MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

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Editor: Tyhr Trubiak

Next Meeting: October 6th, 2026

In Person and Online

MUUG meets on the first Tuesday of the month.

Main Presentation – pivot-root

Ready for the ultimate geek-out? How about manipulating your disk partitions on a running system? Now how about moving or shrinking your root filesystem on a running system? Now how about doing it all over a remote ssh connection, maybe because your box is in another city or country?

Impossible you say? Not with Linux! And why on earth would you want to do this? How about your hosting company refuses to setup the partitions the way you want them on your new box? Or maybe your /boot partition is old and no longer big enough for all the latest kernel initramfs images?

Trevor Cordes will guide you through the insanity of using pivot-root, in a demo-heavy slide-light manner, to make all of your wildest dreams come true.

Where to Find the Meeting:

Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club
598 St. Mary's Rd. Winnipeg, MB.

MUUG holds their meetings at the Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club (WSC). The WSC has graciously offered to host MUUG meetings going forward. Several current and past MUUG members are also members of WSC. MUUG President Wyatt Zacharias will be our WSC liaison and duty officer.

WSC is located at 598 St. Mary's Road, 2nd Floor, a block South from the St. Mary's / St. Anne's fork, on the West side beside the Miller's Meats. It's in the old fire hall. Look for the red doors.

The meeting space is on the **2nd floor** and there is no elevator, so attendees will have to be able to climb 1 flight of beautiful character style stairs. Apologies to anyone requiring accessibility. It is also possible to attend via online videoconferencing: `https://muug.ca/meet`

Please Remove Your Footwear

To keep the carpets clean and dry please remove your outdoor footwear at the top of the stairs. Please feel free to bring your own comfortable indoor slippers.

Entry Log Book

To support WSC operations, we ask all guests to sign the log book provided by WSC as you enter the meeting space. They have been very generous in providing MUUG space to hold their meetings, and respectfully appreciate the log book signing.

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

If your MUUG membership has lapsed, please help support us by renewing today! Payment can be made via e-transfer, credit card, or PayPal here: `https://muug.ca/about.php#payment`

MUUG Board Elections

Call for Nominations

Trevor Cordes, Acting Nomination Committee Chair

Calling all nominations! This is the preliminary call for nominees to participate in this year's MUUG Board election. Those elected will serve on the MUUG board from November 2026 to November 2027. Any MUUG member in good standing may nominate someone they feel would make a good candidate, including themselves.

The MUUG Board is tasked with coordinating the meetings and other events hosted by the group, group promotion and newsletter editing. It's fun, it's social, and you get a role in deciding what the group will do. All members are encouraged to apply.

Every November, the group holds its annual general meeting, the main goals of the meeting are to elect the new board, and to pass any special resolutions if required. The Board may consist of up to 10 people. The following 7 members are allowing their names to stand for re-election:

Wyatt Zacharias
MUUG President
Lead Cloud Developer - Wawanesa Insurance

Trevor Cordes
MUUG Vice-president / Doorprize Don
Owner – Tecnopolis Enterprises

Gilbert Detillieux
MUUG Secretary
Retired Systems Analyst – University of Manitoba

Brad Vokey
MUUG Treasurer
Owner – Fortress Software

Kevin Abedi
Tech Wiz At Large

Kevin McGregor
Systems Specialist – City of Winnipeg

Tyhr Trubiak
Linux Administrator – University of Manitoba

Switzerland Deporting Microsoft!

Well, maybe not *deporting*, but testing a phasing out of Microsoft 365. Switzerland's federal government has launched a pilot program to move 3,000 workstations—about 7% of the federal workforce—from Microsoft 365 toward open-source alternatives. The pilot program is expected to run through the end of 2027.

Previously, a successful proof-of-concept trial of 172 federal employees tested openDesk, a German open-source collaboration and office platform. Users gave positive assessments to core functions such as document processing and email, although large-scale video conferencing still presented challenges.

During the pilot, openDesk will still operate alongside Microsoft 365 rather than replacing it outright. If successful, the project could potentially pave the way for wider adoption across the federal administration's approximately 54,000 workstations.

Why now? A major motivation is digital sovereignty. Swiss officials and researchers have raised concerns about foreign access to government data under U.S. cloud laws, dependence on a single foreign technology provider, and rising proprietary software licensing costs.

What could possibly get things done faster than the government? If you are thinking about the Army, you are correct. October 2026 is the target date the Swiss Army's Cyber Command has reported to replace Microsoft 365 with openDesk..

The initiative follows Switzerland's EMBAG law, which came into effect in 2024 and requires federal agencies to make government-developed software open source by default. In December 2025, the Federal Council also made digital sovereignty a priority, defining it as the federal government's ability to carry out its essential functions without dependence on an external supplier or country.

Switzerland joins other European governments, including France and Germany, that are exploring open-source alternatives to proprietary cloud and office platforms.

https://itsfoss.com/news/switzerland-replace-microssoft-pilot/

Bottles Gets Microsoft 365 Running on Linux

In an interesting counterpoint to governments moving away from Microsoft products, Bottles creator Mirko Brombin has successfully demonstrated Microsoft 365 running on Linux.

Brombin used Bottles 67.4 together with an *unreleased (do not try this at home)* version *11.0-11* of Soda, a Wine-based compatibility runner. Microsoft 365 installed using a Windows 10/11 Wine prefix, accepted an existing Microsoft license, and successfully launched Microsoft Word.

Aside from the typical applications like Word and Excel, what else worked? Microsoft account authentication, two-factor authentication, license detection, and OneDrive integration all worked. The Microsoft 365 environment reportedly consumed less than 500 MB of memory.

The achievement is still significant, because Microsoft still doesn't offer an official native Linux desktop version of Microsoft 365. Office compatibility remains one of the barriers for some users considering a move from Windows to Linux.

https://itsfoss.com/news/bottles-microsoft-365-early-look/

GNOME 51 Released

GNOME 51 has arrived with performance improvements, desktop refinements, and substantial updates to several core applications.

GNOME Shell and Mutter bring smoother animations and faster screen capture, while monitor brightness is now remembered between sessions. HDR and multi-monitor handling have also been improved, and support for legacy NVIDIA driver interfaces has been removed (*not sure I consider that a feature*). GDM closes an autologin security issue, while Remote Desktop adds Kerberos authentication and smartcard forwarding for enterprise users.

Several bundled applications receive notable upgrades. Maps can now download regions for offline use and improves public transit information with live departures *(although does not improve Winnipeg Transit times)*, delays, platform details, and walking times. Software warns about end-of-life applications, while Files (Nautilus) improves performance, file selection, drag-and-drop, and notifications.

Settings adds DNS search-domain configuration, improved fingerprint enrolment, automatic screen rotation, and an option to disable a laptop touchpad when a mouse is connected *(yay!)*. The Papers document viewer can now add handwritten visual signatures to documents, and GNOME 51 also introduces expanded accessibility improvements and a new default wallpaper, Roundhex, along with several additional backgrounds…although I always seem to have too many windows open to ever see these wallpapers…

https://release.gnome.org/51/

Firefox 155 Improves Page Loading with Smarter Connections

Firefox 155 introduces two networking improvements designed to make web pages connect and load faster: Happy Eyeballs v3 and QUIC v2 support for HTTP/3.

Happy Eyeballs v3 changes how Firefox chooses a connection to a website. Rather than trying one option and waiting for it to fail before trying another, Firefox can attempt multiple connection paths simultaneously—including IPv4, IPv6, HTTP/2 and HTTP/3—and use whichever responds first. This should reduce delays caused by a slow or broken connection path. The feature requires no configuration, although Mozilla notes that it is currently supported only on some platforms.

Firefox 155 also adds QUIC v2 support for HTTP/3. More importantly, Firefox can negotiate the newer QUIC version without an additional round trip between browser and server. That can shave some latency from establishing a connection, particularly on slower or less reliable networks.

The release includes several other additions, including tracker counts in the address bar and the ability to reorder containers. Firefox also continues to support the full version of uBlock Origin, while Chrome's transition away from Manifest V2 has left

Chromium users with the more limited uBlock Origin Lite.

https://itsfoss.com/news/firefox-155-faster-page-loads/

CERN Moving 2,200+ Accelerator Control Systems to Debian 13

If you feel that our current timeline has recently been *unstable...* CERN might have found a solution.
CERN is migrating more than 2,200 industrial computers and embedded systems used to control its particle accelerators to Debian 13 by the end of 2026. The change applies specifically to accelerator control systems, not CERN's entire IT infrastructure.

A major reason is hardware compatibility. RHEL 9 no longer supports the CPU generation used by CERN's oldest boards, representing about 47% of its control-system fleet, while RHEL 10 would exclude another 17% using Ivy Bridge-generation processors.

CERN plans to use Debian's LTS/ELTS support to maintain the systems over their long operational life and has begun sponsoring Freexian, which supports Debian's extended maintenance programs.

The migration also modernizes deployment. CERN is replacing its older NFS/TFTP-based boot infrastructure with a Kubernetes-based system that separates boot components and automatically reconciles deployed systems with their intended configurations. Cool!

https://itsfoss.com/news/cern-debian-push/

VLC Update

VLC 3.0.24 "Vetinari" is a major maintenance update adding FFmpeg 8.1 support, APV and Atrac3/Atrac9 decoding, improved subtitles and closed captions, SFTP public-key authentication; and several Chromecast, SMB2 and streaming improvements. The release also fixes numerous crashes, hangs and media-format issues, along with multiple security vulnerabilities including out-of-bounds, integer-overflow, double-free and use-after-free flaws.

https://9to5linux.com/vlc-3-0-24-released-with-apv-and-atrac3-atrac9-decoding-ffmpeg-8-1-support

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https://www.linux-magazine.com/

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