GNU and GPL Picks

By Roy Schestowitz
Created 30/04/2019 - 7:29pm

The decade long wait for Bash 5

It's a coincidence that the Linux kernel and Bash jumped to version 5.0 at about the same time. While Linus assigns the numbers as he sees fit, Bash changes its version when major adjustments are made. Here's what users can expect in Bash 5.

My last article about a Bash version change is 10 years old [1]. Version 4 was in the starting blocks at that time, but it took some time for all distributions to switch to this version. Nobody puts their production system at risk without good reason.

Nevertheless, the change was very attractive for developers of complex scripts, because thanks to associative arrays a completely new data structure was introduced. The advantages were more elegant, simpler programs that were also easier to maintain. Other important changes included the coproc command (which supports parallelization) and redirection operators.

Stack Clash mitigation in GCC: Why -fstack-check is not the answer

In our previous article about Stack Clash, we covered the basics of the Stack Clash vulnerability. To summarize, an attacker first uses various means to bring the heap and stack close together. A large stack allocation is then used to jump the stack guard. Subsequent stores into the stack may modify objects in the heap or vice versa. This, in turn, can be used by
attackers to gain control over applications.

- **Cooperation and freedom for all** [5]

  The GPL's "freedom zero" can be applied to more than just open-source software.

  Recently, a discussion came up on one of the mailing lists for a GNU/Linux distribution, on which I feel it is necessary to comment. Because this discussion has a place in world politics today, I am bringing my input to this column.

  I started working for Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) in 1983. At that time, I had traveled only domestically in the USA, never internationally.

- **Software Freedom Conservancy Announces End to VMware Lawsuit** [6]

  Linux developer Christoph Hellwig has announced that he is discontinuing his lawsuit against VMware for non-compliance with the terms of the GPL. Hellwig and the Software Freedom Conservancy accused VMware of including GPLed code associated with vmklinux into VMware's proprietary vSphere product. A German appeals court dismissed the case on February 28. Hellwig and the Software Freedom Conservancy have decided they will not appeal the case further in German courts.

GNU Legal

**Source URL:** [http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/123386](http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/123386)

**Links:**
[1] [http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/144](http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/144)