Software: Chafa, Butterfly Builder, Fondo Wallpaper App, kmon and Fre:ac

By Roy Schestowitz  
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Chafa 1.4.0: Now with sixels [2]

April 1st seems like as good a time as any for a new Chafa release? though note that Chafa is no joke. At least not anymore, what with the extremely enterprise-ready sixel pipeline and all.

[...]

The most complete existing implementation is probably Hayaki Saito?s libsixel, but I chose to write one from scratch for Chafa, since sixel output is remarkably intensive computationally, and I wanted to employ a combination of advanced techniques (parallelism, quantization using a PCA approach, SIMD scaling) and corner-cutting that wouldn?t have been appropriate in that library. This gets me fast animation playback and makes it easier to phase out the ImageMagick dependency in the long term.

There are at least two widely available virtual terminals that support sixels: One is XTerm (when compiled with --enable-sixel), and the other is mlterm. Unfortunately, I don?t think either is widely used compared to distribution defaults like GNOME Terminal and Konsole, so here?s hoping for more mainstream support for this feature.

Butterfly Builder, a tool to compile PHP [3]

Butterfly Builder is a tool written in BASH that allows to compile PHP from the source code, Butterfly Builder (before pbt) is the evolution of the php-build.sh script allowing greater flexibility and customization in the PHP compilation / installation process.
PAM testing using `pam_wrapper` and `dbusmock` [4]

On the road to libfprint and fprintd 2.0, we've been fixing some long-standing bugs, including one that required porting our PAM module from dbus-glib to sd-bus, systemd's D-Bus library implementation.

As you can imagine, I have confidence in my ability to write bug-free code at the first attempt, but the foresight to know that this code will be buggy if it's not tested (and to know there's probably a bug in the tests if they run successfully the first time around). So we will have to test that PAM module, thoroughly, before and after the port.

Get Unsplash Wallpapers on Linux with Fondo Wallpaper App [5]

Some people change wallpapers on their desktops, phones or other devices more frequently than they change clothes. Finding new wallpapers on the internet is not that difficult. However, you do start to see the same images over and over the more you look. And then it starts to get a little difficult. That's when many people flock over to Unsplash. Unsplash is a royalty-free photography site, not remotely aimed at providing wallpapers. However, it is a very popular source of wallpapers for many users. Fondo wallpaper app is a new app for Linux that makes it much easier to find and apply wallpapers from Unsplash.

Easily Load, Unload And Blacklist Kernel Modules With kmon (TUI) [6]

kmon is a new command line kernel manager and activity monitor. It can be used to load, unload and blacklist kernel modules, as well as show module information. The tool also shows kernel activities (hardware logs, etc.) in real time.

This command line tool is written in Rust, and it uses a text-based user interface (TUI) thanks to the tui-rs and termion libraries.

Fre:ac Audio Converter 1.1 Released with Dark Mode Support [7]

Fre:ac audio converter 1.1 was released a few days ago. Here's how to install it in Ubuntu 18.04 and higher.