Questions and Answers

by Andy Pepperdine

Introduction

Not many questions this month, but here are some comments relevant to the discussions.

Renaming lots of files.

On a previous occasion it was recommended to use the program *metamorphose* to do this job, and there is now an updated version with a graphical interface. You can get it from here:
https://www.fossmint.com/metamorphose-2-batch-rename-files-and-folders-on-linux/

For the die hard coders, it still has a command line interface, too.

Scaling photos

Several of the image managers and manipulators can change the resolution (and hence size) pf pictures, but normally only one at a time. If you want to process lots, then a different approach may be more suitable.

I use a script I've written which uses applications from the packages *netpbm* and *libjpeg-progs* which must be installed first, if not already there. In addition, my script ensures that any EXIF user comments are also transferred to the new file, and the date on the new file is the same as on the old one. This may not what you want, so if are interested, contact me to get a modified version to suit your needs.

If you want to reduce the size of attachments when sending pictures, then for Thunderbird there is an add-on called *Auto Resize Image* which will do the job for you without having to prepare the attachments specially. It apparently can handle jpeg, png, bmp and gif formats.

Deleting e-mail

If you use more than one device to read e-mail, then you should ensure that you have your settings appropriate for your use. For example, if the device always referes to the contents on your mail server, then if you delete the message, it will also disappear from all other devices. If, however, the device operates on messages it has downloaded, then deleting may only remove it from that device, and not from the server, in which case your other devices will still see it.

iPlayer on older TVs

We talked about a report that the BBC iPlayer will not work on older TVs. Although we do not the actual reason, it may be that the BBC has made an incompatible change, and that manufacturers will not be updating their older TVs. This will be a general problem for all devices in the future. They will have a finite lifetime and are susceptible to abandonment by the producers.

Linux Mint 18.3

We talked about the latest newsletter from Linux Mint concerning their plans for 18.3. They have announced their intention to change the way packages are provided and shipped to use, and will begin using a method called Flatpak.

It is not clear how this will affect us. One particulat statement may have an impact, when they say "Flatpak apps are updated automatically when you log in", we have the question whether that may mean that a login could take some time to complete as these updates go ahead, and whether a lack of internet connection then may impact it.