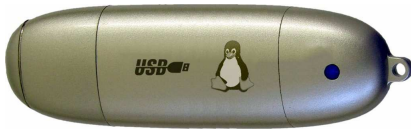


MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

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Next Meeting: December 11th, 2007 Linux on a Stick



This talk is motivated by a problem of the presenter, Michael Doob: when visiting

universities in different countries, computer and internet access is invariably provided. These computers, however, come with a variety of operating systems, wildly varying hardware (for example keyboards) as well as totally differing software installations. Traveling with a laptop computer helps, but sometimes it turns out that local conditions make connecting to the internet something not be done easily. What all computers do seem to be equipped with is a USB port that can read vfat plus other file systems.

One solution to this problem is to put Linux on a USB flash drive. In this presentation we'll look at some of the different approaches for doing this that will allow us to make bootable systems. We'll include a live demo of the construction of a rescue USB stick whose uses might include saving a crashed system or repartitioning a hard drive.

This presentation is meant to be of intermediate level. No deep understanding of Linux internals is required, but enough information will be given to allow either personal or prebuilt Linux systems to be implemented on a USB stick.

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.) *Non-members are welcome, but may be required to show photo ID at the security desk.*

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.

Upcoming Meetings:

January 8th, 2008 Network Monitoring

Future meeting topics may change.

Novell and SCO back in court

In this Groklaw article, the author covers the new developments that are putting SCO and Novell back in the courtroom. Basically, the original lawsuit is going to go ahead, even though SCO has filed bankruptcy. Once the trial finishes, if Novell wins, they will have claim to some of the SCO assets in the bankruptcy proceedings.

<http://www.groklaw.net/article.php?story=20071129100503233>



XO sales extended to end of year

The One Laptop Per Child foundation is to offer the XO PC for sale until the end of the year, because of unexpected demand.

Initially the laptop was only intended to be available for sale to the public during a two week period, and only under the circumstance that users would buy two, with one being sent to a developing country.

The XO laptops are available for \$399 for the pair, and sales have averaged \$2 million per day. The notebooks are only available in the US and Canada.

"In the past 10 days, we've experienced an outpouring of support from the public that is truly gratifying and encouraging," says Nicholas Negroponte, founder and chairman of One Laptop per Child.

"Because so many people have asked for more time to participate either individually or in order to organise local and national groups to which they belong, we have decided to extend Give One Get One through the end of this year."

Those who buy the notebooks in the US can deduct \$200 of the \$399 price from their tax bill as a charitable donation, and will also benefit from a year of free Wi-Fi access at 8,500 hotspots around the US.

Amazon launches Linux-based eBook reader



Amazon's "Kindle" electronic book reader runs an operating system based on Linux 2.6.10, according to reports. The device boasts a claimed 30 hours of battery life, thanks in part to a power-saving E-ink EPD (electro-phlorescent, or "electronic paper" display) and "fpow" power-saving infrastructure, early reports suggest.

The Amazon Kindle is a lightweight electronic book reader that connects to Amazon's electronic bookstore via a built-in EVDO cellular data modem. Newly available for the 2007 holiday season, it costs \$400. It is claimed to avail readers of some 88,000 titles, including "100 out of 112 current New York Times Bestsellers." The device can hold about 400 books at once.

The Kindle's most notable feature is its EPD display from MIT-affiliated start-up E-Ink. Electronic paper offers a bright, high-contrast, thin, lightweight display technology that remains legible under "any lighting condition" -- much like newsprint. Once an image has been "printed," no power is needed to hold it, reducing energy requirements by 99 percent compared to LCDs, E-Ink claims.

Other interesting technology in the Kindle has been discovered by renowned Linux kernel hacker Robert Love, who writes in part in his blog, "Most notable is a power-saving infrastructure named fpow, which provides device-level power management and aggressive system suspend functionality that is responsible for the device's excellent battery life."

Love goes on to note that the Kindle is based on an Intel/Marvel PXA250 processor. It was apparently codenamed "Fiona" during development, and produced by "Lab126," a skunk-works team at Amazon tasked with producing "easy-to-use, highly integrated consumer products."

Verizon Wireless To Introduce ‘Any Apps, Any Device’ Option For Customers In 2008

New Open Development Initiative Will Accelerate Innovation and Growth

11/27/2007

BASKING RIDGE, NJ — Verizon Wireless today announced that it will provide customers the option to use, on its nationwide wireless network, wireless devices, software and applications not offered by the company. Verizon Wireless plans to have this new choice available to customers throughout the country by the end of 2008.

In early 2008, the company will publish the technical standards the development community will need to design products to interface with the Verizon Wireless network. Any device that meets the minimum technical standard will be activated on the network. Devices will be tested and approved in a \$20 million state-of-the-art testing lab which received an additional investment this year to gear up for the anticipated new demand. Any application the customer chooses will be allowed on these devices.

This new option goes beyond just a change in the design, delivery, purchase, and provisioning of wireless devices and applications.

“This is a transformation point in the 20-year history of mass market wireless devices – one which we believe will set the table for the next level of innovation and growth,” said Lowell McAdam, Verizon Wireless president and chief executive officer. “Verizon Wireless is not changing our successful retail model, but rather adding an additional retail option for customers looking for a different wireless experience.”

KDE 4.0 to be Released in January

The KDE Release Team has decided to release KDE 4.0 this coming January.



The release was originally planned for mid-December. The KDE developers want to solve a couple of essential issues before releasing. Having solved some of those issues, among which were glitches in the visual appearance, and in Konqueror, the KDE community hopes to have a KDE 4.0 that will live up to the high expectations for it. Read on for more details.

Meanwhile, the progress towards KDE 4.0 is astonishing. Most parts, such as the KDE Development Platform and a lot of applications are considered stable and well-usable.

Some parts of the desktop experience do not yet meet the KDE community's quality standards and expectations for a stable release. There are also some issues which need to be addressed upstream, for example a bug in certain codecs of xine that cut off audio fragments prematurely. The developers are confident to be able to release a more polished and better working KDE 4.0 desktop in January. The changed plans involve releasing on January 11th, 2008.

At the same time, the release team's call for participation is repeated. To make KDE 4.0 a success, your effort is needed. An overview of current showstoppers can be found on Techbase, KDE's knowledge platform.

This is also a call to the wider Free Software community, and also to companies working with KDE. If you have the resources to contribute, assistance in fixing the remaining bugs is most welcome.

Asus Linux based “EEE PC” released, and sells out

The \$400 Eee PC is an ultra portable laptop (2lbs) which has a 7” screen (800x480 pixels), a VGA Camera, and either 4GB or 8GB of flash based storage. Most stores sold out quickly and are just replenishing their stock now.

Asus quickly ran into a problem because some small bits of GPL code were not release, but they have since released the code.

Novell Ships SUSE Linux Enterprise Real Time 10

Customers gain competitive advantage running critical business applications faster, more reliably and with more predictability

WALTHAM, Mass.— 27 Nov 2007— Novell today announced the availability of SUSE® Linux Enterprise Real Time 10, the latest version of Novell's enterprise-class, open source real-time operating system for running high-performance, time-sensitive, mission-critical applications. With SUSE Linux Enterprise Real Time 10, financial organizations can respond more rapidly to changing markets and new information, get greater application reliability and predictability, and identify and eliminate performance bottlenecks. This will allow them to increase revenue opportunities and improve service to their customers, even while reducing computing infrastructure costs.

"In order to win in today's increasingly competitive global markets, companies need to be able to respond quickly while delivering superior products and services," said Roger Levy, senior vice president and general manager of Open Platform Solutions for Novell. "Companies that leverage technology such as SUSE Linux Enterprise Real Time 10 to improve responsiveness and availability of critical business services will be better able to compete and grow their own top-line revenues."

With Novell's real-time technology, customers can segment portions of their processors for high-priority mission-critical workloads, as well as ensure that other system processes and tasks do not interrupt them. That means these workloads deliver predictable performance in time-critical environments. Fully supported by Novell®, SUSE Linux Enterprise Real Time 10 is the only open source, enterprise-class real-time operating system available in the market today.

Enhancements to SUSE Linux Enterprise Real Time 10 include the latest enterprise-hardened open source technologies that reduce system latency or delay and improve predictability, such as CPU shielding, priority inheritance, sleeping spinlocks, interrupt threads, high-resolution timers and the latest OpenFabrics Enterprise Distribution for commodity high-speed interconnects, OFED 1.2.5. As a result, customers gain time advantage over competitors to make more money or avoid financial losses. They can also increase the availability of their mission-critical applications to ensure quality-of-service targets and service level agreements are met, even while cutting hardware costs.

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.

