last of FreeBSD 4.x

FreeBSD 4.11 was released on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005. It will be the last release for the 4.x tree...

“The Release Engineering Team is happy to announce the availability of FreeBSD 4.11-RELEASE, the

latest release of the FreeBSD Legacy development branch. Since FreeBSD 4.10-RELEASE in May 2004 we have made conservative updates to a number of software programs in the base system, dealt with known security issues, and made many bugfixes.

FreeBSD 4.11 will become an "Errata Branch". In addition to Security fixes other well-tested fixes to basic functionality will be committed to the RELENG\_4\_11 branch after the release. Both Security Advisories and Errata Notices are announced on the [freebsd-announce@freebsd.org](mailto:freebsd-announce@freebsd.org) mailing list.

This is expected to be the last release from the RELENG\_4 branch. Most of the Developers are now focused on the RELENG\_5 branch, or on the cutting edge development in HEAD.”

## Postgresql 8.0 is out

While the first new ‘feature’ listed on their site is a native Windows version (instead of using Cygwin), there are lots of other interesting new features.

### Savepoints

Savepoints allow specific parts of a transaction to be aborted without affecting the remainder of the transaction.

### Point-In-Time Recovery

Point-in-time recovery allows continuous backup of the server. You can recover either to the point of failure or to some transaction in the past.

### Tablespaces

Tablespaces allow administrators to select the file systems used for storage of tables, indexes, and entire databases.

### Comma-separated-value (CSV) support in COPY

COPY can now read and write comma-separated-value files.

## Asterisk SIG

MUUG has a new Special Interest Group for Asterisk.

Asterisk is an open source software PBX, created by Digium, Inc. and a continuously growing user and developer base. Digium invests in both developing the Asterisk source code and low cost telephony hardware that works with Asterisk. Asterisk runs on Linux and other Unix platforms with or without hardware that connects your server to the traditional global telephony network, the PSTN

You can sign up for the Mailing list at:

<http://www.muug.mb.ca/mailman/listinfo/asterisk>

## PHP Quebec 2005: the professional free software

PHP Québec is pleased to invite you to its third annual conference.

It will take place March 30th and 31st, and April 1st, at the hotel Crowne Plaza, Montreal, Quebec.

During two days, the conference offers three sessions tracks and a debate :

- PHP Advanced technics;
- Profesional PHP, with users cases;
- MySQL, the Open Source database
- Apache and ASF's projects

Wednesday is a power session day : Web security, MySQL 5, PHP 5, web services and PEAR.

A certification Center will provide exams for PHP, MySQL and other free software. Special prices are available to everyone.

With the participation of Rasmus Lerdorf (PHP co-inventor), Brian Aker (MySQL AB), Ken Coar (Apache Software Foundation), Robert Gerin-Lajoie (CIRANO), Jordi Adame (Gouv. du Mexique),

Sebastien Brodeur (C.Fed. Desjardins), Sylvain Carle, Ilya Alshanetsky, Derick Rethans, John Coggeshall.

The sessions are given in English or French. The organisation provides you with lunches and coffee breaks, plus an area to meet speakers and attendees.

All information concerning the conference (schedule, sessions, subscription and fees, and sponsors) is available on the web site:

<http://conf.phpquebec.com/> or via email at : [board@phpquebec.com](mailto:board@phpquebec.com)

Come and take advantage of this unique event!

The PHP Quebec team.

## O'Reilly Emerging Technology Conference, San Diego, CA

O'Reilly is putting on the Emerging Technology Conference in San Diego, CA from March 14-17.

“Come immerse yourself in a network of like minds. This year's theme is "Remix," dedicated to finding new ways to further the hacker spirit, extend the architecture of participation, and uncover unconventional innovations. Be there to see what the buzz is all about. ETech will be held March 14-17, 2005 in San Diego, California.”

## A New Free Magazine

There's a new magazine covering free software called, appropriately, Free Software Magazine. Even more appropriately, the magazine itself is free! The magazine is available on paper and electronically. The first issue is available for download. See <http://www.freesoftwaremagazine.com/>

## More Samba Printing

Are you looking to Samba to help with your printing needs? Carla Schroder, author of the Linux Cookbook lays out everything you need to know to get started at

O'Reilly's LinuxDevCenter ([http://www.linuxdevcenter.com/pub/a/linux/2005/01/13/lxckbk\\_samba.html](http://www.linuxdevcenter.com/pub/a/linux/2005/01/13/lxckbk_samba.html)). The combination of Linux, Samba and CUPS gives you a complete solution, including automatic driver downloads.

## Moving to FreeBSD?

For those interested in exploring a move from Linux to FreeBSD, Dru Lavigne (author of BSD Hacks) outlines a number of basics that will smooth your way at the BSDDevCenter ([http://www.onlamp.com/pub/a/bsd/2005/01/13/FreeBSD\\_Basics.html](http://www.onlamp.com/pub/a/bsd/2005/01/13/FreeBSD_Basics.html))

## A New Adobe Reader For Linux

The beta or 'pre-release' version of Adobe Reader 7 for Linux is in testing. Adobe, after skipping version 6 on the Linux platform, is getting a little more involved in open source (see [http://news.zdnet.com/2102-3513\\_22-5435397.html?tag=printhis](http://news.zdnet.com/2102-3513_22-5435397.html?tag=printhis)). Adobe's website now says:

“Linux Beta: Thank you for your interest in the pre-release program for Adobe Reader 7.0 for Linux. Due to the overwhelming response received from customers, we have closed the pre-release program.”

We hope that the final product is released soon!

## PalmOS To Use Linux

PalmSource has put out a press release ([http://palmsource.com/press/2004/120804\\_cms.html](http://palmsource.com/press/2004/120804_cms.html)) announcing its acquisition of China MobileSoft. One of the reasons for this acquisition is to use China MobileSoft's Linux work as the base for a new version of PalmOS. From the release: “PalmSource will continue to offer both Palm OS<sup>®</sup> Garnet and Palm OS<sup>®</sup> Cobalt to support a broad range of mobile devices including smartphones. PalmSource also plans to implement Palm OS on top of Linux, bringing the benefits of Palm OS to the Linux community, including the award winning user

interface, software frameworks based on the best of Palm OS and BeOS.<sup>®</sup>”

There is an open letter to the Linux community (<http://palmsource.com/announcement/linuxletter.pdf>) with more information on what the company has in mind. “We think the Linux platform will become a leading operating system for mobile devices, and we believe the endorsement and support of PalmSource for that platform will greatly accelerate that process. We think the combination of Palm OS and Linux can attract more mobile licensees and developers, create more new devices, and bring in more users than either could on its own.”

## Rare, Collectible MUUG Shirts for Sale!

Don't miss out on the rare (only 35 made) and highly collectible MUUG Golf Shirts. We only have two XL beige shirts left. They are \$40 and are available at the monthly MUUG meeting. Get them while they last!

## 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](mailto:editor@muug.mb.ca).