MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Volume 36 No. 2, October 2023 Editor: Trevor E Cordes

Next Meeting: October 3rd, 2023 7:30pm

In Person and Online

For the remainder of 2023 (and possibly longer), the meeting will be held both physically in person, and online via our Big Blue Button videoconferencing server. We encourage all members to attend in person. If you cannot attend in person, you can watch and interact with the meeting online and partake of our professional-grade camera, microphone, and dedicated stream moderator.

If you show up in person you will be treated to more beverage choices than we've offered in over a decade: coffee, tea, and pop, as well as cookies. And parking is free, copious, safe, and just a handful of feet from the door.

Please stay home if you are sick that day.

To attend via internet, check and refresh the following link after 7:00pm. There is no need to create an account in BBB, nor login. Just enter any name as your screen name and hit **join**.

https://muug.ca/meet

RTFM: libheif

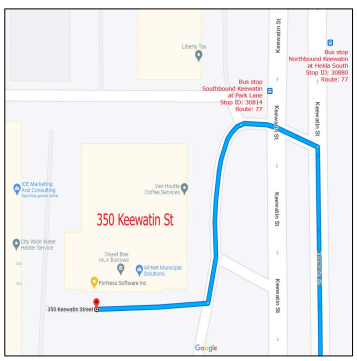
Wyatt Zacharias will provide a brief overview of the "new" high efficiency image file format (HEIF) using some of the native tools provided by the libheif library as well as third party applications to work with this new format. Additionally Wyatt will demonstrate how to build the latest version of the library to add support for HEVC encoded images created by newer devices.

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

Where to Find the Meeting

We are continuing to meet on the first Tuesday of every month.

Fortress Software Inc.
350 Keewatin St – Unit #2



Doors will open at 7:00pm. Meeting starts at 7:30pm.

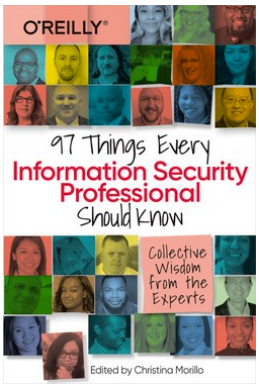
If driving, enter the lot using the most north-eastern entrance (far right in the top picture) and drive around to the south west corner of the building (see route in map detail). You can use any of the free, ample, and

safe parking spots that say “reserved” or “MUUG” in front of units #1 through #4 before entering into unit #2. Look for the sign over the door!

Bus stops #30814 and #30880 (route 77) are only 150 meters away. The last bus leaves for Polo Park at 10:15 pm and for Garden City at 10:31 pm. Logan Ave. bus routes #19, #26, and #27 are a 600 meter (8 minute) walk to the south.

Door Prizes

We have dead trees! This month we will be giving away as one of the door prizes another physical copy of *97 Things Every Information Security Professional Should Know* on *O’Reilly*.



Their *97 Things* series has been going on for a while now and is similar to, and somewhat replaces, their older *Hacks* series. Each one is a mash-up of on-topic anecdotes and tidbits deemed to be of the most importance by each contributing author.

> *Whether you’re searching for new or additional opportunities, information security can be vast and overwhelming. In this practical guide, author Christina Morillo introduces technical knowledge from a diverse range of experts in the infosec field. Through 97 concise and useful tips, you’ll learn how to expand your skills and solve common issues by working through everyday security problems.*

New for this month, your choice of *NIX-themed stickers will be offered as a couple of prize draws. See the *Stickers* section later in this newsletter.

Additionally, a few *Communications of the ACM* magazines graciously donated by Dan Keizer will be up for grabs as door prizes. And, as usual, we will be giving away a couple of e-books, including one graciously donated by Michael W. Lucas of Tilted Windmill Press.

Everyone is encouraged to enter the door prize draw, both in-person and virtual attendees. You don’t have to be a member to enter, but members have exclusive access to the first draw. Members also get the privilege of not having to be present (physically or virtually) for the draw in order to claim their prize.

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 2023 to November 2024. 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. The following 8 members are allowing their names to stand for re-election:

Alberto Abrao

IT Specialist – Canadian Centre For Child Protection

Chris Audet

MUUG Social Media Ninja

Trevor Cordes

MUUG Vice-president / Doorprize Don
Owner – Tecnopolis Enterprises

Gilbert Detillieux

MUUG Secretary
Systems Analyst – University of Manitoba

Kevin McGregor

Systems Specialist – City of Winnipeg

Tyhr Trubiak

Systems Administrator – AFNCloud

Brad Vokey

MUUG Treasurer
Owner – Fortress Software

Wyatt Zacharias

MUUG President
Lead Cloud Developer - Wawanesa Insurance

Rocky Won't Take a Dive

We all know the shenanigans Red Hat pulled earlier this year: they essentially destroyed what CentOS was, and then finally just pulled all "public" access to their source code.

They are attempting to get around GPL source code stipulations by providing sources to customers with RHEL contracts, and saying they will unilaterally cancel all contracts with customers that share the source. This is all old news.

This put CentOS / RHEL clones/competitors like Rocky Linux in the position of having no product to field for their customers. It also put the very large contingent of RHEL-for-free users in the world in the tough position of having no updates for their existing systems.

But like the Rocky in the movie, Rocky Linux isn't giving up to the much stronger Drago Red Hat. Like any good computer geek, they see a problem and they calmly search for solutions. They have identified two.

> *One option is through the usage of UBI container images which are based on RHEL and available from multiple online sources (including Docker Hub). Using the UBI image, it is easily possible to obtain Red Hat sources reliably and unencumbered. We have validated this through OCI (Open Container Initiative) containers and it works exactly as expected.*

If that means what this author thinks it does, it's a somewhat silly roundabout kludge to take advantage of the fact the sources are included in publicly available OS container images. The plan must be to automate periodic fetching of said images and source yanking from which they can plunk in their existing build system.

The counterpunch by Red Hat would be to stop providing said container images, or only provide them to paying customers.

> *Another method that we will leverage is pay-per-use public cloud instances. With this, anyone can spin up RHEL images in the cloud and thus obtain the source code for all packages and errata. This is the easiest for us to scale as we can do all of this through CI pipelines, spinning up cloud images to obtain the sources via DNF, and post to our Git repositories automatically.*

This next idea is better and more difficult for Red Hat to KO. Of course it requires Rocky to pay every time they need to update the sources, but it would only be the cost one instance, which would be easy for Rocky to afford.

The block and right-jab by Red Hat for this one would be to take control of who can resell or otherwise provide RHEL images in such a way that they can dictate who can and cannot be an end customer. That would be a much more difficult task, and could result in a much larger push back by existing RHEL partners and customers, as well as community stakeholders.

These solutions must be working, as Rocky released this information at the end of June, and they've managed to keep Rocky (mostly) updated and humming along.

https://rockylinux.org/news/keeping-open-source-open/

Blocking Google?

Are you using a Javascript or domain blocker in your browser to keep Google Analytics from tracking you? So you've had google-analytics.com blocked for years. Captain's Log update: The Borg has adapted.

If you look at some of the sub-domains of google that some sites are referencing, you'll see The Borg has added a new, backdoor method of analyzing you: analytics.google.com

So update your blockers to avoid assimilation.

WTF

If one subscribes to their distros' updates mailing list (such as Fedora's), one will occasionally see strange and interesting package names that will make you go hmm.

One such package flashing by recently had the slightly disconcerting name of thef***-3.32-4 (censored to maintain our G rating).

So WTF could this package possibly do?

> *Description : This application corrects your previous console command.*
>
> *If you use BASH, you should add these lines to your .bashrc:*
>
> *alias f***='eval $(thef*** $(fc -ln -1)); history -r'*
>
> *alias F***='f***'*

Interesting. It appears that it will try to figure out what you really meant to do in your last command that probably failed spectacularly, correct it, and execute it. It remains to be seen how effectively it achieves this goal.

HP Printer Support Upgraded

HPLIP, the open source project that provides much of CUPS' HP printer support, has been updated (3.23.8) to support many additional HP Color LaserJet Enterprise and Pro series printers, and some multifunction units. HP printer lovers rejoice.

YAGR

It's almost like as exciting as another Firefox release: **Y**et **A**nother **G**nome **R**elease. Yes, GNOME is one version number newer as 45 "Riga" arrives.

What's new this time? Fractional scaling factors in Display Settings; and Nautilus has been updated and gets a "modern, full-height sidebar", a "better archiving experience" and faster generation of thumbnails.

You also get a new image viewer, called, wait for it... Image Viewer <breathless gasp> (previously called Loupe). At least they give you GPU-accelerated image rendering to make up for the lame name. Many other features abound.

https://9to5linux.com/gnome-45-riga-desktop-environment-officially-released-this-is-whats-new

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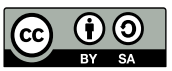

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Help us promote this month's meeting, by putting this poster up on your workplace bulletin board or other suitable public message board:

https://muug.ca/meetings/MUUGmeeting.pdf