

Friday, July 31, 2009

links for 2009-07-31

AO2009012_Prelim.pdf (application/pdf Object)
Tail Strike Melbourne Airport, Vic. 20 March 2009 A6-ERG Airbus A340-500
(tags: aviation Occurrence Investigation)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

Recommended Listening: Imogen Heap - First Train Home

When you here new music, most music is just substandard ... products of industrialized music production from musicians, that doesn't deserve this name, as they are just casted into the role of presentators of music, that isn't art, just the result of market research to provide music you buy, but you don't know why. Music you hear, but you don't know why. Music you will forget, and you will never know that you ever knew it. Just to get the money from your purse. And often this works reasonably well to keep the music industry running . But within all this meaningless music you will find some stuff that seems to counter this trend. This recommended listening is such a kind of music.

For people reading my blog for a long time it is nothing new, that i'm a fan of the music of Imogen Heap. Her album Speak for yourself was on heavy-rotation for quite a while in my playlist. Now her new album "Ellipse" is imminent and a first single is available: First Train Home. I like this track ... i'm really looking forward to the album.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Music at 12:42

Less known Solaris features: The curious case of the /tmp in Solaris

This article isn't really about a feature, it's about a directory and its misuse. Furthermore it's an article about different default configurations, that lead to misunderstandings. This is a pretty old hat for experienced Solaris admins (many of them learned it the hard tour), but it seems to be totally unknown to many admins new to the business or for people switching from Linux to Solaris, as many distribution are configured in a different way per default. A reader of my blog just found a 2GB .iso in /tmp on a Solaris system and that's not really a good idea. A few days ago, a user in twitter had vast problems with memory usage on a system which boiled down to a crowd /tmp.

tmpfs and its usage

In Linux the /tmp directory is a normal directory. Most often this is just a part of the partition containing root. Many admins consider /tmp as an additional home directory and put data on it they want to use later on. When you really think about the idea behind /tmp is meant as a scratch space, where an application can put some data to process it later. Many applications use this /tmp space to write temporary data to.

Solaris introduced something called tmpfs many years ago, It's a memory based file system. Linux has something with similar functionality and the same name. It's just used differently in the default configuration of many distributions and there are a vast amount of articles in the web that suggests to configure /tmp in Linux to use the tmpfs filesystem as this can give you advantages for example with a Mysql for example. (when there is a reasonable amount of SELECTs opting for filesort)

The tmpfs is not a ramdisk. A ram disk just resides in the RAM, a tmpfs resides in the virtual memory, thus it uses the swap when the memory is needed for something else. Furthermore it doesn't have a predefined size, albeit you can define a maximum size for the tmpfs to ensure that someone who writes into the /tmp can't eat away all your virtual memory.

It's called tmpfs because everything you write into it is temporary, the next boot or unmount will kill all the files on it. When you look at the mount table of a Solaris System you will recognize, that the usual locations for such temporary files are mounted tmpfs:

```
jmoeckamp@a380:/var$ mount | grep "swap"  
/etc/svc/volatile on swap read/write/setuid/devices/xattr/dev=4f00001 on Fri Jul 31 06:33:33 2009
```

/tmp on swap read/write/setuid/devices/xattr/dev=4f00002 on Fri Jul 31 06:34:14 2009
/var/run on swap read/write/setuid/devices/xattr/dev=4f00003 on Fri Jul 31 06:34:14 2009

Keeping these file systems in virtual memory is a reasonable choice. The stuff in this directory is normally stale after a reboot, most of the time the files are many, but rather small and putting them on disk would just eat away your IOPS budget on your boot disks. As the file system resides in memory, it's much faster and that really helps on jobs with many small files. A good example is compiling software when you use /tmp on as the TMPDIR.

All this advantages come with a big disadvantage, when you are not aware of the nature of the /tmp directory. I assume, you already know why using /tmp for storing ISOs is a bad idea. It eats away your memory and later on your swap. And for all the experienced admins: When someone has memory problems, ask at first about the /tmp directory, we tend to forget about this, as we've learned this lesson a long time ago and thus don't think about this problem. When you really need a temporary place to store data in it for a while you should use /var/tmp. This is a directory on a normal disk based filesystem and thus its content it boot persistent.

Configuring the maximum size of the tmpfs

When you want to enforce a limit on the size of a tmpfs this pretty easy task . You can do this with a mount option. Let's assume you want to provide the /var/application_scratch pad directory for an application, but you want to be sure, that this application can't ruin your day by eating away all your memory:

```
jmoekamp@a380:/var# mkdir /var/application_scratchpad
jmoekamp@a380:/var# mount -f tmpfs -o size=128m swap /var/application_scratchpad/
jmoekamp@a380:/var# mount | grep "application"
/var/application_scratchpad on swap read/write/setuid/devices/xattr/size=128m/dev=4f00004 on Fri Jul 31 09:32:26
2009
```

When you want to make a boot persistent change to the maximum size of the /tmp directory, you have to configure this in the /etc/vfstab:

```
swap - /tmp tmpfs - yes size=512m
```

Conclusion

I hope it's now clear, why you shouldn't use /tmp as a place for storing big files, at least move them directly somewhere else, when you use /tmp as the target directory to ssh a file to a system. At the other side the /tmp in virtual memory gives you some interesting capabilities to speed up your applications. As usual, everything has two sides: Making it default in Solaris gives you speedups per default. But when you are unaware of this default situation your virtual memory may be used for collection of videos Obviously the same is valid, when you configure our Linux system with a tmpfs based /tmp and don't tell it to your fellow admins.

Do you want to learn more?

manpages

man page: tmpfs(7f)

man page: mount_tmpfs(1M)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 11:13

System Administrator Appreciation Day

It's System Administrator Appreciation Day today. When you work at your workstation or when you surfing in the web today, think about all the systems administrators, who make this possible. When you are really honest you just think about them, when there is a problem, but not on all the the days when the system runs smoothly all the day. A mail or a word of appreciation to your admin staff would be a really nice gesture today

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 08:51

S7410 bei SysEleven

SysEleven, ein Hostler in Berlin, schreibt ziemlich begeistert von der Inbetriebnahme einer 7410 in ihrem Rechenzentrum: Die Sonne geht aufDas zentrale Storage System und damit das Herz unserer Infrastruktur kaufen wir nicht blind. Vor über 8 Monaten haben wir mit der Recherche nach Storage Anbietern begonnen. Wir haben uns NetApp angeschaut und den Vertrieb von Blue Arc fast wahnsinnig gemacht. Unser Herz gewonnen hat letztendlich Sun. Die

Mischung aus bewährter Sun-Qualität und modernen Features hat uns überzeugt, die Sun Unified Storage 7410 ist unser neues Speichersystem.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Sun/Oracle at 08:38

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Problems with the 787 - revisited

I've lost my fear of flying a while ago, but in the light of the disclosures about the 787 in this article it's a good question, if this fear will haunt me again. At least in a certain type of aircraft. The Seattle Times reported in "Boeing 787 wing flaw extends inside plane", that the 787 hadn't problems with delaminating wings at ultimate load (limit load + 50 % of limit load). No, the problems occurred right above limit load (the maximum load the wing will experience in airline service). Ouch.

At least this gives a good explanation, why Boeing delayed the test flight. The Seattle Times further reports: Because the wing test fell short of the ultimate load target, the plane could have flown only under restrictions that would have severely limited the usefulness of a test flight.

It also helps explain why Boeing canceled the first flight planned for the end of June.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Aviation, English at 15:31

Sun Glassfish Web Stack 1.5

The new version of the Sun GlassFish Web Stack (the stack formerly known as Sun Web Stack) is available for download as announced by the web tier blog at blogs.sun.com. You will find the following software versions in the version 1.5 of the Glassfish Web Stack:

Apache HTTP Server 2.2.11

GlassFish v2.1

lighttpd 1.4.21

memcached 1.2.5

mod_jk 1.2.27

mod_perl 2.0.2

MySQL 5.0.67 and 5.1

PHP 5.2.9

Python 2.6

Ruby 1.8.7

Squid 2.7.STABLE5

Tomcat 6.0.18

The stack is downloadable at the Sun Website. You find a Getting Started Guide at wikis.sun.com. You can run it on Solaris SPARC, Solaris x86 and RedHat EL 5U2. But the most shocking fact about the new Web stack is the Web Stack Enterprise Manager. A nice looking GUI with some really interesting capabilities to get some insight into your system:

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun/Oracle at 13:58

links for 2009-07-30

"SmartschmeiÄÿen" wird in Amsterdam zum Kult > Kleine Zeitung

(tags: humor)

Username Translator | Cracked.com

The most important decision in your life ... your username

Maker's Schedule, Manager's Schedule

(tags: productivity management business programming time culture development work)

Eureka Carpark Melbourne

At last a decent way to help people to find their way through a car park
(tags: design typography art inspiration architecture graphics usability cool)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

Open Source in the enterprise.

Many news outlets write about the increased adoption of Open Source software in enterprise environments. I'm just curious, but is this the case because of increased adoption of genuine open source software right from start or because of enterprise software going open source. Well, probably both.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 12:47

Preemptive Update

While waiting for the first tea of this morning, I had an idea about updating OpenSolaris systems: Preemptive Updates. The idea is simple, but I assume many devils in the details of this idea. Let's assume you installed your system, you are satisfied with the selection of packages and all you do is just updating. Your system is somewhat fixed. You just update it from time to time. So you download fixes, you install them, and you reboot the system. There are many ways to shorten this process. MacOS X loads the updates in advance for example, so you don't have to wait a long time for the download, when the system notifies you of updates. But It should be possible to do more, to install the patches preemptively.

Now I want to make two assumptions: Updates come in a temporal sequence (of course there are big chunks of updates, but you have many small updates in between as well) and ZFS Snapshotting allows you to have as many states of your system as you want.

Okay, let's assume your running system is based on the state Sys. Sys is a state of the system right from the installation media. You modified it a little bit (like new files and other stuff), so you have a state Sys'. Obviously in ZFS lingo Sys would be a snapshot and Sys' would be a clone generated out of the Snapshot Sys. Okay, now there is an update available for download. The system downloads it automatically. You clone the snapshot Sys again and call it Sys+1. The system automatically updates the clone Sys+1 with the updated packages in the background. The system places a new boot-environment in the GRUB configuration and places a transient SMF service into the new boot environment. This transient service is responsible for the reintegration of changes introduced by the user and removes itself after completion.. Whenever a new update arrives, the process is repeated by system. As long as the user doesn't boot into an automatically updated version of her or his system, nothing changes. But as soon, as he or she considers to use an updated environment, the reintegration SMF service kicks in.

The reintegration is easier as it sounds in the first place The sequence of Sys snapshots is a sequence of unmodified, pristine installations of the operating system, whereas the single Sys' contains all the user-introduced changes to the system. Obviously you have to preserve this changes while updating, but it's relatively easy to find this changes. At first: The home directories of the user have their own ZFS file system. We can ignore it and just mount it at the next start. I would introduce an additional separated file system for log files, so we can ignore it, too. File systems are cheap in ZFS. So, how do we find the changes: Another tool is helpful for this task. I've talked about it in the LKSF tutorials. It's the Basic Audit Reporting Tool aka BART. The baseline manifest would be generated out of Sys, the control manifest out of Sys'. So a bart compare run should yield all changes introduced by the admin of the system. Based on the results of bart, you can preserve the changes to Sys by copying them to Sys+1. Obviously you wouldn't copy them to Sys+1 you would clone Sys+1, call it Sys+1' and use this clone as your working operating environment.

Obviously the reintegration part is the part with all the devils, but you should consider, that we have many helpful information. For example ipkg doesn't know a global scripts to add files or data. It knows a certain set of actions for this case. When the preemptive update process detects, that there is a file in the operating environment changed by the user, it should be possible to copy the old file into the new boot environment and rerun the actions for this file.

So it should be feasible to do such preemptive updates without user interaction. I have to think a little bit more in depth about the reintegration part, but that was out of the scope of a single cup of tea

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 07:33

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

TheRegister about the Triple Parity in ZFS

The story about the Triple Parity finally reached the Register today - Sun tripling RAID protection. I won't comment the articles style ("Hey, that's old ... and all other will have it anyway soon"). I would be astonished, if they had written "Hey, Sun ... RAID-TP in a Tier-1 product ... well done". But i want to comment this article: That has to be logically true but, if the use of 3.5-inch disks switches over to 2.5-inch drives then that would reduce failed disk rebuild times. It would also likely increase the number of drives in an array, putting us back, roughly speaking, at square one. I don't think that this really true, at least not at this extend. You should consider that the industry reached the 1 TB a few days ago with the Western Digital WD10TEVT. In the 3.5" world the industry is able to put 2 TB in one drive.

Now just a little thought game: The Spinpoint M6 demonstrated, that's possible to put 3 platters into 9.5mm. Lets assume that 1 millimeter on each side is used for casing and electronics. That's an per-platter height of 2.5 mm. The maximum height of an 2.5" is specified with 15 mm. Let's assume 1 mm for casing and electronics again. 13 mm for disks you would be able to put 5 platters into a 15mm height 2.5" casing. Switch back to this new 1 TB 2.5" drive. It provides 333 Gigabyte per platter. Such a fat small disk would provide you with 1660 Gigabyte on 2.5" and that's not that far away from the 2 TB we have in 3.5". Of course you would not use such a disk in a notebook (to large, to fragile for mobile, too loud), but we talk about disks for usage in the controlled environment of storage chassis.

So, dear Chris Mellor, switching from 3.5" to 2.5" isn't a jump back to square one. At the maximum it's a jump one square back ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in General at 16:04

Butterfly 2

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Photographie at 14:38

Innovation happens everywhere, even in big companies ;)

There is an interesting article in Businessweek with some insights into the Fishworks project and the development of the Sun Storage 7000 series- Innovation Isn't Just for Startups:

With hundreds of customers out of the gate, the Sun Storage 7000 Series has definitely established itself—and Fishworks, which Shapiro continues to run, could well prove one of the hidden gems of the Oracle acquisition. In the meantime, the new product line stands as powerful proof of what Drucker preached: When it comes to innovation, it's smarts, not size, that matter most. Worth a read.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Sun/Oracle, The IT Business at 14:23

links for 2009-07-29

Rohrpost in Hamburg â€" Wikipedia

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

Permission denied in VIM

You know the problem: You are working on your system, edit a long config file and at the end you notice, that you have you didn't acquired the necessary privileges to save the command. Dammed, saving to a temp file and copying it to a file would be a natural choice. But there is an easier way using pfexec. You find this trick at commandlinefu.com:
w !pfexec tee %

There is an alternative for friends of sudo on the page.

(via @commandlinefu)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 11:27

Bokode

You may have recognized the out-of-focus blur in images when you take photos with an open aperture. This effect is called bokeh. Some people at the MIT Medialab use this for a really intriguing concept: Bokode. At first it looks like a LED transmitting just a red light, but by putting the LED out of focus you see, that this light contains information. This bokeh-code or Bokode is a barcode design with a simple lenslet over the pattern. We show that an off-the-shelf camera can capture Bokode features of 2.5 microns from a distance of over 4 meters. Especially noteworthy is the simple idea how to measure distance and angle just by analysing how many and what barcodes you see. You will find more information at the webpage of the project

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Technology at 09:58

Tuesday, July 28. 2009

Pizza vor verschlossener Tür

Ich habe zu lange heute versucht, einem Konzeptpapier, das ich momentan verfasse, die Schwächen auszutreiben und habe dabei vergessen, das sich mein Kühlschrank im postwochenendlichen Leerzustand befindet. Lust vor die Tür zu gehen habe ich auch nicht. Egal ... wozu gibt es Bringdienste. gäbe es einen Wettbewerb für den blödesten Pizzaservice der Welt,hätte ich einen sicheren Kandidaten für den ersten Platz dieses Wettbewerbs. Ich habe ja schon mal geschrieben, das der Pizzaservice beim ersten HHOSUG-Meeting die Pizzen für die Gäste zu mir nach Hause geliefert hat anstatt zur Geschäftsstelle. Nun, seit dem ich zu den HHOSUG-Meetings größere Mengen Pizza ordere, landen meine Bestellungen für daheim regelmässig in einem Wagen Richtung Sun-Geschäftsstelle, aus dem mich dann ein verwunderter Fahrer anruft, das da gar niemand ist. Ja, was wunder auch um halb neun

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Braindump, German at 21:01

Power 7 - revisited

The information about Power7 are still a little bit sparse, but it at least some fragments are public. So: It looks like, you are out of luck, when you expect to upgrade your pSeries 520/550/560/575 systems to Power7. According to this statement of direction there are just upgrades for the Power570 and 595. I find this a little bit strange, as the p560 and p570 are not that different from a technology point of view.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 20:51

JRuby team is leaving Sun

The eWeek reports in "JRuby Team Leaving Sun for Engine Yard" that core developers of JRuby leave Sun:Not sure of the future of their project at Oracle, the JRuby team is leaving Sun Microsystems to join the development team at Engine Yard, a company that specializes in Ruby and Ruby on Rails development and application hosting.That aren't good news, but at the end JRuby existed before the both joined Sun and it will exist further when the both leave Sun. But's important that it will further exist, as it's a good way to show that the JVM is more than just Java. I even think that JRuby with Glassfish (for example) is a much better place for Ruby as it's native environment.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 15:40

links for 2009-07-28

RTAX-S/SL FPGA: The Industry's Leading Space-Flight FPGA

(tags: space SPARC)

LEON3FT-RTAX Fault-tolerant Processor - Aeroflex Gaisler

(tags: SPARC space fault-tolerant)

TP: Der Mohr kann geh'n

Gemeinsam mit dem Porsche-Finanzvorstand Holger Härtner entwarf Wiedeking den Masterplan zur VW-Übernahme. Die Ameise wollte den Elefanten vergewaltigen, wie sich ein Brancheninsider ausdrückte. Wiedeking, der stets gegen Finanzheuschrecken wettete, machte aus Porsche einen Hedge-Fonds mit angeschlossener Sportwagenproduktion.

(tags: porsche vw)

egghat's blog: Porsche-VW: Wer ist eigentlich gescheitert?

(tags: porsche vw)

Blog Export: c0t0d0s0.org, <http://www.c0t0d0s0.org/>

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

Monday, July 27, 2009

Tron Legacy

Tron was one of my favorite movies in my youth. I assume i just looked Strange Days and the both movies of Ghost in the Shell that often. It looks like i'm knowing at least one movie i will look in 2010 or 2011. I just found the teaser trailer at Youtube.

(click on image)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Movies at 22:07

Secure Deletion with ZFS

A reader that wants to be anonymous (thus he use such a pseudo in his comments) asked an interesting question: How do you do secure deletion in ZFS? The standard mechanism to it, is to overwrite data with zeros, ones or a data pattern to ensure that the data is deleted as normal delete would only delete the metadata and not the data itself. This is a little bit hard with ZFS. Why? ZFS is a copy-on-write filesystem, thus the zeros are written somewhere else, as active data is never overwritten by ZFS. There are hacks to solve this problems: For example overwriting all sectors on the free list. Or you can implement code to overwrite the data directly in a kind of secure delete. But from my point of view this wouldn't really help.

At first, as the reader just wants to be annoying () in regard of a web seminar about security: Secure delete has nothing to do with security, it's about data protection. Albeit related topics (data protection is useless with security) it addresses different areas.

But this assumes, that overwriting data is a good solution for secure delete. It isn't from my perspective ... out of several reasons. At first you need direct control over the position data is written. Albeit it's highly probable (but not guaranteed) on rotating rust disks that you get the blocks with the data you want delete securely (but even there is something in your way like bad block relocation), it gets really really difficult with all this wear-leveling in solid state disk. And you have to keep in mind, that weared-out sectors on a flash device isn't writeable anymore, it's still perfectly readable. Perhaps not with the flash memory controller in it's way ... but you could read it directly. It's the same with defragmentation, storage virtualisation and so on. That isn't a problem of ZFS, thats a problem of all logical structures in a storage media. It's perfectly possible to have copies of the data you want to delete on several positions on the data without knowing about it. Redundancies introduced by your storage system, by reorganisation of the data. As the disks get more and more intelligent, you have less control of the position of your data.

At the end the only sure way to securely delete data on your disk is not done by overwriting all data you have just delete with data patterns. It's about overwriting the complete free space after deleting as every free block on your disk, as it could possibly contain data that you've assumed as deleted securely. Obviously this isn't practical: At first this takes a time and eats away your precious IOPS for more important work and more importantly its a sure way to brick your solid state disk in no time. Overwriting all your data with zeros, ones and patterns is just a feasible when you do it with the complete disk and even then it's difficult because your storage controller may have relocated blocks without your knowledge so you don't reach all the data written to the disk.

And additionally: What's worth the effort, when you can't guarantee that no data is left on the device. At the end it's called "secure deletion" and not almost "secure deletion" or "a kind of secure deletion". At the end all this secure deletion stuff is just a kind of highly sophisticated snake oil.

And there is an additional problem: Let's assume you do backups on a regular schedule. For example by creating zfs send/receive streams, move it to a backup server, which moves it to tape in an autoloader. Let's assume, you want to delete a file that was part of this backups securely? Perhaps the tapes aren't in the autoloader anymore. The next interesting questions are : What happens with data on all the components of the hybrid storage pool? Fragments could be on the L2ARC disks, they could be on sZIL. How do you securely delete deduplicated data?

You can put into one sentences: The people put too many thoughts in magnetic remanence and too few thoughts in logical remanence.

At first you have to ask, what you want to solve with secure deletion. Overwriting data with 0 isn't a feature by itself. Secure Deletion isn't a feature in its self. It's the result of a need. It's the protection, that nobody can get insight into data, when the disk leaves the realm of your control. Leaving the realm of your control can be:

you have to swap a hard disk, because the disk isn't functional anymore. And by the way: When you are really paranoid shredding the disks to pieces of 1mm by 1 mm this isn't secure. One squaremillimeter contains a lot of data.
the system is moved by people you don't trust in another location
you must ensure that data is delete after a certain span of time ... really delete them
you have to work with data, that has to deleted after the work just to keep the result of the data on the disk
you want to be sure, that nobody can get insight in your deleted data, when you notebook/harddisk/desktop is stolen.
So: How do you implement secure deletion. The answer is relatively easy. You should ask at first, what deletion is. Deletion is nothing more than adding resources to the pool of usable storage, the data is not erased, when you delete a file. Secure deletion isn't about overwriting data with zeros. It's about denying the access to data, even to your self by removing the usability of the data physically.

This can be done by any technical mechanism. So the answer to secure deletion is relative simple: Use encryption and when you want to delete the data throw away the matching key. The nice thing: where ever you have ever replicated, backuped, restored and copied the data, it's deleted at the same moment when you drop the key. Even on tapes not in drives, disks not in your system or disk images not mounted to your system. Without the key the data is just garbage. The data is away. By deleting the key physically, the data isn't accessible anymore.

And this is exactly the way, secure deletion will be done with ZFS. It's done by encryption. You will be able to define an encryption key by dataset and when you want to delete a dataset securely just throw a way the key. Remember that creating a dataset is as easy as creating a directory in ZFS. ZFS Crypto will be the solution for the secure delete challenge. And until its integrated in ZFS you can use xlofi as done for example with the Immutable Service Containers introduced by Glenn Brunette. He describes this concept hin his article Encrypted Scratch Space in OpenSolaris 2009.06

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Security, Solaris at 13:12

Sunday, July 26. 2009

Butterfly

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Photographie at 20:46

Saturday, July 25. 2009

The stormy landing approach in Hamburg last year.

Just heard on N24, that the Luftfahrtbundesamt found the reason for the go-around with touching the ground in the last year in Hamburg. The Spiegel (a german magazine) will report it: They call it a computer problem. Well ... i'm not so sure of that, and i'm sure that the Luftfahrtbundesamt said something different in their report. Why do i think different? Well ... i remember the last crash with fatalities of the Lufthansa on 14. September 1993 in Warsaw. At that time the Lufthansa Airbus A320 crashed into a small "hill" at the end of the run-way. The reason: The computer of the Airbus didn't think that the Airbus is on ground and thus it didn't brake.

At this time the computer programm for the brakes was modified and the activation of the brakes was coupled to an pressure of 2t instead of 12 tons on the landing gears and the airbrakes and the reverse thrust isn't coupled to the landing gears at all and i'm sure that many landing were more secure of this decision.

When i look at the video of this attempt to land it looks like that both gears touched the ground and thus the Airbus switched in the ground mode. Looks as "works as designed". That isn't a computer problem. This circumstances was just out of the specification. But as usual ... i'm waiting for the final report.

But i find something strange about this: When even a computer guy like me know about this situation, why does a pilot know about it, as the Hamburger Abendblatt reports it. Okay, i've read a lot about it to explain in meetings and seminars about the fact that the ability to specify requirements is finite. There will be always unspecified circumstances.

But well ... the Hamburger Abendblatt wrote, that the Spiegel will report about this. And the Spiegel is pretty well known for being overly negative in regard of Airbus. I remember they have declared the death of Airbus when Boeing announced the 787 They have even the old story about the Airbus being a computer controlled plane, but i assume you can't talk with a journalist about direct law, alternate law and normal law.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Aviation, English at 16:06

links for 2009-07-25

Is the 787 Dreamliner fiasco more about toxic corporate cultures than a flawed design? - Plane Talking

(tags: aviation 787)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

Friday, July 24. 2009

New SPARC processor

A few days ago there was an announcement of a new SPARC processor. No, not the 1.6 GHz N2. There was a second announcement. Atmel announced the Atmel AT697F AT697F Fully Radiation-Hardened Processor. It's SPARCv8 compatible proc for usage in space where you have to live with high radiation levels. This CPU was tested with a dose up to 300 Krad. So: SPARC is everywhere ... even high above your heads

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 23:36

Sexspielzeug bei Philips

Ich finds ja garkeine schlechte Idee, das es bei Philips Geräte zur Beziehungspflege (komisch, früher nannte man das Vibrator) gibt. Philips braucht auch neue Geschäftsfelder. Aber liebe Namensentwickler, musstet ihr den Teilen unbedingt so hocherotische Namen wie HF8430 geben. "Schaaaatz, verwöhn mich doch mal mit dem HF8340" ...

Wichtig auch: Die Webseite gibt die Möglichkeit ein Datenblatt herunter zu laden, in dem dann auch so wichtige Daten wie Geräuschentwicklung geschrieben sind (Geräuschpegel (Durchschnitt): 32 dB, Geräuschpegel (max.): 43 dB). Auch wird genau spezifiziert, mit welcher Frequenz die Beziehung gepflegt wird (Frequenz (max.): 95 Hz). Ist ja wieder mal typisch Grosskonzern. Alles genau spezifiziert. Wahrscheinlich hat das Teil auch eine spezifizierte MTBO (Mean Time between Orgasms) und MTBF (Mean Time between Failure ... aeh ... no Orgasms) und eine garantierte Zahl von Partnerpflegevorgängen bis zum Defekt. Aber die Daten konnte ich bisher nirgens finden.Und das Beste: Man kann das Gerät auch auf der Webseite registrieren lassen.

Es wird da übrigens auch von einer Ladeschale gesprochen. Mein Verdacht ist ja, das das ein vom Design verunglücktes Schnurloses Telephon war, bevor man auf die Idee gekommen ist, daraus aus Produkt zur partnerschaftlichen Pflege zu machen. Frage ist, was passiert, wenn man das Teil versehentlich in die Ladeschale des Telephons steckt. Und hoffentlich haben die die Telephonfunktion ausgebaut.

Ich hab ja zunächst geglaubt, das waere eine Fakeseite ... aber ich habe das Teil auch bei Amazon gefunden. Es scheint das Teil also wirklich zu geben.

(via: widhalm.or.at)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, lost and found at 20:34

About Power7

There was an interesting article at Reuters about the upcoming Power7 CPU. I don't want to talk about the point, that his announcement was well times to our announcement about the 1.6 GHz. I don't want to talk about the announcement, that systems will be available in 2010 when you take into consideration, that the last rollout of Power6 took almost a year.

No, i want to hint you on an interesting fact in this article. But at first you should take into consideration that IBM tries to tell the world, that per core performance is the most important factor at all. Now look at the following paragraph the Reuters article: It also said POWER7 will be more efficient than the POWER6, which was launched in May 2007, capable of two to three times performance while using the same amount of energy.Two to three times the performance ... sounds nice. Well ... it doesn't sound that nice, when you do some math on the numbers. Let's assume the Power6 is a 2-core system. Let's further assume, that Power7 is a 4 core architecture. Then Power7 delivers the same performance per core than Power6 ... just more cores. Nice, but nothing earthshattering. But it gets even more interesting. Back in July 2008 Ashlee Vance wrote in the Register about Power7: IBM looks set to join the seriously multi-core set with the Power7 chip. Internal documents seen by The Register show Power7 with eight cores per processor and also some very, very large IBM boxes based on the chip.Okay, let's do the same math again: Let's assume the Power6 is 2-core, let's further assume that Power7 is a 8-core design. Obviously a single core of the Power7 has just half the performance of the Power6 core. Hey, that will be interesting talks for the IBM sales people explaining that they were incorrect with the assumption that speed per core is the only interesting metric.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 16:32

Thoughts of an admin starting to get old ...

I wrote a text about the GNU tool set Polariscope 200x.y few days ago. Just to make it clear at first: I don't like the decision but it was made, so i have to live with it. In discussion I've used the same arguments: Portability! Standards!

But we have to face the reality. There is a prominent Unix derivate out there that doesn't think about standards and portability isn't an issue for this derivate. It's called Linux, it got a large market share somehow and most people use it for the development of open source software. There is a make defined by standards, but most open source software insists on using GNU make. Often the only well tested makefile is the makefile for Linux, often you have luck for Solaris, but don't try it on IRIX. I have the impression that portability comes just into mind, when some users ask about a different operating system.

We have to face it: I wrote it at several occasions. Linux has a strong NIH attitude. No problem, it's just a kernel. But as developers tend to test their system at the best on the system on their desktop, everything else tends to be just an afterthought. And so we end with application our build processes that depend of GNU tools you have to install instead of using the standardized and already available components.

But why is it this way: I can just provide you a guess, but the worst thing that ever happened to development were notebook-class computer. People edit-compile-test their applications on their notebooks, optimize it and afterwards you get software for your server that runs exceptionally well on ... well ... notebooks. Then you get around with your server and the problems start. In essence you are forced to replicate the developers desktop on your server.

I find this a little bit funny: Microsoft gets critics for their embrace and extend attitude. But the Linux community isn't much better when you look at the compliance to standards. And I think this is even a kind of lock-in. You aren't locked to a hardware vendor. You are locked to you operating system community because of the tool set. And even this community is fragmented. There is a Debian Community, a OpenSUSE community, there is a Fedora community. I tend to show people a single example, how fragmented the Linux universe is: Just look at the list of Virtualbox packages at virtualbox.org. You are pretty much locked into your distribution community and by the lack of standards conformance you are pretty much locked into Linux. I don't know what's worse ... lock-in by commercial interests or lock-in by ignorance, albeit the second one translates to the first one, as soon as you try to migrate from SuSE to Redhat or Redhat Fedora to Debian. But to say that the Linux world is free of lock-ins is simply not true. It has its own kind of Lock-Ins. Of course there is a LSB, but I'm asking my self quite often, why there is a LSB, when we have already standard like the SUSv3 for example.

Honestly I'm thinking that Solaris has much less lock-ins than Linux, as of the standard compliance as an important foundation of the Solaris development, not to something like the Solaris Standard Base, but to official, open and common standards. But you may dismiss this statement as a comment of a Solaris fan.

It would be really a dream, when application developers would base on a common standards body. This would lead to sources and build processes you can compile everywhere — not just on Linux - without hassle. What did we got instead? Well, ... you starting to install GNU make, you start to install GCC. Not because those compilers result in the best binaries, or because those code results in the highest quality binary, just because the application developer used those components because it was the easiest choice.

You can ask yourself, how we get into this situation. My assumption is: We get more and more people with a different mindset. There used to be a time, when a decent IT guy was at least capable of reading C, knew about the constraints of memory and CPU. Today quad-cores are a normality and Amazon sells cheap notebooks with 4 GB of memory. There isn't a need to be really efficient. Compute power is cheap. Remember the time, when you was able to do word processing on a small 8086? Long gone. We need monster systems today just to run a graphical application in a windowing environment, that gives you just a little bit more eye candy but no additional features. Most people doesn't use more feature of Excel than they used with Multiplan ... the difference: My father used Multiplan for quite complex calculations with a Zenith Z-148 with whooping 8 MHz with 512 KB. I'm sure, in 5 years from now we need 8 GHz to run Windows 10 with Excel 2014 with 512 Gigabyte.

I had an interesting discussion with a professor of computer science a few days ago. The reality is: New computer science students doesn't come from Unix, all they know is Windows (they may be some exceptions, but they are rare). Maybe this is owed to the fact, that IT is more and more transformed from a profession to a job. This is bitter truth. Many people see operating systems like exchangeable tools, as an abstraction layer for the hardware. They are correct. But on this way they lost the curiosity to understand the design of an OS, to assess the differences.

People learn computer science and software development at the universities. They don't learn administration. Many of those people see the world just through their Visual *, their Eclipse or their Netbeans and just look at the operating as the annoying stuff, where they have to install some middleware or libraries from time to time. Ask a software developer about all the implications of POSIX compliance. Many know about it, but on the other side many of them don't.

When talking to some admins I get the impression, that compiling your own software is a forgotten art. This has been completely substituted by installing a package from your favourite source. And often this packages aren't installed by admins, they are installed by software developers and admins have just to live the mess provided by software developers. BTW: I still thinking that the root password for pure software developers is just the sure prelude to disaster and that every software developer should work at least a quarter in the server administration.

To make it clear: I understand them somehow ... with budget pressure and sometimes unreasonable deadlines you don't think about the operating system. You take what you have on our systems when you develop software. And an admin takes the same stuff, the developers used because he doesn't want to get the "Hey, that wouldn't be a problem with Linux. It's your fault". BTW: I had such situations at customers and it was an inner October revolution parade for the customer admin and me that the application threw the core on Linux as well. But that's the mechanics behind the decision for an operating system. And at the end people wonder why the OS doesn't really scale, why the data isn't save and why administration at 99,999% availability guarantee starts do get problematic when the service took off ... but well ... I have my "Is -s" ... GNU-Style. The perception is somewhat skewed on the real properties with value of an operating environment.

OpenSolaris is often mistaken for a Desktop OS. But it isn't, it's an operating system for people who want the newest features on their servers (and thus you can buy support for it) and it's for the admin and the developer. It's an adoption version and I even dare to say: It's a better development OS than any Linux out of two reasons: dtrace and standard compliance. I think it's easier to port an application to other applications than to port from a flavor of Linux to Solaris, IRIX or HPUX. But this is just an opinion. By the way: This ease was one of the reasons why we were hit so hard by the epic underestimation about the importance of x86 at the start of this decade: It was easy to migrate away.

And by the way: Desktop Linux is nothing different. Anybody who believes that any Unix will be a widely adopted Desktop Environment outside deeply controlled environments is just fooling him or herself. There is only a single desktop capable Unix and it's called MacOS X. I have even somewhat of a proof for this: The Sun Ray was a stepchild of the product portfolio for normal businesses for a long time, since we are able to virtualize Windows on it with VDI, we sell this stuff like crazy. Don't think this was because of the horrible looking CDE ... there is a Red Hat Version of the Sun Ray Server.

On the other way, I've talked to many older admins telling me "Auto dependency resolving? No shitty script decides what I'm installing on my system" and they don't use Blastwave out of this reason, because they don't want a second Solaris on their system installed by the pkg-get mechanism. I'm one of them.

Perhaps we are really in the midst of a paradigm shift. Away from the old mindset of understanding most of the stuff between the CPU and your application and the art of crafting a system just in the way you want it. Getting to a mindset where you outsource all your knowledge of components below your application to the vendor of the distribution, to a few knowledgeable people.

Cloud computing for example is just the next iteration of this attitude. The victory of one-size-fits-all. You just get a service like HTTP with php. The rest is not your problem. But I don't want do accept that one-size-fits-all. There is enough differentiation in the OS to mandate a good thought about operating systems. But you need knowledge about the inner workings, you need more contact to the OS than just by the installer and dpkg, to get aware of the differences. And you have to get out of your own knowledge sphere and curiosity to discover new things.

We have to live with the fact, that the landscape has changed. And out of this reason all the arguments against GNU tools in front of the normal tools are correct, but when you want to help the adoption of an OS you have to eat this frog. At the end one comment of my reader is correct: The Linux fan boys get their GNU tool set and die hard Solaris sys admins know how to set PATH. You don't have to like it, but at the end it looks like a good move.

Just to close this somewhat bitter article of an admin getting old with a positive outlook. Albeit I see many admins and developers as described above, I've met admins in their early twenties (for example at Cebit this year) that have the same kind of curiosity that led me on my way through the IT. And so I can just say: There is hope. I have hope.

links for 2009-07-24

The remarkable vote to kill the F-22 and what it means for America's military future. - By Fred Kaplan - Slate Magazine

(tags: military politics economics f22 obama airforce aviation)

Weltkrise privat: Manager unterm Holzklassen-Diktat - SPIEGEL ONLINE - Nachrichten - Wirtschaft
Endlich mal wieder ein halbwegs lesenswerter Artikel beim SPON Ich glaube ja eh, das die Business Class
nur noch mit den letzten Resten erfogener Bonusmeilen gefuellt is

(tags: manager rant)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

The mother of all USB hubs?

Constantin, I want to see the the CSI:Munich ZFS video with this hub

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 11:58

Thursday, July 23. 2009

Webseminar: "Solaris Security"

Ich hatte ja schon vor einigen Tagen angekündigt, das es bald wieder ein neues Webseminar von mir geben wird: Ich werde in diesem Seminar auf die ganzen Sicherheitsfeatures in Solaris eingehen. Also wie gehe ich mit Least Privileges um, was hat es mit den signed Binaries auf sich, was bedeutet eigentlich EAL und Common Criteria, wie können mir die Trusted Extensions weiterhelfen, was ist die Solaris Fingerprint Database und vieles mehr. Stattfinden wird dieses Webseminar Seminar am 30 September 2009 von 14:00 bis 15:00 Uhr. Für dieses kann man sich nunmehr auch anmelden. Das Anmeldeformular findet Ihr hier.

Bei dieser Gelegenheit möchte ich gleich noch auf drei weitere Webseminare hinweisen: Am 26. August wird Volker Wetter (Technical Architect Systems Praticce) zum Thema "10 Gründe, Ihre Applikation auf Solaris zu betreiben" sprechen. Für den 16. September ist dann ein Vortrag zum Thema "Sun Unified Storage in der Praxis" geplant. Dieser wird von Karlheinz Vogel, seines Zeichens Senior Storage Consultant vorgetragen. Der Holodoc, sorry ... Dr. Stefan Schneider, Chief Technologist, wird sich dann am 22. September mit dem Thema "Start smart. Scale hard! Warum Web-Startups mit Ihrer IT skalieren müssen" befassen. Weitere Informationen findet Ihr dazu auf der Webseite der deutschen Sun Webseminare.

PS: Entschuldigt bitte den Text bei der Beschreibung meines Seminars. Is vom Produktmarketing. Der Vortrag ist marketingfrei

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Security, Solaris at 17:18

links for 2009-07-23

Urteil aus Karlsruhe : Regierung verstieÃ in BND-AffÃre gegen Verfassung - Nachrichten Politik - Deutschland - WELT ONLINE

Kleinbloggersdorf: nicht der Nabel der Welt aber gerne anti-kommerziell, fundamentalistisch und schizophren.

Pixar -v- Dreamworks vCxQY.jpg â My[confined]Space
The difference between Pixar and Dreamworks

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

Zensursulas neustes Vorhaben

Ich glaube, Frau von der Leyen ist nunmehr vollstaendig in irgendeine Nebenrealitat abgedriftet. Im SPON wird sie wie folgt zitiert:Im Internet sollen Benimm-Regeln gelten - das fordert Familienministerin Ursula von der Leyen (CDU). In Online-Netzwerken, Blogs und Chats musse ebenso wie im Schulalltag ein "achtsamer und wacher Umgang miteinander" eingefordert werden, sagte von der Leyen der "Rheinischen Post".Ja, liebe Ursula, das funktioniert ja an Schulen auch so gut. Ich frage mich ja, ob Frau von der Leyen schon mal in letzter Zeit an einer richtigen Schule war. Nicht auf irgendeinem Elite-Privatgymnasium. Hierzu fallt mir ein Kommentar ein, der mir schon langer auf der Zunge brennt, den ich bisher aber nicht ausgesprochen habe, weil ich genau weiss, das ich dafur massiv Gegenwind bekomme:

Kinder sind grausam, richtig grausam. Sie wissen nicht wann schluss ist. Jugendliche sind noch viel schlimmer, weil das Gehirn durch tosende Hormone ausgeschaltet wird. Ich weiss, das Kinder schwerstens durch Kinderpornographie und Missbrauch geschadigt werden und ich vermag mir den Horror nicht mal vorzustellen, dem diese Kinder ausgesetzt sind.

Ich wage aber zu behaupten, das mehr Kinder schwerstens psychisch geschädigt werden oder in den Selbstmord getrieben werden durch Schulmobbing als durch Kinderpornographie und familiaeren Missbrauch. Es gibt Studien, die davon ausgehen, das jeder fünfte Selbstmord von Jugendlichen durch Schulmobbing hervorgerufen wird. Ich vermute mal, das davor nur noch Leistungsdruck, jugendliche Labilität und Liebeskummer stehen.

Das ist ein massenhaftes Phänomen an Schulen, welches nur in den absoluten Auswüchsen ans Licht der Medien kommt.

Ich weiss zumindestens ein bisschen, wovon ich rede: In meiner Parallelklasse hat es damals einen Selbstmord gegeben und ich spüre bis heute das Ziepen an den seelischen Narben, die Schulmobbing an mir hinterlassen hat, wenn das Wetter dreht, sowie ich bis heute beim Rasieren die Folge jener Situation sehe, die mir Ruhe verschafft hat (Nein, ich habe nicht geschlagen, ich habe ihnen nur gezeigt, das man mich selbst mit Faustschlägen nicht dazubringen kann, auf ihr Niveau herunterzusteigen). Da hat mir kein Lehrer geholfen, sondern nur die Stärke ich ich durch meine Eltern gewonnen habe. Und meine Zeit in der Schule ist wirklich schon etwas her, heute ist das noch wesentlich schlimmer geworden.

Ohnehin ist Mobbing im Netz oftmals nur die Fortführung von Mobbing in der Schule. Es ist ja eben nicht so, das man sich einen völlig fremden Menschen vornimmt und dann auf ihn losmobbt, sondern meistens sind es die gleichen Kinder wie in der Schule, die das gleiche Kind wie in der Schule mobben. Das Mobben bleibt oft in der Peergroup. Man könnte folgern, das das Ausgangsproblem die Schule ist. Das Netz ist nur ein weiterer Schauplatz.

Man sollte vielleicht erstmal versuchen, die Schulen in den Griff zu bekommen, bevor man versucht als Feigenblatt Benimmregeln fürs Internet zu bauen. Benimmregeln sind genauso wirkungslos wie Netzsperrern. Und man sollte nicht behaupten, das die Einforderung von "achtsamen und wachen Umgang miteinander" irgendetwas bringt oder sich die Kinder darum scheren.

Wahrscheinlich ist es aber so ähnlich wie mit den Netzsperrern. Wir schaffen uns die nächste Sichtblende um ein wirklich brennendes Problem.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Braindump, German at 11:12

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Updating a Confluence Wiki with a script

In the process of creating a wikified version of the LKSF, i had the problem of importing all those files into the Wiki. As wikis.sun.com is based on the Atlassian Confluence i couldn't use the already available scripts for Mediawiki for example . I wasn't really fond of the idea to do this manually, thus i've asked via Twitter for a solution and i've got a hint for the xmlrpc interface. At the end, i've created a script with stolen ... sorry ... copied components of many other scripts (like this one or this one). My script compares the current version with the new version, uploads the new version and creates new pages if necessary. It takes three command line parameters: the name of the Wikipage, the name of the space (something like a subwiki or a administrative domain in Confluence) and the file you want to upload. Sorry for the programming style ... python isn't really my native programming language, but the xmlrpc is solved really good in python and it was a good reason to refresh my really rusty python skills.

Okay ... let's get to the usage. For example: `./export.py sat.lksf_sat_crashcore.tex lksf sat/lksf_sat_crashcore.tex.wikified` This uploads the file `sat/lksf_sat_crashcore.tex.wikified` into the space `lksf` with the page name `sat.lksf_sat_crashcore.tex`. This leads to the wiki page `http://wikis.sun.com/display/lksf/sat.lksf_sat_crashcore.tex` Now to the source of the script `export.py:#!/usr/bin/python`

```
import sys
import xmlrpclib
import hashlib

title = sys.argv[1]
space = sys.argv[2]
file = sys.argv[3]
content = ""

print "======"
print file

chash = hashlib.sha256()

try:
    datei = open(file, 'r')
    for line in datei:
        content = content + line
        if line == "BREAKBREAKBREAK\n":
            break
    datei.close()
except IOError:
    print file, "not readable"
    sys.exit(1)

chash.update(content)
contenthash = chash.hexdigest();
print "new content hash:", contenthash

s = xmlrpclib.Server("http://wikis.sun.com/rpc/xmlrpc")
token = s.confluence1.login("username", "password")

newpage= "false"

try:
    page2 = s.confluence1.getPage(token, space, title)
    oldcontent = page2["content"]
    ochash = hashlib.sha256()
    ochash.update(oldcontent)
```

```
oldcontenthash = ohash.hexdigest();
print "old content hash:", oldcontenthash
if oldcontenthash == contenthash:
    print "no update needed"
    sys.exit(0)
except xmlrpclib.Fault, err:
    print "A fault occurred"
    print "Fault code: %d" % err.faultCode
    newpage = "true"
```

```
if newpage == "true":
    page={}
    page["title"] = title
    page["content"] = content
    page["space"] = space
else:
    page=page2
    page["content"] = content
```

```
try:
    s.confluence1.storePage(token, page)
except xmlrpclib.Fault, err:
    print "A fault occurred"
    print "Fault code: %d" % err.faultCode
    print "Fault string: %s" % err.faultString
```

print title, "updated" Just in case you wonder because of this "BREAKBREAKBREAK" line. It's just for debugging purposes. As i wrote yesterday, the xmlrpc is a little bit bitchy about charsets and the error message wasn't helpful. It was easier to find the problem by bisecting the file again and again. And this was done by the "BREAKBREAKBREAK" line

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Toolbox at 22:48

Monitoring a Solaris system with your iPhone

I've got an interesting hint from a reader of my blog via Twitter DM: You can monitor your Solaris System via your iPhone. At first you need the iStat application for the iPhone. You can get it at Apples App Store. In addition to this, you need an iStat server on your Solaris system. You can get such a server for Solaris and Linux at code.google.com. With this combination you can monitor the most important parameters of your system from your phone with a nice GUI.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 19:10

A thought about the \$PATH and the GNU Tools in OpenSolaris

I wasn't really a friend of the decision to put the GNU tools in front of the native Solaris tools by setting the PATH accordingly in OpenSolaris 200x.y. I leaned more to the solution of having a separate PATH, an additional entry in standards(5) and keeping the old default.

I'm still not a fan of this. But i'm starting to believe, that this decision was the correct decision. One of the objectives of OpenSolaris 200x.y was to ease the adoption of Solaris for Linux people. In the last few weeks, i've made an observation by having a twitter search of Solaris: Almost all people doesn't criticize the kernel, they are just annoyed by missing command line arguments in the tool in comparison to their known Linux tools. Those critics even rised even for commands, where a GNU alternative is available under /usr/sfw/bin. From this point, the decision to make the GNU tools standard is a reasonable one, you don't have to like it, but hey ... you can still use Solaris Classic

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 18:48

links for 2009-07-22

YouTube - Muppet Show While My Guitar Gently Weeps

(tags: fun muppets music)

YouTube - Jake Shimabukuro While My Guitar Gently Weeps
a different version
(tags: ukulele Jake Shimabukuro)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

The reasoning behind triple-parity RAID-Z

There was some discussion with colleagues and friends if we really need Triple Parity RAID. Adam Leventhal wrote an article about the need for Triple-Parity, the Math behind it and why there isn't a generic n-Parity RAID at the moment. You will find the the article in his blog.

As i wrote before, the question of the need for triple parity or n-parity condenses down to the probability of additional drives dying away (or delivering read errors) while syncing the new disc into the raid set. Just think about 4 TB hard disk (we already reached 2 TB) and large wide-stripe sets. With disks getting bigger and bigger, the time to resync the data gets longer and longer and thus you have a prolonging window of vulnerability for your data that gets more dangerous with the amount of disks in a raid-set.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 11:21

Who has invented it?

I don't know if you know the german commercial for "Ricola". It goes about the invention of the "Ricola" cough sweet. Several nations claim the invention of the drop, but at the end a man in a suit enforces them to admit, that the Ricola cough sweet was invented in Switzerland.

We just found out, that an indispensable tool in IT was invented in Switzerland. Without modern IT wouldn't be the same: The wire strap as we use it today. The wire strap was invented by Rudolf Fehr from Basel, Switzerland almost 40 years ago. It's the patent 528 834 issued by the Authority of intellectual property of the Switzerland.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in lost and found, The IT Business at 11:14

Tuesday, July 21. 2009

Preview: Sun Fire X4640

The venerable X4600M2 will have a successor this year. You already find some technical specs of the upcoming X4640 at the Sun website: Sun Fire X4640 Specs. The X4640 can use to the AMD Istanbul six-core CPU, so: 48 cores in 4 RU. Should be a really nice VDI or VMware system

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in General at 21:44

Wikified "Less known Solaris Features"

I finally found some time to improve my converter scripts for the import of the LKSF documents into wikis.sun.com. Now i just have to get the convert of tables right. By the way: The implementation of xmlrpc in Python seems to be a little bit bitchy about charsets. At least there shouldn't be any dead links now. You will find the wikified LKSF at wikis.sun.com

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 21:34

UltraSPARC T2 got a speedup

The UltraSPARC T2/T2+ got a speedup to 1.6 Ghz.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 14:33

links for 2009-07-21

F-22 Raptor: Obamas Kampf gegen die Dinosaurier | ZEIT ONLINE

(tags: f22)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

40 years ago ... - Part 3

"That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English at 04:56

Monday, July 20. 2009

40 years ago ... - Part 2

The Eagle has landed

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English at 22:17

In der Bahn ... Teil 3

Zwar war meine Rückfahrt durch einen Arbeitstag unterbrochen worden, da das aber irgendwie immer noch zur Rückfahrt der Bahnreise vom Wochenende gehört, noch mal eine kurze Geschichte dazu: Irgendwelche Volltrottel meinten heute, den Citytunnel unter der Binnenalster in Richtung Altona als Fussgängertunnel zu benutzen. Folge: Grossflächige Stromabschaltung, damit die Polizei dort gefahrlos rein kann (und nebenbei die Idioten nicht gebraten werden), ebenso grossflächige Verspätungen. Ich frage mich gerade, was in einem Kopf vorgehen muss, um in diesen Tunneln eine gute Abkuerzung zu sehen

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Bahn, German at 20:13

Look back

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Photographie at 13:24

Forbes about the Sun/Oracle Merger

Forbes writes after Sun stockholders approval about the proposed Sun/Oracle merger in Oracle-Sun Tie-Up Changes Everything: The shareholders of Sun Microsystems have approved the proposed acquisition by Oracle, setting the stage for a fundamental shift in the way CIOs buy their computer hardware and software, how well it performs and what they actually pay for it.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle, The IT Business at 13:12

RAIDZ3

In the case you want to know more: The parity algorithm behind RAIDZ3.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 11:32

A decision in favour of Solaris

I have a tweetsearch in Twitterdeck to show me all tweets containing "Solaris". There are many tweets just talking about the movie "Solaris", but this search yield gems from time to time. One example is the text "Solaris? Why not Linux?". It's a text written about the decision not to go the path to Linux and using Solaris instead. An interesting read from a source outside of Sun: Now, all of this is not to say that Linux does not have any key features which Solaris cannot match - it certainly does; there are numerous ways in which Linux is better than Solaris, and for some or many situations it's a better choice. It's a case of the most appropriate OS for a given purpose.

[...]

Ultimately both OS's have certain features that the other lacks, which is a part of why we use both extensively here at VYRE.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 09:52

New in Opensolaris Build 120: RAID Z3 and latencytop

You wear two belts and suspender? Well ... this addition to Solaris may give you some relief in regard of your data: RAID Z3. A RAID-Z with triple parity information. As funny as such a configuration may appear at the first look, such an

configuration can make sense for example for large wide-striped raid sets. The larger the RAID set, the larger the possibility that you loose more disk than your RAID-Z is able to cope with.

Another interesting addition: Latency Top. Latency Top enables you to find out where latencies happen in your system.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 06:53

Sunday, July 19. 2009

First Flight of the 787

There are rumours, that Boing has finally figured out how they can do a first-flight of the 787 soon. There is an image of the configuration available.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Aviation, English at 19:06

Saturday, July 18. 2009

In der Bahn ... Teil 2

Es ist zwar mittlerweile ein PAL, da ich in Bremen umsteigen musste, aber der IC, mit dem ich eben gefahren bin, ist echt vom Pech verfolgt. Wie eben schon geschrieben, musste eine Waggon ausgekoppelt werden. Ich weiss mittlerweile, das dies wegen einer sich nicht mehr schliessenden Tür erfolgen musste.

7 Minuten vor Bremen: "Wegen einem Leichenfund zwischen Bremen und Osnabrück ist die Strecke bis auf weiteres gesperrt". Gelächter, ungläubige Blicke. Ich denke mir "Ist doch garkein Suicide Monday".

4 Minuten vor Bremen: "Wegen einer Streckensperrung hält dieser Zug nicht in Osnabrück und Münster". Tumult, ein Familienvater sucht nach der Notbremse, findet diese aber nicht. Sowas nennt man wohl blankliegende Nerven ... Gut, das er sie nicht gefunden hat, sonst wuerden wir jetzt mit dem Zug in einem Bremer Vorort stehen.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Bahn, German at 14:04

In der Bahn ...

War ja wieder klar. Da freut man sich viereckig, das man einen Sitzplatz mit Tisch und Steckdose findet, dann verreckt den Leuten einer der Waggon. Weiterfahrt unbestimmt verspätetet. Man will natürlich intelligent sein, laeuft zum Metronom, aber auch der wird mit etwa 20 Minuten angekündigt. Also wieder zurück zum IC. Logischerweise ist der gute Sitzplatz weg. Plan C: bahn.comfort-Hotline anrufen. Schon mal reservierung für den Folge-IC besorgen. Dummerweise war das wohl auch der Plan C anderer Leute. Zug vollständig ausreserviert. Nun: Der defekte Waggon wird gerade entfernt. Ich guck mal, wann das hier weitergeht.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Bahn, German at 12:25

Friday, July 17. 2009

Piratenpartei für die Bundestagswahl zugelassen

Wie Heise.de berichtet ist die Piratenpartei bei der Bundestagswahl dieses Jahr durch den Bundeswahlausschuss zugelassen worden.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, policy of ... at 12:47

Live Android

A nice toy - you can download a live distribution of Android for x86 at Google Code. It starts in your favourite virtualisation product. I assume it would make a good communication device with an UMTS enabled netbook

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 11:55

Schlechtes Gewissen beim Globetrotter

Florian Illies hat vor einigen Jahren das Buch "Anleitung zum Unschuldigsein" veröffentlicht. Ich finde, er hat ein ganz wichtiges Feld schlechten Gewissens vergessen: Das Globetrotter-Phänomen.

Man geht zu Globetrotter um sich Schuhe zu kaufen (ab einer Schuhgrösse nordwärts von 45/46 eine der wenigen Chancen Schuhe zu bekommen), wird beraten, als würde man damit gleich ins Hochgebirge gehen oder durch die Mongolei stiefeln. Man selbst weiss jedoch, das diese Schuhe nie mehr Gelände sehen werden, als im Park eine Abkürzung zu nehmen. Schlechtes Gewissen galore. Ich glaube, das ist sowas ähnliches wie SUV in Deutschland zu fahren.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Braindump, German at 11:01

A removed article

Just in case you wonder about a missing article. There was an article quoting an Oracle employee. The quoted article has been removed from the blog. So i put my linking article into draft mode, as I assume the employee removed it out of a good reason and a linking article doesn't make sense without the linked article. I will put back into "publish mode" at an appropriate point in time for documentary purposes Nothing is lost, the comments are still there, too.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 08:12

Thursday, July 16, 2009

Sun stockholders approved the planed Oracle merger

As written in a press release: Sun Microsystems, Inc. (NASDAQ: JAVA) announced that at a special meeting of stockholders held on July 16, 2009, its stockholders adopted the merger agreement entered into with Oracle Corporation, under which Oracle will acquire Sun common stock for \$9.50 per share in cash. Approximately 62% of the shares of Sun common stock outstanding as of the record date for the meeting voted to adopt the agreement. Of course this just one hurdle for this deal, it's still subject to the approval of the regulation authorities of the EU and the US. So ... Sun and Oracle are still two companies.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 19:38

Upgrade of a X4500 to a X4540

From time to time a question arrives at my desk. Just received it one more time a few minutes ago: "Can we update your X4500 system to an X4540 equvalent system? We want PCIe and QuadCores would be a nice idea, too". Yes, you can.

It's the B24-FSZ2-4540-CONT on the Sun price list. That's just the controller module of the X4540. You can use it to upgrade your X4500. There are certain differences between a X4540 and an upgraded X4500 like the number of supported power supplies (two instead of three where available because of necessity). Ask your friendly SalesRep for additional information.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 16:04

40 years ago

40 years ago Apollo 11 started at July 16th, 1969 at 13:32:00 UTC to a journey that led to a big step for mankind a few days later.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, lost and found at 15:31

Battery life

It doesn't look as bad as the the battery of Kris. But ... well ... it's the second battery in the life of this MBP. I got this battery in November 2008.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Apple, English at 13:43

Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Infoworld about the future of Opensolaris/Solaris

Serdar Yegulalp's article "News Of Solaris's Death Is Greatly Exaggerated" ends with a good comment why such comment like the one of Mr. Vaughan-Nichols are just utter bullshit: But Solaris may be much tougher to kill. Not just because open source is forever (well, it's only forever as long as someone's actually working on it, but that's another essay), but because there are a whole mess of paying customers with support contracts who say that Solaris is forever, too. Or as close to forever as their IT budget allows. There is money to earn. It's that simple.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris, Sun/Oracle at 22:35

The fifth anniversary of c0t0d0s0.org

Oh heck ... I almost missed the date. Five years ago, i've started this blog. c0t0d0s0.org celebrates it's fifth birthday today.

This year was a positive one for the blog. Vastly less technical problems than the year before where i had to reboot my server with a mobile phone from a vacation in London several times. Many new readers. And it's still an interesting endeavour for me to write here. As i wrote last year, I really thought five years ago, that this blog would be one of my short-lived experiment.

In the last year other services surrounding the blog started like the Twitter feeds for patches (for Solaris x86, Solaris SPARC or other Sun Products) or OpenSolaris code news.

On the other side. It was a rough year and my assumption about the future of Sun wasn't always correct. But error is human and i've learned a thing or two. Let's wait what will happen in the next time.

Some numbers for the last year: Up to 10.500 visits a day. This day was the 20th of April, 2009. There was an important announcement. 1,573 subscribers at the moment. I owe Local 5 coffees at Starbucks already and the sixth is imminent. Since the first pdf the "Less known Solaris Features" tutorial was downloaded 26454 times. 1.688.997 views. I added Pageviews via Google Analytics and Itemviews via Google Feedburner for this number. There is no Analytics counting in feeds and no feedburner item counting in analytics). 5895 comments and trackbacks. 5615 articles.

The pageviews starting to get less in relation to the itemviews in terms of the numbers. It seems that many people stumbling over my blog subscribe the feed of it. The numbers of subscribers is vastly higher than i've expected one year ago.

The numbers hide the most important part of this blog: My readers, or to name it: You. I would like to thank you for reading my blog. It was really fun to write for you and I hope you stay with me and my blog the next years. I'm planing at least 5 additional years of blogging, whatever the future may bring to the industry, Sun and me.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in About this blog, English at 13:44

links for 2009-07-15

LBV 1806-20 - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(tags: astronomy)

VV Cephei - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(tags: astronomy)

VY Canis Majoris - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(tags: astronomy)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

Fünftes HHOSUG Meeting

Reserviert euch mal den 17.09.2009 (das ist ein Donnerstag). An diesem Tag findet das fünfte HHOSUG-Meeting um 19 Uhr statt. Ich habe die Räumlichkeiten schon mal reserviert und werde noch eine offizielle Einladung in den nächsten Tagen über die üblichen Kanäle verschicken.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, HHOSUG at 10:58

Sheeps

This is the reason, why you shouldn't take your self too serious.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, lost and found at 06:52

Tuesday, July 14. 2009

Fourth meeting of the HHOSUG

The fourth meeting of the HHOSUG is over. I just recognised that it's extremely difficult to do a live demo of a tool when you have a group of highly proficient admins in front of you asking many really good questions. You can do the demo or you can answer the questions, but not both. Especially when the demo is made about a complex tool. I've demonstrated the Remote Mirror capability of the Availability Suite today. The discussion and the questions were really intensive. I have some homework to do to get some answers for some questions of the auditorium.

Additionally I was a little bit nervous and unconcentrated. Don't know why. Anyway: I'm really thinking that it was a good meeting. And with 10 to 15 people it was even well-visited for a meeting at such a good weather right in front of the summer vacation time.

PS: A additional very positive point of this meeting was the discussion about the next meetings. We have several talks and lightning talks for the next two meetings.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, HHOSUG at 22:41

Vaughan-Nichols about OpenSolaris

The IT media is full of people being short-sighted. Many years ago i've insulted a person of a certain profession and a certain group by saying that they didn't choosed they job out of a calling, just because they Numerus Clausus (something similar in its impact to the Scholastic Assessment Test in the US. The Numerus Clausus is the enrollment limit for certain studies) wasn't sufficient for something else. This comment haunted me for years.

Sometimes I have an inkling, that a similar comment would hold true for IT journalists: I know several IT journalists, that do their job as a calling. They are good at explaining things, they are good at analysing things and they are good at their profession. But: There are several people, where i have the idea, that they wouldn't work in press, when they would be able to get a job in the IT business itself.

In the normal press we have the phenomenon that even former quality newspaper starts to consits out of fear, hate, tits and the weather forecast. In IT media we have the phenomenon that we see the "Tits sell approach" to this business. In order to reach higher amounts ofclick-throughs you need more page views. In order to reach more page views you need links from other sites and on this way those large "information" meta portals like Slashot live in a symbiosis with the IT press. So how do you get the attention of the thundering heards? Show tits ... err ... write about the imminent death of something. Stories the herd want to read. They don't have to be well researched, they don't have to be well written, they just need to have a good headline.

"Is Oracle getting ready to kill OpenSolaris?" written by Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols is such an article. It's an example what happens if you don't really have insight into a topic. I will not comment on this article. Ben already identified this as FUD and i want to refer to an older article about Linux, Oracle and Solaris about the consequences of a possible merger (Yeah, many people talk as Larry already owns Sun, but at the moment we are seperate companies acting as those. The regulation authorities and the stockholders didn't gave they "Make it so" so far) for Solaris, for Linux and for Oracle. I will just quote from it:To give you an example: Is it relevant to you what operating system is used in your NetApp Filer? Well ... the operating system of a database appliance is irrelevant, too. There is just a single point of interest: What is the best platform for my application with the least time to market and the least amount of bucks spend to build it?

This breaks down to a lot of technical questions. Do i put my money into a filesystem into development like Btrfs or do i use the market-available ZFS for example? Can i use DTrace or is there a need to develop your own tracing framework integrating application and the operating system? Can i use the same operating system from 1 proc to 256 procs (and no, SGI Altix is something completely different)? And so on ...And to end this article: At the end Oracle isn't a Linux company ... it's a middleware and ERP company. Mr. Vaughan-Nichols should keep this mind. In my opinion they contribute to Linux because they wanted a x86 Unix derivation at a certain point of time and Linux was the obvious choice. But what happens if this company owns an unix. Should give Mr. Vaughan-Nichols some food for thought. I don't know what happens in the next time. But i'm pretty sure that the world isn't that simple as the article in Computerworld wants to see it.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris, Sun/Oracle, The IT Business at 17:47

Zensursula und die indischen Gesetze

Nun hat ja Frau von der Leyen vor einigen Tagen desgestalt geäußert, das es in Indien keine Gesetze gegen Kinderpornographie gibt. Das ist ein gutes Beispiel wie schlecht das argumentative Fundament dieses Gesetzes ist. Denn die indische Botschaft sah sich sogleich dazu genötigt sich dieser Behauptung entgegen zu stellen. Netzpolitik.org zitiert aus dieser Darstellung: Die Behauptung, dass es in Indien keine Gesetze gegen Kinderpornographie gibt und dass Kindesmißbrauch in Indien legal ist, ist völlig unbegründet und irreführend. Mir fällt es schwer zu Glauben, das Frau von der Leyen nicht über die gesetzliche Situation in Indien (ein nicht eben kleiner und unwichtiger Staat) Kenntnis besitzt, insbesondere wenn es jenes Thema betrifft, das sie zu besetzen versucht. Und wie nennt man das, wenn jemand wissentlich die Unwahrheit sagt? Ja! Richtig!!

Sehr interessant in diesem Zusammenhang ist auch diese Aufstellung, wieviel Wahrheit wirklich in der Aussage ist, das die Hälfte aller Länder keine Gesetze zur Kinderpornographie kennt. Das mag vielleicht stellenweise richtig sein, aber braucht man eigene Gesetze für Kinderpornographie, wenn in einen Land Pornographie in Gänze verboten ist (und dort die Pornographiegrenze bereits im Tragen eines Bikinis teilweise erreicht ist)?

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, policy of ... at 13:49

links for 2009-07-14

FINAL REPORT 5B-DBY.pdf (application/pdf Object)
AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT HELIOS AIRWAYS FLIGHT HCY522 BOEING 737-31S AT GRAMMATIKO,
HELLAS ON 14 AUGUST 2005
(tags: accident aviation)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

Monday, July 13. 2009

Webseminar: Solaris Security

As it was fun for me to hold a web seminar, i´ve will use the opportunity to do a second one: There will be another webseminar about Solaris Security at the end of September. I will post the exact schedule as soon it´s fixed. Sorry, it will be only in german language again.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 18:48

The Register about ZFS deduplication

Even the Register reports about Deduplication in ZFS. I´m asking myself, if the people at the Register read my blog, as i´ve talked about that a few days ago.

Fun aside: Synchronous Dedupe is the only sensible way to do dedupe data as you would need to provide the storage for undeduped data otherwise until the system gets to the point where the data gets deduplicated. Dependent on the frequency of dedupe runs, this could be a vast amount of storage. On the other side, synchronous dedupe is dependent of a fast mechanism to detect duplicates. The checksumming feature of ZFS looks like a good way to do this, as it capable to use various hashing algorithms. When the probability of collision is less than the probability of reading wrong data from disks it should suffice just to check the checksums instead of checking the complete block.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Security at 14:34

Atomkraft

Zwei Jahre hat Vattenfall an Krümmel gebastelt und am Ende fehlten immer noch Komponenten. Zwei Jahre an Krümmel rumgebastelt, nur um nach zwei Wochen den ganzen Krempel wieder abschalten zu müssen.

Die CDU in Person von Herrn Wulff sieht natürlich ihre Wiederanschaltpläne gefährdet und warnt die SPD (insbesondere Herrn Gabriel) jetzt davor, damit Wahlkampf zu machen. Nun, wenn nicht damit, womit dann? Und wann, wenn nicht jetzt? Zu einem Zeitpunkt, an dem in Krümmel gezeigt wird, das das mangelnde Vertrauen in die Atomkraft vielleicht seine Berechtigung findet. Politik ist Diskurs, Herr Wulff, auch wenn einem die Ergebnisse nicht gefallen. Und Herr Wulff, Herr Gabriel schürt keine Ängste, die sind längst da ...

Ich bin übrigens wirklich bei der Überlegung, ob ich mir einen Geigerzähler mit serieller Schnittstelle kaufe und den hier an meinen Fileserver anklemme um die Ergebnisse ins Netz zu stellen. Ich habe naemlich irgendwie nur sehr wenig Vertrauen, das man im Falle eines Falles wirklich rechtzeitig gewarnt werden würde.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, policy of ... at 14:06

links for 2009-07-13

YouTube - Crash Test: 2008 Smart Car ForTwo

(tags: crash test)

YouTube - Landwind TUV Crash Test

(tags: crash test)

YouTube - Mercedes E class CRASH TEST

(tags: Just as an example for a better result)

YouTube - Crash Test Chinese Car - Euro NCAP - Brilliance car crash

(tags: crash test)

YouTube - Chinese Car, Truck Crash Testing

(tags: crash test)

YouTube - holden commodore - worst car crash test

I don't think it's that bad ... they removed the spine of the car by removing the tail shaft

(tags: crash test)

YouTube - Chinese car crash test failure

(tags: crash test)

AA-8-5.pdf (application/pdf Object)

FINAL REPORT ON THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED ON 25 MAY 2008 AT BRUSSELS AIRPORT ON A BOEING B747-209F REGISTERED N704CK

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

4. HHOSUG Meeting morgen um 19:00 Uhr

So, es ist wieder soweit, morgen findet das nächste HHOSUG-Meeting statt. Wie üblich um 19 Uhr in der Sun Geschäftsstelle. Es wird morgen keinen Hauptvortrag im Sinne eine Slideshow geben, sondern eine Livevorführung: Ich werde morgen Replikation und Snapshots mit der Availability Suite in OpenSolaris vorstellen und erklären wie das Ganze funktioniert. In meinem Webinar von letzter Woche habe ich gemerkt, dass dieses Thema wohl viele Leute interessiert. Vorher wirds einen kurzen Vortrag von mir zum Thema Neuigkeiten bei Solaris geben. Zum Beispiel was es mit der Verlängerung der Supportzeiträume bei OpenSolaris auf sich hat.

BTW: Nach diesem Meeting findet die HHOSUG wieder im zweimonatlichen Rhythmus statt. Wir können das nur monatlich machen, wenn das nicht alles an einer oder wenigen Personen hängen bleibt. Und irgendwie hab ich kein Angebot für einen Vortrag in meiner Mailbox gefunden. Darüber reden wir morgen noch mal.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, HHOSUG at 11:12

The carbon footprint of spam

There is an interesting whitepaper available from McAfee and ICF. Albeit it's from a vendor of security software, it provides some interesting points: Filtering spam is beneficial, but fighting spam at the source is even better. When McColo, a major source of online spam, was taken offline in late 2008, the energy saved in the ensuing lull — before spammers rebuilt their sending capacity — equated to taking 2.2 million cars off the road. By the way, I think nobody wants to make advertisements for its hardware with "Greener SPAM ... the products of Vendor X are capable to send out 50% more spam with 50% less energy". But it should give us an additional incentive to think about some more effective means to fight spam.

(via: Slashme and polaine.com)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 10:13

We need something like that in Germany, too

The last issue of the CHIP in India provided an exclusive booklet for OpenSolaris. I want such a thing for Germany, too ... but I assume the usual suspects are just too focused to distribute the n-th version of Knoppix with their main issues.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris, Sun/Oracle at 09:39

Aufzeichnung des "Less known Solaris Features"-Webinar

(click on image to play)

1. Am Anfang ist Rolf Kersten mit einigen einleitenden Worten zu hören.
2. Ich bitte die Äh's zu verzeihen, ich habe den Vortrag frei Schnauze gehalten
3. Ich war furchtbar nervoes, mein erstes Webinar
4. Ich bitte die Sprachqualität zu verzeihen, mehr gibt ein E71 nicht her
5. Es ist ein Fehler im Slideset. Es muss savecore -L heissen, nicht savecore -l
6. Eine Version in besserer Qualität findet ihr hier. Von dort habe ich die Version, die ihr hier seht, via Screenium abgezogen. Allerdings ist dort eine Registrierung noetig.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Solaris at 07:53

Sunday, July 12. 2009

links for 2009-07-12

The F-35 JSF, Predator or prey? - Plane Talking

(tags: F35 JSF radar)

Photos: Airbus A300B4-603 Aircraft Pictures | Airliners.net

(tags: A300)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

Saturday, July 11. 2009

EMC acquires DataDomain

Personally i'm thinking that Data Deduplication is vastly overrated, as you need really special data set to get the promised reductions by the vendors. At other points it is even dangerous: Sometimes this duplications are the last line of defence between the disks and going to the tapes. Oh ... the vendor told you that Backup2Disk is enough? Well ... looks like you have a problem. Anyway, the customers like it.

So the next months will be really interesting: EMC was able to acquire Data Domain in a bidding war with Netapp. The problem for Netapp: The plans of Netapp to aquire Data Domain were really sensible. The Netapp Dedup is fairly substandard as i wrote in February so purchasing the technology of Data Domain would have been a good move.

Now Netapp has a problem: ZFS will introduce deduplication and bring it to every server. I assume we will see dedup by Data Domain in various EMC products. I think Netapp should fill this gap soon. More due to a marketing need than a technological need.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, The IT Business at 20:55

Virtualbox 3.0.2

With 3.0.2 Virtualbox got a maintenance release. You can get the release note at the usual location as well as the binaries

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 15:30

Wie findest Du die Jugend von heute?

Ich bin gestern etwas früher nach Hause gefahren. Irgendwie steckte mir der vorherige Tag ein wenig in den Knochen der um 04:30 begann und aus vielerlei Gründen an jenem Tag kein Ende mehr fand. Ich habe mich dann an diesem Tag mit den vielen losen Enden herumgeschlagen, die auf meinem Schreibtisch liegen. Warum ich das erzähle? Nun ... ich bin so in den Rückreiseverkehr unserer Jugend geraten, die sich in der S-Bahn befinden und den Wunsch in mir aufkeimen liessen, ich möge doch auf der Stelle taub werden. Es wird oft über die Gefahr gesprochen, die Lackierer und Maler im Rahmen ihrer Arbeit durch die Lösungsmittel ausgesetzt sind. Ich glaube Parfümerieangestellte sind noch viel grösseren Gefahren ausgesetzt, denn eine Gruppe von Jugendlichen, die wohl in einer Filiale einer grossen Parfümeriekette gehört, die unter anderem auch Buchläden, Schokoladenauslagen und Schmuckläden ihr eigen nennt.

Abgespielt hat sich dabei dieser denkwürdige Dialog zwischen einer Reihe von Angestellten dieses Unternehmens, die augenscheinlich in Richtung eines Einkaufszentrums im Norden der Stadt waren. Jenem Einkaufszentrum, das demnächst den ersten Hamburger Apple Store beheimaten wird und daneben eine Reihe von Läden, in denen die Hauptbeschäftigung der Verkäuferinnen anscheinend darin besteht, Kunden abschätzig auf ihre Solvenz zu prüfen, bevor man das wiederholte Falten von Hemden oder die Gespräche über den vorherigen Abend beendet.

Man fuhr in der S-Bahn an der Generali-Verwaltung in Hamburg vorbei: Verkäuferin 1: "Du hast doch nen total eigenartigen Urlaub"

Verkäuferin 2: "Woche Urlaub, Woche Arbeiten, Woche Urlaub, Woche Arbeiten"

Verkäuferin 1: "Sowas mach ich nicht, würde ich mich voll beschweren ey"

Verkäuferin 3: "Total Stress is das" Ich schüttelte den Kopf, widmete mich wieder meiner EMail und dachte nur "Kind, Du hast keine Ahnung was Stress ist ... frag mal eine Krankenschwester". Man hielt Berliner Tor. Verkäuferin 1: "Ich habe voll keine Lust! Ich steig Barmbek aus und hol mir Nudeln beim Japsen. Tu ich wirklich"

Verkäufer 4: "Das ist ein Chinamann"

Verkäuferin 1: "Das ist doch das selbe" Da musste selbst Verkäufer 4 den Kopf schütteln. Ich dachte nur "Okay, kannst das gerne mal versuchen einem Chinesen und einem Japaner ins Gesicht zu sagen" und las weiter meine Mails soweit das im Funkloch kurz vor Landwehr möglich war. Verkäuferin 2: "Ich will Visagistin werden. Kann gut schminken"

Verkäuferin 3: "Ich auch, kann voll gut andere schminken. Ich mich aber nicht. Ein Auge sah total sexy aus, das andere total schief" Ich blickte auf und dachte bei mir "Könnte am Gesicht liegen, versuchs mal mit einem Skapell und nicht mit Tusche".

Kurz vor meinem Ausstieg in Hasselbrook äusserte Verkäuferin 2 noch, das sie ja total gerne für die grossen im Geschäft der farblichen Umgestaltung von Frauen arbeiten würde. Und ich dachte nur: "Ja, darauf hat das Unternehmen nur gewartet ... noch ein wandelnder Tuschkasten, der meint, das eigene Schminken zu Höherem beruft".

Ich bin mir sicher: "Die Welt wird untergehen". Spätestens in der nächsten Generation. Und ich werde mir grauhaarig aus meiner roten Plüschloge am Rande des Geschehens das ganze lästernd angucken. So kann man auf die Frage im Titel nur wie in der Werbung antworten: "Ich wüsste nicht, das ich sie gesucht habe". Aber ich glaube wirklich ich fange an zu zynisch für diese Welt zu werden.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Braindump, German at 13:23

links for 2009-07-11

Say it ain't so: The 787 possibly just a mediocre aircraft;

(tags: 787)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

Friday, July 10. 2009

42

A life in 42 seconds.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in lost and found at 15:02

links for 2009-07-10

High-Priced F-22 Fighter Has Major Shortcomings - washingtonpost.com

(tags: f22 aviation)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

Thursday, July 9. 2009

Monk using Opensolaris

Interesting discovery: James Governor (founder of Redmonks and a prolific blogger at Monkchips) tries OpenSolaris at the moment ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 20:10

Platform 7/8 Berlin Main Station

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in General at 17:30

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Sun Ray Server 5.0 Early Access

The ThinGuy reports about it in his Twitter feed: There is a new version of the SunRay Server Software in the early access phase: Sun Ray Software 5 and Sun Ray Soft Client 1.0 Early Access 1 (EA1). There is especially one interesting new feature: A Sun Ray Soft Client for Windows, thus you can use a desktop as a Sun Ray for the time of the migration towards a pure Sun Ray solution.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 21:24

links for 2009-07-08

StadtRAD Hamburg

(tags: radsharing)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

75

Just got the latest number of participants in my "Less known Solaris Features" webinar: 75 people registered until yesterday evening. This number isn't bad for a event in german language. By the way: You can use Solaris as a WebEx client as well. Rolf used it on a Sun Ray in the rehearsal on Monday.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Solaris at 10:35

Tuesday, July 7. 2009

Ice Age: The Dawn of the Dinosaurs

The new film of the Ice Age franchise was rendered on Sun. 480 X6250 blades in 10 6048 chassis: Ice Age - Rendered w/Sun Constellation System

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Movies, Sun/Oracle at 16:57

CCC Gutachten zur Vorratsdatenspeicherung

Sehr interessante Lektüre ... das Gutachten des CCC zur Vorratsdatenspeicherung von Telekommunikationsdaten ist nunmehr öffentlich. Der CCC schreibt dazu:"Durch die ungebremste Aufzeichnung der digitalen Spuren wird das Mobiltelefon mehr und mehr zu einer Ortungswanze, sofern dem speicherwütigen Staat nicht Einhalt geboten wird. Sollte die Vorratsdatenspeicherung vor Gericht Bestand haben, bedeutet das praktisch ein Ende der Freiheit, unbeobachtet und ungestört zu leben", sagte CCC-Sprecher Frank Rieger

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, Privacy at 14:31

Review of the Sun Fire X4275

ZDnet wrote a nice review of the Sun Fire X4275 (the system with 12 3,5" harddisks) in Sun Fire X4275 : Sun Microsystems's Sun Fire is an excellent all-rounder that can be custom-specced to suit most small-to-medium-business needs. Whether you need to apply yourself with some dense storage or just need the compute power of 16 cores, its flexibility is commendable. By the way ... ZDnet wants the server a little bit quieter ... well ... no one minds a loud server in a server room, but everyone likes a well-cooled server

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 11:05

Hope

I hope there will be a time, when my fellow passengers will understand, that the back of my seat isn't a handle to put their tremendous weight into the seat or to forcing their weight out of the seat and thus catapulting me to the seat in front of me.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Aviation, Business Travel, English at 11:05

Monday, July 6. 2009

First preview of LKSFwikified

You can look at a preview of the wikified LKSF at wikis.sun.com. There are several uncorrectly parsed tex-commands and the tool to post them into the Confluence wiki throws many errors, but it should give you an impression how it looks.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Solaris at 14:04

Sunday, July 5. 2009

Wikified

I know ... i didn't wrote so much in my blog this weekend, but that doesn't mean, that i didn't worked for the blog. I wrote a script to convert the .tex source code of the Less known Solaris Features to the syntax of the wikis.sun.com website. There is one problem at the moment: The LKSF wiki version consists out of 108 files and i don't want to import them manually. But i hope our wiki people can provide me an easier method for the import.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in About this blog, Solaris, Sun/Oracle at 22:25

Lob

Wenn man danach solches Lob wie hier, hier oder hier bekommt, fährt man doch gerne nach Schwetzingen um einen Vortrag zu halten. Mich hat es sehr gefreut, die Gelegenheit zu haben, über Solaris zu sprechen.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Solaris at 13:15

Blog Export: c0t0d0s0.org, http://www.c0t0d0s0.org/

Saturday, July 4. 2009

links for 2009-07-04

Neue Bundestags-Geschäftsordnung - Das Parlament als Farce - Politik - sueddeutsche.de

(tags: parlament politik deutschland)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

Friday, July 3. 2009

Logical Domains 1.2

There is a new version of the Logical Domains available. The version 1.2 of the LDOMs gives you some new interesting features. You can download it [here](#). The Release Notes for 1.2 are available at docs.sun.com. To give you a short overview to the new features, i've extracted the relevant passages out of the documentation.

Support for CPU power management.

Support for jumbo frames.

The Logical Domains virtual switch (vsw) and virtual network (vnet) devices can now support Ethernet frames with payload sizes larger than 1500 bytes. This change results in these drivers being able to increase network throughput.

Restriction of delayed reconfiguration operations to the control domain.

The Logical Domains Manager 1.2 software restricts delayed reconfiguration operations to the control domain. For all other domains, you must stop the domain to modify the configuration unless the resource can be dynamically reconfigured.

Support for configuring domain dependencies.

You can use the Logical Domains Manager to establish dependency relationships between domains. A domain that has one or more domains that depend on it is called a master domain. A domain that depends on another domain is called a slave domain.

Each master domain can specify what happens to its slave domains in the event that the master domain fails. For instance, if a master domain fails, it might require its slave domains to panic. If a slave domain has more than one master domain, the first master domain to fail triggers its defined failure policy on all of its slave domains.

Support for autorecovery of configurations.

Starting with the Logical Domains 1.2 release, a copy of the current configuration is automatically saved on the control domain whenever the Logical Domains configuration is changed. This autosave operation enables you to recover a configuration when the configurations that are saved on the SP are lost. This operation also enables you to recover a configuration when the current configuration was not explicitly saved to the SP when the system powercycled.

Support for export of same backend multiple times.

A virtual disk backend can be exported multiple times either through the same or different virtual disk servers. Each exported instance of the virtual disk backend can then be assigned to either the same or different guest domains. When you mount such devices read/write on two different paths, the applications have to enforce the consistency. Without such means mounting r/w from different locations is a sure way to the tapes

API to support LDMD discovery.

Logical Domains Managers can be discovered on a subnet by using multicast messages. The `ldmd` daemon is able to listen on a network for a specific multicast packet. If that multicast message is of a certain type, `ldmd` replies to the caller. This enables `ldmd` to be discovered on systems that are running Logical Domains.

Support for physical-to-virtual migration tool.

The Logical Domains P2V Migration Tool automatically converts an existing physical system to a virtual system that runs in a logical domain on a chip multithreading (CMT) system. The source system can be any of the following:

Any sun4u SPARC system that runs at least the Solaris 8 Operating System
Any sun4v system that runs the Solaris 10 OS, but does not run in a logical domain
Support for configuration assistant tools.
The Logical Domains Configuration Assistant leads you through the configuration of a logical domain by setting basic properties.
Bug Fixes

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 12:32

Xeon 5500 with 2 DIMMs per channel at 1333 MHz

The integrated memory controller of the Intel Xeon 5500 series has some limitations: It runs at 1333 MHz with one DIMM per channel, it runs at 1033 MHz with two DIMMS per channels and with 800 MHz with 3 banks per channel. With Nehalem you can have either speed or memory size but not both. The limits are enforced by the system as soon as you put the DIMMS into the system.

But the Sun X2270, x4170, x4270 x4275 and x6270 have a special capability. The systems were designed to enable a stable operation at 1333 MHz with 2 DIMMS per channel. The newest versions of the BIOS gives you the option to enable this mode of operation. You will find more informations about this in John's blog article "Update to: Configuring and Optimizing Intel® Xeon Processor 5500 & 3500 Series (Nehalem-EP) Systems Memory". The BIOS updates are available at www.sun.com (Sun Fire X4170/X4270/X4275 Software 2.0, Sun Blade X6270 Software 2.0 and Sun Fire

X2270 2.0.0)

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 10:33

Thursday, July 2. 2009

Two presentations

There are two upcoming public presentations in the next time: Both are in german language. At first i will hold a "Insights to Solaris" presentation at the 10 years UURGN event at July, 4th on Saturday.

The other one is my webinar about "Less known Solaris Features" on July, 8th. You can still register for this event at the Sun website.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 15:43

OpenSolaris Immutable Service Containers

Glenn published the first public version of the OpenSolaris Immutable Service Containers. This is an really interesting concept. This concept use containers to isolate application. This isn't something new, but the way it's done here, is really cool:In an ISC configuration, the global zone is treated as a system controller and exposed services are deployed (only) into their own non-global zones. From a networking perspective, however, the entire environment is viewed as a single entity (one IP address) where the global zone acts as a security monitoring and arbitration point for all of the services running in non-global zones.PS: Glenn, i didn't found the time to check ISC as promised by twitter out of the same reason there aren't many blog postings at the moment, sorry. But's still on my ToDo-list.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Solaris at 13:43

Kompetenz in Computersicherheit

Soviel zum Thema Kompetenz zum Thema Computersicherheit: Herr Schünemann sitzt vor einem Rechner des LKA. Achtet mal auf den Monitor. Ich vermute das ist ein DemoPC, aber trotzdem: Sowas macht man nicht ...

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in German, policy of ..., Security at 13:19

Wednesday, July 1. 2009

Virtual SMP of VirtualBox 3

Jeff Savit wrote an interesting article about the Virtual SMP functionality of VirtualBox 3: This is a really big step. Now you can host guests with up to 32 virtual CPUs on machines with VT-X or AMD-V. Think of all the work that had to be done to provide architecturally consistent CPU and memory in the virtual machine while dispatching virtual CPUs. This affects locking and atomic memory semantics, CPU scheduling to prevent starvation - a lot of things to think about and implement. I may wind up eating my words, but 32 virtual CPUs ought to be enough to handle most people for a very long time.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 20:41

A pledge

After getting some comments at Facebook, Twitter and ICQ, i have to give you a pledge: I will never, never title an article in my blog just with the line "Farewell". Especially not in this times.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp at 13:33

links for 2009-07-01

Im Ententeich - Die vierte Gewalt ist jetzt im Netz

(tags: internet medien journalismus recht urheberrecht demokratie)

Posted by del.icio.us at 13:00

VirtualBox 3.0.0 released

Yesterday Sun released Virtualbox 3.0.0. You can download at the usual location. A changelog is available at the website as well.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Sun/Oracle at 08:55