

## Letters to the editor

# Write access

## ■ Killing your brother

My brother connects to our server with ssh. How can I kick him off without switching the server off?

*N Padre, by email, Gosford, Australia*

**LM** As the Superuser (root) run the command

```
linux:/ # who
john      :0      Apr 21  11:25
john      pts/0    Apr 21  11:26
...
richard   pts/4    Apr 23  14:46
192.168.0.56
```

Here we can see Richard has logged on to a server. We need to find his PID (Process Identification Number).

```
linux:/ # ps -aux |
grep [r]ichard
richard 10540  0.0    0.7  ↗
    7424   1932  ?      S  ↗
    14:46  0:00    [sshd]
richard 10541  0.0    0.6  ↗
    4616   1552  pts/4  S  ↗
    14:46  0:00    -bash
```

Looking at this we can see the PID numbers 10540 and 10541 relate to Richard. Killing these jobs will log out Richard.

```
linux:/ # kill -15 10540
```

## ■ Fictional reality

I have been catching up on my backlog of magazines and have just picked up the May issue of the Linux Magazine.

My first comment is please keep up the good work with your column on Kernel News. When I first flick through the magazine I usually just scan the articles to begin with. However there are two columns that I will always read through on this first pass, the Brave GNU world and the Kernel News.

Anyway enough of the platitudes, my main reason for writing is to comment

on the small piece in Kernel News on insane interfaces. Namely producing Kernel panics in Morse code. By sheer co-incidence I have just finished reading a book by Neal Stephenson called Cryptonomicon, have you read it? If not then in the book one of the main characters is trying to de-encrypt some files but knows that his laptop is being monitored by Van Eck phreaking so he generates a script file to bypass this spying. How? By transmitting the file contents via the keyboard LEDs using Morse code! Well hey it's only a novel but it's a good read and a plausible(!) use for Morse code output.

*Adrian Cherry, by email*

## ■ High demands

On my Red Hat computer the hard disk access light comes on and the machine slows whenever I remove a CD. How do I make it stop?

*Pete Stamper, Cardiff, by email*

**LM** The likely problem is the Magicdev daemon that monitors CD removal and insertion. You can either uninstall the Magicdev daemon with the command:

```
linux:/ # rpm -e Magicdev
```

or you can kill the process whenever you wish. First type the following:

```
linux:/ # ps aux | grep ↗
[m]agicdev
```

to find the PID for the job which you can then end with the command:

```
linux:/ # kill -15 PIDnumber
```

## ■ New Bookcase

I'm the author of Bookcase, and I wanted to thank you for including the article about Bookcase in your #30 May issue.

I also wanted to mention two things. First, from your screenshot, it looks like you had some books with more than one author. If you separate the authors'



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names with a semi-colon, “;”, instead of the slash, “/”, then Bookcase will split the authors and group the books under each of the authors. Also, I just released Bookcase version 0.5.1 and I have added the ability to search through the collection by whatever field you want.

*Robby Stephenson, by email*

**LM** Robby's bookcase website is at <http://www.periapsis.org/bookcase/>

where the latest version is now 0.6.1 which includes fixes to the auto\* build system and custom fields plus some other nice features.

## ■ Praise

Hi! I received my back orders of Linux Magazine in good order. I am very pleased with the magazine. I have persisted with DOS/Windows for more than a decade, but I am fairly new to Linux. Your magazine has a useful mix of information for newbies and technical matters for the more advanced. I have learned more tips & tricks from your magazine than from several of the books I have read on Linux. Keep up the good work!

*John English, Kambah, A.C.T., Australia*

**LM** It is always nice to hear that we are doing something right. The learning curve for Linux is steep, but well worth the effort. Although magazines and books can help, I find that talking to others at a local user group to be invaluable and Linux is about sharing information and not locking anyone out. ■