



# MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

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## Next Meeting: January 8th, 2008

### Network Monitoring with Zenoss

*Adam Thompson, Divisional IT Dept.,  
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How do you keep tabs on your equipment? Do you remember to check free disk space on a regular basis? Have you set up MRTG to monitor every single network interface on every single system? Have you set up Nagios to alert you whenever any service on any server goes down?

Most people don't have satisfactory answers to these questions. MRTG and RRDTool are time-consuming and sometimes difficult to set up, and ongoing configuration is difficult. Getting Nagios going can be an exercise in frustration for the newcomer to network monitoring, and ongoing configuration is a task best left to experts. Monitoring the dozens (or hundreds) of parameters that tell you whether a system is working properly or not is, quite simply, a royal pain.

The developers of Zenoss thought that, too. Rather than building another bolt-on front-end to an aging platform (nagios) or a limited-function tool (mrtg) they just started building a new system that worked the "right" way. Enter Zenoss.

Zenoss isn't 100% feature-complete vis-à-vis expertly-installed Nagios and MRTG, but it's enough of the way there to make it a lot easier to set up and get going. Zenoss automatically discovers devices on your network, then using SNMP, TCP probes, WMI

or telnet discovers what services exist on those devices, and automatically sets up polling of several relevant pieces of information.

Adam will attempt to cover the fundamentals of how Zenoss works, how to get Zenoss up and running on your network, and time permitting will demonstrate some of its features on a live network.

Adam Thompson

### 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:

**February 12th, 2008: To Be Announced**

**March 11th, 2008: To Be Announced**

Future meeting topics may change.

## Samba Gains Access to Microsoft Code

December 21, 2007 / Newsfactor.com

In exchange for a one-time fee of €10,000 (approx C\$14,000), the non-profit Protocol Freedom Information Foundation (PFIF) will be able to provide Samba with the necessary documentation for implementing all of Microsoft's Workgroup Server Protocols covered by the European Commission's landmark anti-trust decision.

Microsoft has entered into a licensing agreement with the PFIF under which the software giant will be providing developers working on the Samba file and printing system with the information they need to ensure interoperability between their open-source software and Windows.

The agreement clarifies the exact patent numbers involved so there is no possibility of misunderstanding. Microsoft is prevented from asserting any patents against any implementation developed using the supplied documentation, noted Samba cocreator Jeremy Allison. In addition, Microsoft's warranty under the agreement extends to all third parties, he said.

Jeremy Allison, co-creator of Samba, explained that the next step is for interested free software developers to approach the PFIF to ask to become subcontractors so they can get access to the documentation. "It may take a couple of weeks to establish that process, but I hope that early in the new year we will see the first results start to filter through, with new features in Samba and other projects."

## Jun-ichiro "itojun" Itoh Hagino passes

Jun-ichiro "itojun" Itoh Hagino passed away on October 29, 2007 at the age of 37.

To those in the BSD communities he was simply Itojun, best known in his role as IPv6 KAME project core researcher. Itojun did the vast majority of the work to get IPv6 into the BSD network stacks. He was also instrumental in moving IPv6 forward in all aspects through his participation in IETF protocol design meetings. Itojun was helpful to everyone around him, and dedicated to his work. He believed and worked toward making technology available to everyone. He will be missed, and always remembered.

## OpenBSD 4.2 released

Nov 1, 2007 / openbsd-announce

We are pleased to announce the official release of OpenBSD 4.2. This is our 22nd release on CD-ROM (and 23rd via FTP). We remain proud of OpenBSD's record of more than ten years with only two remote holes in the default install.

We dedicate this release to the memory of long-time developer Jun-ichiro "itojun" Itoh Hagino, who focused his life on IPv6 deployment for everyone. Without his BSD and IETF participation, IPv6 would not be where it is today. Only now people are becoming aware of his numerous contributions because he took credit for much less than he accomplished. The developers in our project will all miss him.

## NetBSD 4.0 released

Dec. 19, 2007 / netbsd-announce

The NetBSD Project is pleased to announce that release 4.0 of the NetBSD operating system is now available. NetBSD is a free, secure, and highly portable Unix-like Open Source operating system available for many platforms, from 64-bit Opteron machines and desktop system to handheld and embedded devices. Its clean design and advanced features make

it excellent in both production and research environments, and it is user-supported with complete source. Many applications are easily available through pkgsrc, the NetBSD Packages Collection.

Major achievements in NetBSD 4.0 include support for version 3 of the Xen virtual machine monitor, Bluetooth, many new device drivers and embedded platforms based on ARM, PowerPC and MIPS CPUs. New network services include iSCSI target (server) code and an implementation of the Common Address Redundancy Protocol. Also, system security was further enhanced with restrictions of mprotect(2) to enforce W^X policies, the Kernel Authorization framework, and improvements of the Veriexec file integrity subsystem, which can be used to harden the system against trojan horses and virus attacks.

NetBSD 4.0 is dedicated to the memory of Jun-Ichiro "itojun" Hagino, who died in October 2007. Itojun was a member of the KAME project, which provided IPv6 and IPsec support; he was also a member of the NetBSD core team (the technical management for the project), and one of the Security Officers. Due to Itojun's efforts, NetBSD was the first open source operating system with a production ready IPv6 networking stack, which was included in the base system before many people knew what IPv6 was. We are grateful to have known and worked with Itojun, and we know that he will be missed. This release is therefore dedicated, with thanks, to his memory.

## Apples For The Army

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 / forbes.com

Given Apple's marketing toward the young and the trendy, you wouldn't expect the U.S. Army to be much of a customer. Lieutenant Colonel C.J. Wallington is hoping hackers won't expect it either.

Wallington, a division chief in the Army's office of enterprise information systems, says the military is quietly working to integrate Macintosh computers into its systems to make them harder to hack. That's because fewer attacks have been designed to infiltrate Mac computers, and adding more Macs to the mili-

tary's computer mix makes it tougher to destabilize a group of military computers with a single attack, Wallington says.

## Dell announces Ubuntu 7.10 PCs with DVD playback

Dec. 18, 2007 / DesktopLinux.com

Dell has told DesktopLinux.com that it will be announcing later today, Dec. 19, that it will be releasing PCs with Ubuntu 7.10 (aka Gutsy Gibbon) as part of its Dell Consumer Linux lineup along with the ability to legally play DVDs.

According to Dell spokesperson Anne B. Camden, the "Dell Inspiron 530N desktop and Inspiron 1420N notebook PCs are now available with Ubuntu 7.10 pre-installed." Both of these models were part of Dell's second wave of Ubuntu-powered PCs, which were released in June 2007

## Use OpenOffice.org from a web browser

Today, Ulteo started the test drive of their new platform, Ulteo Online Desktop. You can now launch, test and use OpenOffice.org from a web browser on any Internet device.

More details can be found at <http://www.ulteo.com/home/ooo/>

## MacOS X 10.5 "Leopard" is UNIX®

The new version of Apple's operating system now complies with the Single UNIX Specification 2003 (SUS-03), according to the Open Group. MacOS X now joins only three other products carrying SUS 03 certification, HP/UX, Solaris and AIX/5L.

While both the server and client versions are certified, OS X is only certified as UNIX® when running on Intel processors.

Interestingly, OS X 10.5 was certified on May 18th, 2007 – but the product wasn't released until October 26th, 2007. Go figure.

## Adobe Flash Player for Linux

Adobe recently released its new Flash Player for Linux at the same time as the new Windows and MacOS versions. It seems Linux is slowly losing its second-class-citizen status with Adobe.

Reports are that while this release puts the Linux flash player on par with Windows/MacOS, there is a noticeable performance hit compared to the previous version for Linux. Notably, the new flash player supports HD video formats, which would require a fairly substantial system no matter what application you're using..

## Alpine 1.00 brings PINE back

Alpine v1.00 has been released by the University of Washington.

“On the surface, Alpine will appear strikingly similar to the Pine Message System, and it is upwards-compatible for existing Pine users. Alpine is released under the Apache License, Version 2.0. The source code has been reorganized from the ground up to separate the user interface code from the underlying email engine itself. All of the source needed to build Unix, Windows, and Web-based mail user agents is included.”

See <http://www.washington.edu/alpine/> for more info.

## BusyBox, Xterasys settle GPL lawsuit

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 / [softwarefreedom.org](http://softwarefreedom.org)

The Software Freedom Law Center, provider of pro-bono legal services to protect and advance Free and Open Source Software (FOSS), today announced that it has settled the GPL violation lawsuit filed on behalf of BusyBox developers Erik Andersen and Rob Landley against Xterasys Corporation.

As a result of the settlement, Xterasys has agreed to cease all binary distribution of BusyBox until SFLC confirms it has published complete corresponding source code on its Web site. Once SFLC verifies that the complete source code is available, Xterasys' full rights to distribute BusyBox under the GPL will be reinstated.

Additionally, Xterasys has agreed to appoint an internal Open Source Compliance Officer to monitor and ensure GPL compliance, and to notify previous recipients of BusyBox from Xterasys of their rights to the software under the GPL. Xterasys will also pay an undisclosed amount of financial consideration to the plaintiffs.

## 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).

Seen at [www.thinkgeek.com](http://www.thinkgeek.com):

*“There's no place like 127.0.0.1”*

