



# MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

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Editor: Wyatt Zacharias

## Next Meeting: October 14th, 2014

### RTFM and presentation:

This month, Adam Thompson will talk about setting up a 100% UNIX- and Linux-based network and hosting environment. Adam will give a high-level overview of each major component, including Routing with BGP, Firewalling, VM Hosting, DNS, Mail, Monitoring with SNMP and more.

Check our web site for updates, including this month's RTFM topic.

## Where to Find the Meeting



University of Winnipeg Lockhart Hall (marked "L" on the map), on the south-east corner of Spence and Ellice. Parking is available on the surrounding streets. Meetings are normally in room 1L08, but occasionally are relocated to nearby rooms. If there is a change, it should be conveyed via a sign on the door to 1L08.

## MUUG Mugs!

Back by popular demand! MUUG now has new coffee mugs, cobalt blue and deep laser-etched with our age old, lovable logo for sale for \$15 cash. They are quality mugs, made in the USA, and have a fairly large volume capacity. Want a mug but can't make meetings? Ask on the mailing list and most likely a board member can deliver one within Winnipeg.

## MUUG Board Elections

### Call for Nominations

*Adam Thompson, 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 2014 to November 2015. 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. It's fun, 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. 8 positions are currently filled, and as of writing, the following members are allowing their names to stand for re-election:

## **Trevor Cordes**

Owner – Tecnopolis Enterprises

## **Gilbert Detillieux**

Systems Analyst – University of Manitoba

## **Michael Doob**

Professor – University of Manitoba

## **Robert Keizer**

Owner – Argyle Machine

## **Kevin McGregor**

Systems Specialist – City of Winnipeg

## **Adam Thompson**

Proprietor – CustomHosting.ca

## **Brad Vokey**

Owner – Fortress Software

## **Wyatt Zacharias**

Unix/Linux Administrator – Manitoba Blue Cross

## **BASH ‘Shellshock’ Vulnerability**

On September 24<sup>th</sup> a vulnerability in the widely used Bash shell was disclosed. This vulnerability allows hackers to execute arbitrary code by passing specially crafted environment variables.

Bash is widely used by web servers and other internet daemons to execute commands on a server. By passing these special environment variables to the web server, it can be compromised, and access to the system can be gained.

By September 25<sup>th</sup>, botnets composed of servers compromised by the vulnerability had already appeared, and were being used to scan for, and attack more machines found to be vulnerable.

In addition to affecting many distributions of Linux, the Shellshock vulnerability may pose a risk to some Mac OS users. Anyone who has remote login enabled



for all users, or is running an Apache web server with PHP, could allow the exploit to be used.

Apple has not currently released a patch for Bash on OS X, stating the probability of users being vulnerable is low.

<http://goo.gl/ysgavf>

<http://goo.gl/JcvC95>

## **Ubuntu Touch Finalized**



Many readers will remember the Ubuntu Edge campaign, which took place in July 2013, for those who don't, it was Canonical's attempt to crowd-fund a "high concept" smartphone with a funding goal of 32 million dollars. Although the campaign only reached 12 of its 32 million goal, and a crowd funded phone still far from reality, the Ubuntu Touch OS has been officially released as an RTM, which will be shipping on phones this December.

Canonical has announced that the China's Meizu, and Spain's BQ will be the first partners making Ubuntu phones. Meizu will be releasing the MX4 in December, featuring the MediaTek MT6595 SoC.

<http://goo.gl/jzqwck>

<http://goo.gl/oorZLW>

## **Apple iOS8 and Android L Will Feature Full Encryption By Default**

With the release of Apple's latest mobile operating system iOS8, Apple has said that they no longer have the ability to access data on users phones protected by a password. In previous versions, when Apple was presented with a search warrant, there were mechanisms that allowed apple to gain access to the phone. This is no longer the case, as even if a search warrant is presented to Apple, they do not have the capability to unlock the phone. Shortly after Apple's announcement, Google has followed suit, stating that the soon to be released, and still unnamed Android L will also feature the same type of encryption.

These announcements have sparked great concern from the FBI, and other law enforcement agencies. FBI director James Comey commented that they are

concerned these companies are “marketing something expressly to allow people to place themselves above the law”

<http://goo.gl/8JH1OG>

<http://goo.gl/F9sHhv>

## PayPal Now Processes BitCoin



PayPal has recently announced that the online payment giant, which up until now has not shown any signs of being interested in bitcoin, will now be allowing merchants to accept bitcoin with an instant conversion to real currency. Paypal has partnered with BitPay, Coinbase and GoCoin to process the bitcoin transactions. Because GoCoin also processes Litecoin and Doge Coin, PayPal merchants may also choose to accept those digital currencies as well.

This announcement brought short spikes to the coin's prices, but they soon fell to the original or lower prices.

<http://goo.gl/jVUXxv>

## Tesla Announces Nevada as Site for New Battery Factory

At the beginning of September, Tesla Motors has announced that they have selected the state of Nevada as the home for their “Gigafactory” which will produce all of the lithium batteries used in new Tesla vehicles.

The new battery plant is slated to produce 50GWh of battery capacity per year, enough for 500,000 Tesla vehicles. The new plant, which will open in 2020, is designed to have a net-zero energy usage, meaning all of its energy requirements will be met by renewable means, such as geothermal, wind, and solar.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk had hoped to build the factory in his home state of California, but the Lawmakers of the state were unable to complete an incentive package that could meet Nevada within the necessary time limits.



<http://goo.gl/J1pkJZ>

## Ubuntu 14.04.1 LTS Released

The first point release Ubuntu 14.04 LTS has been released bringing with it updates and bug fixes to the default installation.

<http://goo.gl/SGnigl>

## Changes In Environmental Handling Fees

Starting October 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be changes in the Environmental Handling Fees, reducing the fee on desktop computers from \$15.00 to \$5.50. Fees on laptops, multifunction printers, and computer peripherals were also reduced.

## Lotus 1-2-3 Reaches End Of Life After 30 Years.

After over 30 years of development and support, the end of life date has been reached on Lotus 1-2-3, and IBM has said it has no plans to release further support packages. Lotus 1-2-3 was first released in 1983 competing with VisiCorp's VisiCalc. Lotus 1-2-3 quickly overtook VisiCalc in popularity becoming the number 1 spreadsheet editor for the PC. Some of our younger readers may never have even used Lotus 1-2-3 before, with Microsoft Excel becoming the leader in spreadsheet and office applications around the mid 90's.

<http://goo.gl/go6sqz>

## MUUG Mirroring Requests

As you may know, MUUG mirrors several Linux distributions (such as Fedora and Ubuntu) for the benefit of members and geographically (networkally?) close members of the public. Your Linux install may be using MUUG's server, [lisa.muug.mb.ca](http://lisa.muug.mb.ca), without even knowing it, as most package managers now determine the fastest (usually closest) mirrors automatically.

MUUG will be expanding disk capacity in the near future and we are soliciting requests for additional things to mirror. "More distros" is an obvious candidate, but other non-distro ideas have been bandied about, such as Wikipedia. If you have a favourite mirror you would like to see mirrored on lisa, let us know at meetings, on the mailing list, or directly at [board@muug.mb.ca](mailto:board@muug.mb.ca).

First priority will go to suggestions by members.

## Seven, Eight, Ten?

Microsoft has released a beta version of their successor to Windows 8.1 called Windows 10. During the announcement of Windows 10, Microsoft stated it "wouldn't be right" to call the release Windows 9 given its importance. This claim was instantly met with suspicion, and speculation as to what the real reason behind the name choice is.

One user on Reddit, who claimed to be a developer at Microsoft, said the internal rumours were that legacy code is using a dirty version check to see if the version is Windows 95 or 98, by checking if the version is simply Windows 9\*.

<http://goo.gl/NNcMN4>

## ISS Gets Two New Earth Facing Cameras

Canada's robotic Canadarm2 will be installing



*NASA photo of Canadarm2*

two new earth facing cameras on the US side of the space station, eliminating the need for astronauts to do the work themselves. Technical problems had forced the Russians to perform similar work manually earlier this year.

<http://goo.gl/Tk1kDP>

## Verizon Caves to FCC Pressure, Agrees to Stop Throttling Unlimited Customers

Verizon was intending to roll out a new "network optimization" plan this month, but decided not to go through with the decision after criticism from the FCC chairman Tom Wheeler. All cellular carriers throttle traffic when a tower becomes too congested, but Verizon's new plan would've throttled only users on unlimited data plans. The FCC commented that throttling only certain users is not a sensible network management plan, rather it's just an attempt to boost profits.

<http://goo.gl/yJ8mSz>

## Book Discounts

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