



MUUGlines

The Manitoba UNIX User Group Newsletter

Next Meeting: June 12th, 2007: LAMP Performance Tuning



LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP/Perl) applications are popular for many reasons. As a site grows, some work has to go into maintaining the various components of the architecture so that bottlenecks are eliminated. This presentation by Sean Walberg will go over many of the things to look for in the LAMP components of high volume web sites, based on his experiences with **b5media.com**.

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.

Red Hat releases Fedora 7

Thursday May 31, 2007 (11:53 AM GMT)

By: Joe Barr

Red Hat announced the release of Fedora 7, its community-driven version of Linux, this morning. Fedora 7 merges two previously separate repositories -- Fedora Core and Fedora Extras -- into a single repository, includes completely new build tools which allow the creation of customized versions of the distribution, and opens the door to greater community involvement than ever before.

Max Spevack, the Fedora project leader, said in this morning's press release, "Beyond the usual set of upstream changes and improvements, our latest release is by far the most exciting and flexible to date. With our new open source build process, our community of contributors will enjoy much greater influence and authority in advancing Fedora. The ability to create appliances to suit very particular user needs is incredibly powerful."

Spevack briefed Linux.com on the new release a few days before it went public, saying that "most of the buzz" around the new release has to do with its ability to do fast user switching, as well as the new build tools. Revisor, a new graphical tool for the creation of ISOs, allows individuals to select the RPMs they want to include and make new versions of the distribution.

Application developers can use the new build tools to update their applications in Fedora's CVS directly, Spevack said, without the need to go through any Fedora package maintainers.

Other improvements Spevack noted come in Fedora 7's wireless capabilities, with more wireless cards that "just work," and the inclusion of the the nouveau project drivers, which provide open source 3D acceleration for Nvidia video cards.

Fedora 7 has been in constant testing in Rawhide, the nightly CVS version of Fedora, for some time. Prior to its release, all the "show stoppers" were resolved and the first and only RC (release candidate) -- released last week -- has now been given the go ahead by Will Wood, Fedora's QA Lead.

A Survey of Open Source Geospatial Software

APEGM is holding a breakfast meeting on Tuesday, June 12th, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Winnipeg South. The abstract is...

"This presentation will briefly describe what open source software is and how it is licensed along with some examples of widely used open-source software. What to look for as a user of open-source software will also be presented. Then the field of open-source geospatial software will be described from the organization coordinating the development to the types of open source geospatial software such as map servers, database management systems and mapping clients. If time permits then the presentation will conclude with demonstrations of some open-source geospatial software."

Bob Bruce from the Lands and Mapping Branch of Manitoba Conservation will be giving the talk. The cost is \$10 if you pre-register. The URL for more information is:

<http://www.apegm.mb.ca/pdnet/pddocs/070612notice.pdf>

Gentoo Linux 2007.0 "Secret Sauce" Released

After several delays, the Gentoo Release Engineering team is proud to announce the release of Gentoo Linux 2007.0, code named "Secret Sauce". This

release includes a completely rewritten version of the Gentoo Linux Installer on the AMD64 and x86 LiveCD and LiveDVD images. It also includes GNOME 2.16.2, KDE 3.5.5, Xfce 4.4, Mozilla Firefox 2.0.0.3, OpenOffice.org 2.1.0, and the 2.6.19 Linux kernel.

Alpha:

Alpha has upgraded to GCC 4.1 and Glibc 2.5 for this release. Alpha also ends the 2.4 kernel support with this release and moves to the NPTL threading library, which replaces the legacy LinuxThreads library.

HPPA:

This HPPA release primarily focuses on bug fixes and updated system software. Profiles have also been split in server and desktop profiles. The server profile provides minimal default settings and is ideal in many environments while the desktop profile provides all the defaults you would expect from a workstation for HPPA.

IA64:

IA64 primarily provides updated system software in this release. GCC 4.1 finally replaces GCC 3.3. GLIBC 2.5 is also new with this release. Kernel support continues to see a steady stream of updates and bugfixes providing an overall better IA64 experience. IA64 now also provides separate server and desktop profiles. The server profile provides a minimal set of USE flags while the desktop profile provides all the features normally expected from desktop environments.

MIPS:

The many updated packages are the primary highlight of this release. Important packages include GCC 4.1 and improved hardware support thanks to updated kernels.

PPC:

The PPC team brings lots of updated packages with this release and also brings you GLIBC 2.5.

PPC64:

Both 32-bit userland (32ul) and 64-bit userland (64ul) now provide server and desktop profiles. 64ul have moved to GCC 4.1. In addition to the generic PPC64 stages this release also brings optimized stages for power5 and ppc970.

PPC64 also has separate beta support for the PlayStation 3 available in the experimental/ tree on Gentoo mirrors.

S390/S390X:

New experimental stages have been released for both S/390 (32-bit) and S/390x (64-bit).

SH4:

New experimental stages have been released for the SuperH platform, such as the Sega Dreamcast and other SuperH-based computers.

SPARC:

SPARC has updated toolchain software including GCC 4.1 and GLIBC 2.5. SPARC also ends support for 2.4 kernels allowing SPARC to focus on the many improvements that 2.6 kernels provide regarding features and stability.

Finally there's improved profiles support with both server and desktop profiles providing default USE flags for different environments.

x86/amd64:

Updated hardware support is among the highlights of the x86 release. Besides the many updated office and productivity packages x86 also brings an update to GLIBC 2.5.

On amd64 you can enjoy updated 32-bit emulation libraries improving support for many closed source applications and browser plugins.

x86 and amd64 also provides both hardened and non-hardened stages in this release. Hardened stages are still using GCC 3.4.6 and GLIBC 2.3.6 but it's possible to upgrade from hardened to non-hardened stages, if needed.

FSF Releases "Last Call" Draft of GPLv3

BOSTON, Massachusetts, USA—Thursday, May 31, 2007—The Free Software Foundation (FSF) today released the fourth and "last call" draft for version 3 of the GNU General Public License (GNU GPL), the world's most widely used free software license. The Foundation will hear comments on the latest draft for 29 days, and expects to officially publish the license on Friday, June 29, 2007.

The new draft incorporates the feedback received from the general public and official discussion committees since the release of the previous draft on March 28, 2007. FSF executive director Peter Brown said, "We've made a few very important improvements based on the comments we've heard, most notably with license compatibility. Now that the license is almost finished, we can look forward to distributing the GNU system under GPLv3, and making its additional protections available to the whole community."

The FSF has also published an essay by Richard Stallman on the benefits of upgrading to GPLv3. "Keeping a program under GPLv2 won't create problems," he writes. "The reason to migrate is because of the existing problems which GPLv3 will fix, such as tivoization, DRM, and threats from software patents...Further advantages of GPLv3 include better internationalization, gentler termination, support for BitTorrent, and compatibility with the Apache license."

Palm announces a Linux based “Mobile Companion” device called the Foleo

Foleo Mobile Companion Brings Large Screen and Full-size Keyboard to Smartphones

CARLSBAD, Calif., May 30, 2007 -- Building on its vision that the future of personal computing is mobile computing, Palm, Inc. (Nasdaq:PALM) today announced the Palm(R) Foleo(TM), its first smartphone companion product. The Foleo mobile companion has a large screen and full-size keyboard with which to view and edit email and office documents residing on a smartphone. Edits made on Foleo automatically are reflected on its paired smartphone and vice versa. Foleo and its paired smartphone stay synchronized throughout the day or at the touch of a button. This powerful combination is for productivity-minded business people who want a more complete mobile solution for email, attachments and access to the web.

The Foleo mobile companion turns on and off instantly and features fast navigation, a compact and elegant design, and a battery that lasts up to 5 hours of use. Its applications include email, full-screen web browser, and editors or viewers for common business documents such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and PDF files. The Foleo stays synchronized via Bluetooth(R) wireless technology and uses the smartphone’s radio or the Foleo’s built-in Wi-Fi radio for general Internet connectivity.

“Foleo is the most exciting product I have ever worked on,” said Jeff Hawkins, founder of Palm, Inc. and the visionary behind the Foleo’s concept and definition. “Smartphones will be the most prevalent personal computers on the planet, ultimately able to do everything that desktop computers can do. However, there are times when people need a large screen and full-size keyboard. As smartphones get smaller, this need increases. The Foleo completes the picture, creating a mobile-computing system that sets a new standard in simplicity.”

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.

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