MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Volume 37 No. 9, May 2025 Editor: Alberto Abrao

Next Meeting: May 6th, 2025, 7:30pm

Feature Presentation: Backup & Disaster Recovery for Cloud Services

Cloud services are great, but like any computer system they need regular backups. A bunch of files isn't so hard to arrange backups for, but what about more complex scenarios involving services? What if the services completely disappear due to some disaster - how will you recover to the point of having running services again, possibly on a different server? Kevin McGregor will present some thoughts on backup, recovery and disaster recovery with a specific example of a simple Mediawiki site.

If you show up in person you will be treated to more beverage choices than we've offered in over a decade: coffee, tea, and pop, as well as cookies. And parking is free, copious, safe, and just a handful of feet from the door.

Please stay home if you are sick that day.

To attend via internet, check and refresh the following link after 7:00pm. There is no need to create an account in BBB, nor login. Just enter any name as your screen name and hit **join**.

https://muug.ca/meet

RTFM: /bin Diving 4.0, A New Hope!

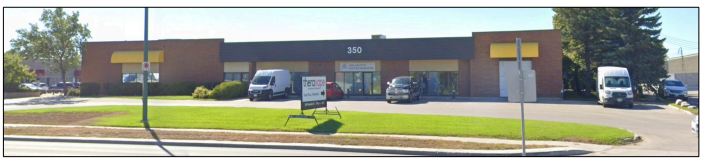
Well, nobody threw rotten tomatoes at us when we presented */bin Diving* the previous 3 times. So, being a glutton for punishment at trying to figure out what a random `/bin` command might be able to do, Gilbert Detillieux will dive into the deep end of the `/bin` again, and see what random gem can be found this time.

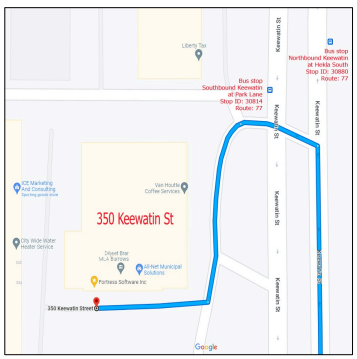
The latest meeting details are always at:
https://muug.ca/meetings/

Where to Find the Meeting

We are continuing to meet on the first Tuesday of every month.

Fortress Software Inc.
350 Keewatin St – Unit #2





Doors will open at 7:00pm. Meeting starts at 7:30pm.

If driving, enter the lot using the most north-eastern entrance (far right in the top picture) and drive around to the south west corner of the building (see route in map detail). You can use any of the free, ample, and safe parking spots that say "reserved" or "MUUG" in front of units #1 through #4 before entering into unit #2. Look for the sign over the door!

Bus stops #30814 and #30880 (route 77) are only 150 meters away. The last bus leaves for Polo Park at 10:15 pm and for Garden City at 10:31 pm. Logan Ave. bus routes #19, #26, and #27 are a 600 meter (8 minute) walk to the south.

Fedora 42 is out

Fedora 42 is out! If you're still using Xorg, no GNOME for you. On the other hand, if you're still on GNOME, you probably expect – if not enjoy – the sadism. Not because of X11 support, which Fedora actively intends to kill *everywhere* soon enough, but because of, well, *everything else* that comes with it.

Now, for the rest of us who aren't willing to subjects ourselves to such a torturous endeavour, KDE was promoted to "official" version, and will sit alongside GNOME as an option for "Fedora Workstation". Seems that is not live yet, but it will be, soon. Or so they say. This KDE version has very granular fractional scaling for Wayland users, including the option to make things *smaller* than 100%, something GNOME does not offer.

There's a new installer too. It's web-based, dumbed down, and no one really asked for it. But we got it anyway. Thanks? Other editions will also be migrated to the new installer soon, so don't feel sad – or happy – if your flavour of choice still uses the old one. Only GNOME is sporting it, so far.

There's also a new spin for a desktop environment (DE) called *COSMIC,* developed by *System 76* for its *Pop!_OS.* System76 *is* one of the prominent vendors of Linux-friendly machines.

For those of us still infatuated with Fedora 41's DNF5 introduction, not sadistic enough to use GNOME, and who have been using Wayland for a while, things are great in Fedora land, though.

Remember the blurb about Red Hat Enterprise Linux and x86-64-v2 support?

If you do, you may remember we mentioned that AlmaLinux was going to offer a x86-64-v2 version for older systems.

EPEL, though, was up for debate. But it was settled: they **will** also recompile EPEL packages for x86-64-v2 as well. Your circa-2013 hardware just got some more years of life, no compromises.

Now, all that is left is for RHEL/Alma/Rocky 10 to get out of the door already!

APT 3.0

As mentioned before, Fedora 41 brought us the *all-new, improved, blast processing, dnf5.* The difference is *staggering.*

Debian-land, as usual, sticks with the classics. *But wait!*

APT 3.0 has the usual array of security improvements. Blah blah blah, yes, it's important, what else can we say or do about it, really? Not like anyone would object - or even be able to if they wanted - they're coming. That is it, and that is great.

We are here for the fun stuff. APT 3.0 has COLOUR! As we expect from Debian, they're 20 years late, and it looks like it's all mostly just green from the screenshots I have seen. But hey! It's here! Nice.

But then, here's what will happen to the sources.list file:

deb https://deb.debian.org/debian/ bookworm contrib main non-free non-free-firmware
deb-src https://deb.debian.org/debian/ bookworm contrib main non-free non-free-firmware

Is now:

Types: deb deb-src
URIs: https://deb.debian.org/debian
Suites: bookworm
Components: main contrib non-free non-free-firmware
Architectures: amd64
Enabled: yes
Signed-By: /usr/share/keyrings/debian-archive-keyring.gpg

In typical Debian fashion, though, this change will *not* be done automatically. The command to do so is *apt modernize-sources.* You can keep your sources.list if you like it the way it is, at least for now.

Debian being Debian, though, *for now* often means a long, long time. /etc/network/interfaces, if memory serves me right, debuted in 2001, and is still here, lovely in its simplicity and effectiveness. It proves that some things should really never, ever change. Ever. Please do not. PLEASE.

Technical changes that are not as controversial include a new solver for conflict resolution and more clarity on what's being removed/replaced during an upgrade. Both are incredibly welcome.

Ubuntu 25.04 released – *it's not a LTS version*

...you may be wondering why you would care about that, then. Right?

Some people like to try the newest shiny. It's there. Go get it... but make sure to read the notes if you're on Kubuntu, the original ISO released for 25.04 was pulled due to a bug. A new one may be already in placre as of this writing.

Many will be interested in what follows, though.

Ubuntu 20.04 LTS Standard Support is coming to an end

It really feels like it was released yesterday – one of the joys of getting old, *everything you still remember* feels like it was yesterday – but Ubuntu 20.04 LTS Standard Support *is* indeed coming to an end. Time flies when you're having fun, right?

You can, of course, get an Ubuntu Pro subscription and carry on for 5 more years. Last I checked, their pricing was a lot more competitive than the equivalent Red Hat plan, so there's that.

Fear not, though, as upgrades are very easy and, more often than not, painless on Debian-land. The only caveats are 1) obviously, the downtime; and 2) ideally, you want to do it in steps. 20.04 LTS goes to 22.04 LTS, then 24.04 LTS. I like to bring it all up to speed on the next step up, even when I decide to jump to the next one right after, but you do you! Often, any applications one may have installed will have helpful suggestions on how to proceed, so check that. Things such as PHP and databases such as PostgreSQL may have to have their paths adjusted for the new versions. It's helpful to make sure your applications are compatible with the new versions, and, if not, make sure there's an upgrade path for them as well.

Other than that, it's mostly painless. The only time I had an issue was when a box was using LDAP, and root login was disabled completely. LDAP didn't behave well after the upgrade. As I had backups (*yay!*), I went back, turned on root login, and proceeded. That made it easy to fix the LDAP issues and get it up and running again.

Since then, I have a root password set – even if it is just for the upgrade - just in case!

Speaking of upgrades

Thanks to AlmaLinux and their ELevate application, looks like RHEL-land is also on a good place for in-place upgrades too.

I have brought a surprising amount of installations on CentOS 7 and non-Stream CentOS/Alma/Rocky 8 to AlmaLinux 9, with *zero* issues so far. A reminder that any installs on 7 need to go through 8 to get to 9, just like in Debian-land.

Reports say that even legitimate RHEL leverages and works well with ELevate.

Of course, all the caveats for applications and version compatibility with their dependencies apply here as well.

Farewell, i486 and early i586.

Kids these days(tm) won't ever know the feeling, but we had to compile our own kernel. Multiple times. For testing. For tweaking. For new hardware. For funsies.

And it took a long time. The glorious, supreme Am486DX4-100 – that was the better chip, fight me - on that absolutely fantastic PCChips motherboard with the fake cache chips. (*Narrator: that board was absolute garbage. The owner didn't care.)*

Oh, did those chips work HARD – even the fake ones, they had to pretend they belonged there - so I could marvel at the extra BogoMIPSes that would never come, but we kept chasing them anyways... and it would take HOURS... and be totally worth it, for no reason at all, except love of the craft...

...and then you would get a Pentium 133MHz, and that would absolutely BLOW. YOUR. MIND. being so incredibly faster you couldn't ever think it possible, and yet, the future was now, and these were indeed the days of our lives, and you better believe we were blasting through it all like a hurricane. Both ways. In

the snow. Even though we were in the tropics, but it's not like we'd ever care to go outside, because WHY WOULD WE, THIS IS SO MUCH FUN.

Kids these days, they won't ever know. Nothing will ever feel anywhere close to the raw, savage performance gains you'd get from a hardware upgrade when falling off the hardware treadmill would condemn you to deafness by hard drive noise. And yet, no redemption was found by staying on it. Instead, one would find themselves completely intoxicated by that same noise, while beating the absolute *expletive* out of their brand new silicon to new heights, compiling from source so you could optimize to the absolute limit, squeezing that last performance drop out of it, while being amazed at all the little drops that you squeezed before that one.

And yet, things would move so fast, there was new gear that was guaranteed to blow your mind even more than the last kit. The hype was real. For someone who loved tinkering, those were the days.

Join me in wishing a warm and well deserved `farewell to the well-worn i486 and early i586 architectures. Your lot was a fun one.`

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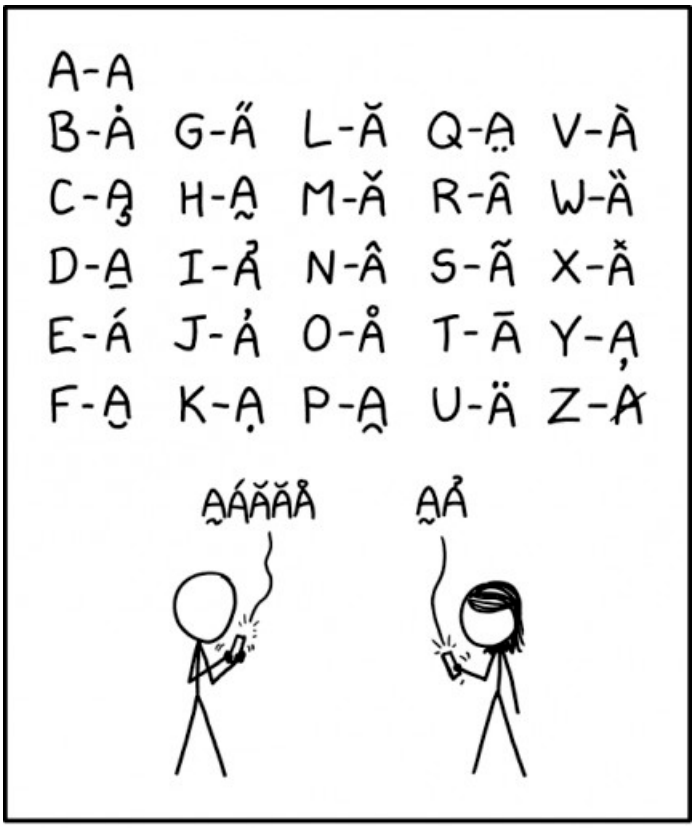
MUUG would like to thank Michael W. Lucas for donating one of his ebooks every month as a door prize. You can view and purchase his tech books here:

https://www.tiltedwindmillpress.com/product-category/tech/

Xkcd.com/3054 – Scream Cipher



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