



# MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

## Next Meeting: October 10th, 2006: PKI: Public Key Infrastructure – What it can do for you

This month, Adam Thompson will give us an introduction to public-key infrastructure. PKI is the technology that enables secure web browsing (SSL) and secure e-mail (S/MIME) - you might know what an SSL Certificate is, but did you know you can enable single-sign-on by running your own PKI? That you don't have to pay for expensive SSL certificates? That you can use PKI to secure password-less SSH authentication? The discussion will cover uses of SSL certificates, and a high-level overview of the OpenSSL and OpenCA toolkits.

### 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.)

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.

## Coming up: November 14th, 2006: SUSE Linux Enterprise 10

“The platform for your Open Enterprise needs.” That's how Novell describes SUSE Linux 10. Since it's purchase of SUSE, Novell has been positioning SUSE Linux as the one product line that will work from the desktop to the enterprise server. With this goal in mind, Novell has taken steps to provide greater power and security as well as to increase the "user friendliness" of SUSE Linux.

In this presentation by Wayne Billing, of the University of Manitoba, we will see a brief overview of some of the things (AutoYAST, 3D desktop, AppArmor, XEN) that Novell is counting on to make SUSE Linux a viable choice for enterprise desktops and servers.

## MUUG Board Election 2006-2007

As part of the October 2006 meeting, we will be holding an election for the positions of directors to the MUUG board. The following nominees are candidates for election. Since the number of candidates (6) is less than the number of vacancies as last set by the board (8), in accordance with MUUG By-laws 5.(c) and 10.(d), the nominees shall be deemed to be elected by acclamation.

### Nominee: Gilbert Detillieux, Systems Analyst, University of Manitoba

Gilbert Detillieux has been working with UNIX as a programmer, system administrator, and trainer since 1980. He worked as a computer consultant specializing in UNIX, from 1983 to 1989. He is

currently working as a Systems Analyst for the University of Manitoba's Department of Computer Science, where's he's worked since 1989, installing, supporting and upgrading the department's network and UNIX server infrastructure. He was co-founder and past president of the Technical UNIX User Group (now MUUG), and has been an active member of the MUUG board ever since. He also contributed to the implementation of the initial MUUG Online system, in 1992, which he's since maintained through two complete replacements and numerous upgrades over the years.

**Nominee: Michael Doob, Professor, University of Manitoba**

Michael Doob is a member of the Mathematics Department at the University of Manitoba. He has been using UNIX since 1990, primarily as a working environment for mathematical publishing. He has been a member of MUUG for the last decade and has given a number of presentations for that group.

**Nominee: Kevin McGregor, Network Analyst, City of Winnipeg**

Kevin McGregor provides network administration and system support services for the City of Winnipeg. After having briefly used UTS on an Amdahl mainframe in university in the mid-80s, he dabbled in Coherent and then converted to Linux and OpenBSD. He has been a member of MUUG since the early 90s, edited the group's newsletter for a number of years, presented various topics at MUUG meetings and has served on the board for the majority of his membership.

**Nominee: Doug Shewfelt, Systems Specialist, City of Winnipeg**

Doug Shewfelt first encountered UNIX in 1980 at the University of Manitoba. He has been worked in various IT positions for the City of Winnipeg since 1985, and currently supports the City's corporate financial systems. He has been a member of the MUUG board for the past several years.

**Nominee: Adam Thompson, Consultant, athompso.net**

Adam has over 15 years' experience in the IT field, ranging from Programmer to System Administrator to Chief Technology Officer. He currently teaches a variety of IT courses and provides consulting services to clients.

**Nominee: Shawn Wallbridge, System Administrator, Frantic Films**

Shawn Wallbridge discovered Linux in 1996 while at Red River College. Over the years he has used Unix wherever possible for various functions. He is currently the Systems Administrator for Frantic Films and runs a Web hosting company in his spare time. He has been a MUUG member for over four years and has done numerous presentations for MUUG.

## LTSP Tears Down The Wall

Let's all give Pink Floyd a big hand for their help in the recent and upcoming big changes in the Linux Terminal Server Project (LTSP).

LTSP ([www.ltsp.org](http://www.ltsp.org), not the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, which is [www.ltsp.edu](http://www.ltsp.edu)) is an add-on package for Linux that allows you to connect lots of low-powered thin client terminals to a Linux server. Applications typically run on the server, and accept input and display their output on the thin client display.

The LTSPProject provides packages of which it is estimated that 95% is not 'added value'; the remaining 5% is what the folks at the project would like to focus on. They've been thinking about how to eliminate the 95% for a while now.

Some work in this direction has been done previously, but a great deal was accomplished in the period coinciding with the recent Pink Floyd concert in Detroit.

Scott Balneaves, of Legal Aid Manitoba and an LTSP hacker, is a huge Pink Floyd fan, and arranged to attend the concert in Detroit. He mentioned it to Jim McQuillan of the LTSP, who also wanted to see Pink Floyd. They figured they could extend the weekend to do some coding together, and made some plans for that. Then they mentioned it to Oliver Grawert of Edubuntu, who also wanted to pitch in. The domino effect kicked in, and they were also joined by Warren Togami and Eric Harrison of Fedora, and Vagrant Cascadian (yes, it's an alias) of Debian.

After a few days of hacking, they had a sound plan and substantial infrastructure going for the new version (code name: MueKow), all thanks to a Pink Floyd concert!

Scott Balneaves works on the LTSP project 20 or more hours per week, including evenings and weekends. Scott ("I'm not a programmer, I just play one on TV") adds that LTSP is working hard to move away from packages and toward getting the code integrated fully into each distribution. He pointed out that 65%+ of Gnome clients are running on thin clients, and there are an estimated 20 million or more LTSP clients in use today.

## Defective By Design: FSF Tackles DRM

Calling it Digital *Restrictions* Management, the Free Software Foundation ([fsf.org](http://fsf.org)) is taking on DRM on numerous fronts. The recently launched web site, [DefectiveByDesign.org](http://DefectiveByDesign.org), is "a broad-based anti-DRM campaign and an initiative led by the FSF," according to Peter Brown, Executive Director, in an article in the June 2006 FSF Bulletin. "We are asking all free software users to stand up in defense of their existing freedoms."

The FSF's draft release of GPLv3 includes anti-DRM provisions, which "represent the line in the sand that the free software movement has drawn and said will not be crossed with respect to its covered work." This is in part to prevent "Tivoization" of free software, i.e. to use it in ways that might restrict freedoms.

## O'Reilly "Spiffs" MUUG with Swag!

MUUG continues to have great relations with one particular company that has been quite generous to us over the past few years, *O'Reilly Media Inc.*, publisher of technical books, magazines, online services and conferences, and best known for its series of "animal books" covering the gamut of computer-related interests, particularly UNIX and open source related titles.

Through its *User Group & Professional Association Program*, and the program's contact person, *Marsee Henon*, MUUG has received numerous books over the years, for review and to give away as door-prize gifts at meetings. In addition to titles we've explicitly requested for review, the group has also received many books in exchange for putting up promotional banners (typically for upcoming technical conferences) on the MUUG Online web site. We've also received on occasion new titles (or new editions of popular titles), simply because they wanted to promote those.

At recent meetings, we've given away books such as *Greasemonkey Hacks* and *AJAX Hacks*. At upcoming meetings, we'll be giving away more recently received books such as *Linux Multimedia Hacks* (the "Hacks" series seems to be particularly popular!), *Linux Annoyances for Geeks* (sure to please both the Linux fan and critic, right Shaw?), *Mastering Regular Expressions* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition), and a copy of *Make* magazine. We'll also have a few bookmarks to give away, which promote their discount for user group members on direct orders, which has been increased from 20 to 30%.



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## MUUG Financial Statements for 2004-2005

Our treasurer, Doug Shewfelt, has prepared the financial statements from the previous fiscal year (October 2004 to September 2005). We present them here for your review. Financial statements for the fiscal year that has just ended will be made available in a few months.

Manitoba UNIX User Group  
2004-2005 Season  
Balance sheet

Assets	
Cash	\$1,194.56
Investments (GICs)	\$18,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,194.56</b>
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$19,194.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,194.56</b>

Manitoba UNIX User Group  
2004-2005 Season  
Income Statement

Income	
CDs	\$65.00
Golf shirts	\$60.00
Membership sales	\$1,020.00
Mugs	\$50.00
Interest on Chequing	\$0.32
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,195.32</b>
Expenses	
CDs	\$27.89
MUUG Online	\$70.00
Newsletter and Mailbox	\$950.82
Promotions	\$87.48
Service Charges	\$1.24
Transfer to GICs	\$5.25
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,142.68</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$52.64</b>

## 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).

## MUUG Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday, October 10th, 2006**

**7:30pm**

**IBM Canada, 400 Ellice Ave.**

Please come to our regular monthly meeting, which will also be the annual general meeting, where the new MUUG board will be elected.