MUUGLines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Volume 38 No. 8, April 2026

Editor: Trevor E Cordes

Next Meeting: April 7th, 2026 7:30pm

In Person and Online

Main Presentation – Audio Files For The Audiophile

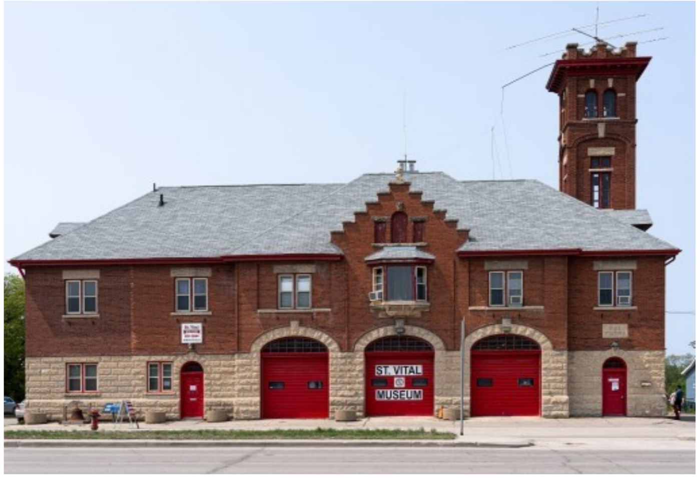
In April's presentation Reb James will delve into the nuances of ripping audio CDs into a digital format. Playing on various devices is desirable; more importantly, archiving physical media into files for multiple backups. Discs can be damaged or lost.

First is a discussion of suitable lossy/lossless audio formats. I tested available codecs in July 2024 with a new setup from previous types. Finally, the 7 step process that transforms audio into better quality than the original. Join us at the April meeting!

Where to Find the Meeting

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

MUUG has moved to a new location for the 2025-2026 season. Winnipeg Senior Citizens Radio Club (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, so you really can't miss it! 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`

Meetings are on the first Tuesday of every month except July & August. You can attend in person or online via our MUUG videoconferencing system.

Refreshments Provided

Beverages and cookies or treats will be provided.

Doors will open by 7:15pm. Meeting starts at 7:30pm, and usually adjourns between 9:00pm and 10:00pm.

To attend online, check and refresh the following link after 7:15pm. 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`

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

Door Prizes: Rasberry Pi!

This month we'll be giving away another Raspberry Pi in celebration of the recent Pi Day. There will also be two Linux Magazines given away, as well as a selection of ACM magazines donated by Dan Keizer. There is also a selection of e-books you can choose from.

And, as usual, one lucky winner can select an e-book graciously donated by Michael W. Lucas of Tilted Windmill Press (see advertisement on last page).

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 non-physical prize. However, physical prizes can only be selected by in-person attendees. If you attend online you'll have to select from one of the e-books if you win a door prize.

MUUG.ca Server Upgraded

This last month we upgraded the mirror server OS from Debian 12 to 13. If you don't notice any differences, that means we were successful! Not much changed this time around, at least regarding the daemons MUUG uses.

If you do notice any issues, please email the board or mention it on the Round Table mailing list. If you are running Debian 12, you might want to think about upgrading too. Whilst 12 ostensibly still gets security updates. they seem to be slow and/or absent in many cases.

Meddlesome Middle-Mouse Paste

Gnome developer Jordan Petridis hates the ability to paste using the middle mouse button, and has submitted proposals to get it removed from Gnome and Firefox. The worry is that "middle-clicking could paste sensitive information [...] into a page when the user does not intend to". But that "can happen with ^V as well", so...

Somewhat surprisingly, Wayland emulates the Xorg middle-mouse paste feature, so this isn't just a Xorg thing. Not to mention how are you going to get ^V paste to work in a terminal window that uses ^V for other things?

Luckily, many people love their middle mouse paste so the debate will continue. In any event, it wouldn't be hard to make it an option that worried users can disable (or power users can re-enable if Jordan wins).

Add another one to the "it's been this way for 40 years, but *NIX-user-of-only-3-years-thinks-they-know-better" pile.

https://www.linux-magazine.com/Online/News/Say-Goodbye-to-Middle-Mouse-Paste

SSL Certs Expiring Quicker

Run a web server, or any other daemon that uses SSL certificates? In the last 30 days there has been a huge change regarding for-pay SSL certs. The maximum lifetime of all certs from all providers has been reduced from 365(plus) days to 200. While you still pay annually, you have to get the re-issued cert around the 200th day and install it. That means doing work twice a year instead of once.

But wait, it gets worse. In the not too distant future that will be reduced to 100 days. Then 47 days. This will basically force every cert customer into automation.

So now there are very few reasons to pay money for certs. If you're going to automate validation and installation then you might as well just switch to Let's Encrypt free (as in beer) certs, which have always required automation.

The ostensible reason for the change is to correct the shortcomings of the CRL system, which they claim is broken, inadequate and unfixable. With shorter cert lifetimes, CRL almost becomes irrelevant. However, this smacks of a heavy-handed kludge instead of addressing the real problem.

Another reason proffered is this will allow a more rapid response to the possible Mad Max scenario of quantum computing breaking current crypto. Of course, a properly functioning CRL system also could have addressed this, and in any event it seems unlikely. If quantum breakthroughs are close the industry could shift to better algorithms preemptively, not wait until they hit the streets.

So this leaves very few, weak, reasons why one would want a for-pay cert, especially since Let's Encrypt can do SAN and wildcard certs, taking away that potential upsell. Another is OV/EV extra validation, but since browsers took away the "green bar", this seems pointless. You do get customer support, but that is basically never required by someone who already uses certs.

Lastly, the for-pay certs provide "warranties", but it turns out the warranties are for, and pay out to, only the end user, not the cert holder. And they are capped at a tiny maximum amount per incident, so they are effectively useless once a few people apply. Worst yet is the warranty is only valid if it's your cert provider who mis-issues a cert, not if other providers do it – there is not inter-provider coverage system.

The low-end cert market for small users/business – think RapidSSL $25 certs – will be killed by this. Now get busy and implement Let's Encrypt on your servers!

`https://scotthelme.co.uk/do-ssl-warranties-protect-you-as-much-as-rocks-keep-tigers-away/`

Glib Bug Turns 30

In January, a 30 year old gblic bug was patched. Yes, that means it was there since 1996 and is older than some MUUG members.

This one is important as glibc is linked to by almost every Linux program. This particular bug (CVE-2026-0915) is in getnetbyaddr() and its reverse. If you pass it an argument of "a network value of zero" the function "constructs a DNS query using uninitialized bytes from the program's stack", resulting in a memory leak, which can lead to a ASLR bypass.

It is claimed glibc is used by "billions of devices". How many other bugs are lurking out there?

`https://news.lavx.hu/article/cve-2026-0915-a-30-year-old-glibc-bug-finally-fixed`

Manitoba Taxes the Cloud

For the first time ever, the Manitoba Provincial Government has made cloud-like products/services RST-taxable ("PST" to the layman). That means all of your "cloud stuff" is going to be 7% more expensive.

They define cloud computing as SaaS, PaaS, or IaaS; and include such things as video game subscriptions, cloud storage, and website hosting. The special carve out for "data processing, data back-up", etc., will also disappear if those services utilize the "cloud" – which would appear to be any off-premise device.

Interestingly, domain names (and likely SSL certs, for what's that's worth now) remain PST exempt as long as they're sold independently of any hosting service. The changes took effect January 1st, 2026.

`https://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxation/pubs/bulletins/033.pdf`

Fedora 42 Unifies /sbin and /bin

First they came for /usr/bin, and I did nothing, because I was not /usr/bin. Well, actually, this author did whinge profusely, but to no avail. Red Hat (Fedora) and Lennart will do Red Hat / Lennart things, after all (yes, Lennart isn't with RH anymore, but I digress).

Now they've taken a step further down Crazy Lane. They've merged /sbin into /bin. And it's a done deal if you're using Fedora 42 or newer, and will soon be in RHEL and (probably) other distros as well. They even merged /usr/local/sbin and its bin counterpart for good measure. No ~~soup~~ sbin for you!

For upgrade installs, a post-install RPM scriptlet will try to effect the change. If everything goes well, the /sbin directory will end up empty and will be turned into a symlink.

A bug in F42 caused this not to occur if certain RPMs that were still "broken" (including sendmail) were installed, and a bit of a mess was left behind, with the scriptlet trying to make a lot of symlinks for the programs themselves, rather than the directory. This requires manual clean-up and repair beyond the capability of many users. This should be sorted out in F44 (maybe even F43).

While one could argue merging /usr/bin made some sense, because of changes in storage capacity, this /sbin change is different. /sbin was a place for the "system", or things that only root/daemons would run. This was a nice semantic separation that allowed a "normal user" to basically ignore most things in /sbin as "oh, that's for root, not me", and likewise for admins and "root stuff". If it was in /sbin, it had a better chance of borking your whole system if not used with care.

Gnome: AI Not Welcome

Gnome has stated that they will reject extensions that are clearly programmed using AI. They noticed a surge in such submissions. The "tells" are "large amounts of unnecessary code, inconsistent coding style, imaginary API usage, comments serving as LLM prompts". Back to real programmers!

`https://www.linux-magazine.com/Online/News/Gnome-Says-No-to-AI-Generated-Extensions`

Firejail Firefox Fix

Since the MUUG Presentation on firejail, you have been using it to protect your Firefox, right? Well, with the most recent versions you may find your printers disappeared. The fix is easy; in your ~/.config/firejail/firefox.local add:

```
dbus-system filter
dbus-system.talk org.cups.cupsd
whitelist /run/cups/cups.sock
```

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`

A big thanks to Les.net for providing MUUG with free hosting and all that bandwidth! Les.net (1996) Inc. is a local provider of VoIP, Internet and Data Centre services. Contact **`sales@les.net`** by email, or +1 (204) 944-0009 by phone.

Thanks to Linux Mag for providing MUUG a half price magazine subscription for our door prizes.

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

MUUG would like to thank Michael W. Lucas for donating one of his ebooks every month as a door prize. You can view and purchase his tech books here:

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

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