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# MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

## September 10, 2002: Network Traffic Monitoring with MRTG and SNMP

At the January 9, 2001 meeting on Network Load Tuning, Gilbert Detillieux took us through some of the load and usage monitoring utilities that are available for UNIX, such as MRTG. However, the coverage of MRTG was rather brief, and didn't include any information on how to set it up. In this month's "Mini-HowTo" presentation, Gilbert will take us through MRTG in more detail, including how to set up a configuration file to monitor a network interface, and some of the configuration options that can be used to tune the output. The presentation will also briefly cover setting up SNMP under Linux, so that MRTG can get interface statistics from it, plus (time permitting) some tips on how to secure that setup.

The meeting will also include our usual round-table discussion, plus some preliminary discussion on the proposed by-law amendments and the call for nominations for the MUUG board.

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 7:15 PM, so the meeting can start promptly at 7:30 PM. Don't be late, or you may not get in.

Limited parking is available for free on the street, or in a lot across Ellice from IBM, for $1.00 for the evening. Indoor parking is also available nearby, at Portage Place, for $2.00 for the evening.

## A Review of the MUUG By-Laws – Ten Years After

*By Gilbert Detillieux*

The MUUG By-Laws were first drafted in the summer of 1992, with a final draft (Draft 6) written on September 28, and approved by the membership at the annual meeting in October 1992. Ten years have passed since then, and many things have changed: the UNIX trademark has changed hands a few times, UniForum Canada (of which MUUG was an affiliate) has ceased to exist, and the group has had to make do with a much smaller board, due to attrition and a reduced membership base.

During that time, the by-laws had been more-or-less forgotten, and many of the current members may not even be aware of their existence. They were, however, approved by the membership in 1992, and do still remain in effect. It is therefore important that they be brought up to date, to reflect the current status of the group, and still offer a viable framework for the operation of the group.

We therefore propose that the group vote on a special resolution to amend the by-laws at the October meeting. Most of the proposed changes are trivial corrections, to update and correct the trademark attribution, and to remove articles that refer to the now-defunct UniForum Canada. We also propose a couple of more significant changes.

First, the minimum number of directors on the board should be changed from five to three. At the time of the by-laws' drafting, the group was much larger, and involved in more activities, requiring a larger number of board members. Since the group is now smaller and more focused, we've managed just fine with only three board members for several years. The by-laws should therefore reflect this, in part to legitimise our current board, but more importantly, not to overly burden the board and the membership at large with the need to fill vacancies should we ever fall below the minimum. (This is not to say that we shouldn't strive to elect more than the minimum number of directors to the board each year. On the contrary, it is highly desirable to have the extra directors to share the load of running the group, and to avoid falling below the minimum number should one or more directors have to resign before their term is up.)

Second, a new by-law article dealing with finance is proposed. This would "fill the gap" created by the proposed deletion of another article, but more importantly, it would make explicit the accountability of the treasurer to the group, by requiring the presence of that person at a general meeting at least once a year. (This has never been a problem in the past, so it's really just a formality.)

According to the current by-laws, any notice of motion to alter them must be supported by at least five group members in good standing. We therefore are presenting the draft notice of motion one month early, in order that it can be discussed at the September meeting, and the required number of supporters added to the motion for submission to the board.

Here is the draft notice, with the specific proposed amendments to the MUUG by-laws:

### Notice of Motion to Amend MUUG By-Laws

To be tabled as a Special Resolution at the Annual Meeting on October 8, 2002.

That the MUUG By-Laws (Draft 6, dated September 28, 1992) be amended as indicated below:

1. (f) shall now read as follows: "UNIX is a registered trademark of The Open Group in the United States and other countries"

3. (c) shall no longer include: "(e.g.: UniForum and its affiliates)"

3. last sentence of last paragraph shall no longer include: ", and supporting the activities and initiatives of UniForum Canada"

5. (a) "not less than five Directors" shall be revised as follows: "not less than three Directors"

11. (f) shall be deleted.

11. (f) shall now read as follows: "The Treasurer will report directly to Members at a general meeting at least once per year."

12. (c) shall be deleted.

Submitted by Gilbert Detillieux.

Supported by Kevin McGregor, Doug Shewfelt, ______________________, and ______________________.

The complete text for the current draft of the by-laws can be found online, in various formats: http://www.muug.mb.ca/pub/bylaws/

## MUUG Board Elections - Call for Nominations

*Gilbert Detillieux Election Committee Chair*

It's been quite some time since we've made a formal call for nominations, but it's long overdue. After adopting the MUUG by-laws in 1992, a formal election was held. The following two years, a call for nominations went out, but the end result was a board elected by acclamation. The records for the years that follow aren't clear, but it would appear that the same board members have stood by acclamation for quite some time.

With the proposed amendments to the by-laws, on their 10th anniversary, we thought it appropriate to once again adhere to the election procedures outlined therein. The remaining three board members have all agreed to let their names stand again, so here is the initial list of nominees:

- Gilbert Detillieux, Systems Analyst, University of Manitoba
- Kevin McGregor, Network Specialist, City of Winnipeg
- Doug Shewfelt, Systems Specialist, City of Winnipeg

Of course, this list is just a starting point. Any member in good standing of the group can be nominated simply by getting the support of one other member. If you feel you would like to contribute to the group by running for a board position, please don't hesitate to do so. (In fact, we'd like to see the number of board members increase.)

If you want to be nominated, or to nominate someone else, send a letter to the group's postal box or deliver it in person to a current board member. The letter must contain the name, title, and employer of the nominee, along with a short (100 word or so) biography, and must contain the signatures of the nominee and one other member. The letter must be received no later than September 24, 2002, which is 14 days prior to the October 8 meeting.

Although the by-laws require that the nominations be done in writing, with signatures, you can speed up the process by also sending us e-mail to <election@muug.mb.ca>, with the above information, and sending the signed paper copy later. In this case, please include the e-mail address of both the nominee and the supporter on the CC: list of the message, so that all parties concerned have a record of the communication.

If you have any questions about the election or the nomination process, please contact Gilbert Detillieux, either by phone (474-8161) during business hours or by e-mail to <election@muug.mb.ca>.

# Mozilla, Again!

Mozilla.org has just announced the release of Mozilla 1.1. Overall, Mozilla.org said it has increased application and layout performance, as well as stability and Web site compatibility. The group has also provided improved CSS, DOM and HTML standards support.

The group has added fullscreen mode on Linux, improved filtering and a "New Directory" button for the Linux File Picker, and better Bi-Directional Arabic and Hebrew support including improved layout of Arabic pages on Linux (and other platforms without their own Arabic shaping support).

For the Mac platform, the group has enabled MathML for Mozilla on Macintosh (it was already available on Windows and Linux), and enabled Mozilla to take advantage of Quartz rendering from Mac OS X 10.1.5.

Windows was not left out of the loop. Mozilla can now trigger Microsoft Dial-up Networking (DUN) when started without a connection, and features a new button in preferences for making Mozilla the default browser on Windows.

Other features that cross platforms include:

- Distinct window icons for the different Mozilla applications
- A new button on the tab bar for creating new tabs
- All Search entry points now utilize the user's default search engine
- Download Manager has been enabled as the default download view
- More intelligent completion has been added to Autocomplete in the location bar
- Improvements make downloads handle file extensions more accurately, and the correct files are now saved when saving complete Web pages
- Drag and drop support has been improved
- Context clicking on a selection now offers the ability to view the HTML source of the selected area
- Page info displays more page information
- New layout performance enhancements targeted at DHTML
- Support for displaying XBM images
- Image and plug-in blocking for Mail & News
- The ability to view HTML mail messages as plain text
- The ability to quote the current message in a Mail compose window
- Improved tab completion and the ability to join channels with Japanese names in Chatzilla.

Visit www.mozilla.org or your distribution's web site for source and binaries.

# Samba 2.2.5

Only a week or so after the June MUUG meeting, the Samba Team announced Samba 2.2.5. This is the latest stable release of Samba, and is the version that all production Samba servers should be running for all current bug-fixes. There have been several fixes and internal enhancements which include:

- Several compile fixes for Solaris and HP-UX
- More printing fixes for Windows NT/2000/XP clients
- New options for the VFS Recycle Bin library
- New internal signal handling semantics relating to directory change notification and oplocks

There are many more features and fixes included in this release. Visit www.samba.org for the complete list, and download the source and/or binaries. You should, of course, also consider visiting the web site for your distribution for simpler – and supported – installation.

On a related note, the more adventurous of you should check out the Samba-TNG project (www.samba-tng.org), whose object is specifically to replicate the functionality of a Windows NT 4.0 domain controller. They can always use testers and documenters, if not programmers!

# Sun's Linux Foray

Sun Microsystems, Inc. attacked the low-cost, entry server market with enterprise-class systems know-how in new Linux and Solaris™-based systems that include industry-leading software and system design. At a press conference in San Francisco August 12th, Sun unveiled the Sun™ LX50, an x86-architecture entry-level server. The new system is loaded with Sun and open source software, the Sun Open Net Environment (Sun ONE) software stack, the customer's choice of Sun's new enterprise-ready Linux or the Solaris Operating Environment (OE) and a full suite of support services.

The enterprise-ready Sun LX50 server lowers cost of ownership and helps to fill the security and stability gap that 32-bit Windows-based systems leave wide open. Starting at $2,795 (U.S. List), the Sun LX50 includes fully integrated infrastructure software, improved manageability and the single source for hardware and software support and professional services that most vendors' entry systems lack.

"Our enterprise customers asked us to apply our systems approach to entry servers. They wanted easy, rapid implementation and full systems support, without the current viruses, security issues and licensing headaches of Windows," said Neil Knox, executive vice president of Volume Systems Products at Sun. "The Sun LX50 system is a powerful alternative to the limitations of Microsoft and the piecemeal software/hardware approach of other vendors who pass complexity and cost on to customers. By turning the server into a system we're taking a knife to complexity and cost and creating value for our customers."

Sun will offer its entire Sun One software stack on its 32-bit Linux and Solaris systems. The Sun LX50 is the first general purpose 32-bit x86 system to feature enterprise-ready Linux, based on the standard 2.4 Linux kernel, pre-installed and optimized to deliver stability, security, ease of installation and set up and remote manageability. Linux, like the Solaris OE, includes optimized and tested drivers and easily integrates with Java™ technology and the Sun ONE platform.

Customers can also opt for Solaris x86 which offers existing Solaris customers the economy of scale to build out infrastructure applications at the edge of their network with x86 hardware as well as the common development, deployment and management of Solaris across all infrastructure tiers. Sun provides a set of tools, programs and Solaris features for easy, seamless switching between the two operating systems. The Sun LX50 includes valuable software that puts the new server in a league of its own for edge applications, compute farms, high-performance and technical computing or custom application deployment. The software can be used for Web serving, email, grid computing, streaming media, databases and Web commerce. Software applications include: Java 2 SDK Standard Edition, Sun ONE ASP for Linux, TomCat (JSP), MySQL (Database), Apache (Webserver), WU-FTPD (FTP), Sendmail (Email Server), Bind (DNS Server), Sun Grid Engine and Sun Streaming Server.

The Sun LX50 is powered by either single or dual 1.4 GHz x86 processors in a reliable, 1U (1.75-inch high) rack server. It can be configured with up to 6GB of memory and 216 GB of internal storage.

## Join Our (E-)Mailing Lists

Nearly every MUUG meeting includes a "round table", an open question–and–answer period in which every attendee can ask about something they would like help with or information about. In addition, there is a corresponding MUUG-managed mailing list where more questions can be asked and follow-ups posted. It seems that not everyone has been made aware of the existence of the latter.

Some of you have already signed up at http://www.muug.mb.ca/mailman/listinfo/roundtable. The more people there are on the list, the more valuable it becomes. Even if you don't currently have questions or answers, sign up today and join in when you see an opening!

While you're there, sign up at an additional cost of nothing to the MUUG-Announce list, which is used to notify list-members of upcoming meetings, other events and last-minute changes. Traffic on this list is low, so don't worry about your Inbox filling up on account of this one!

## 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?

## We Like To Hear From You

So e-mail us with your comments on the newsletter, whether it's criticisms or commendations, and continue to send in some ideas for articles. We will happily accept complete articles, too. 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? Mailto: editor@muug.mb.ca.