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Technical Projects and Notes

20190416

bind mount to get web server link to files outside *Documentroot* device

Wanting to give access at home to some files of use for home activities, I set up a web server (I tried both nginx and apache2). However, a symlink to the files of interest pointed outside the current device. I was able to point to files in my home directory from a symlink in /var/www/html without difficulty. (/home is on same device as /var/www)

I tried a number of configuration settings in the .conf files, including “alias” and various FollowSymLinks tries, without success.

At the April 4 linux-ottawa meeting, Alex Pilon suggested a bind mount, and this works.

My example:

Directory /var/www/html/ contains files and symlinks There is a directory tto18 with 755 permissions and root ownership.

The command

sudo mount -o bind /media/john/Rebecca /var/www/html/tto18

allows local users (on local router, and therefore hopefully inside the firewall) to access my machine as “john-j6-18.local” and see this directory, which points to a disk that is attached.

To get this set up when my machine boots, I tried adding the command “/home/john/bin/bmreb” to the Startup Items in the Linux Mint Control Centre. “bmreb” is a file with contents

```
#!/bin/bash
# bmreb -- bind mount rebecca
mount -o bind /media/john/Rebecca /var/www/html/tto18
```

It is owned by root and has 755 permissions. Rebooting, I found that the bind mount was not active. In Linux Mint 19.1, it is now necessary to use systemd to start such items as indicated in https://forums.linuxmint.com/viewtopic.php?t=275464 which gives a tutorial. I followed this and have a working startup.

* OCLUG live distro

- Planning outline for OCLUG live USB distro
- Investigation of EFI boot (S Murphy) 2017
- Attempts to configure graphical interface (J Nash) 2017

- New tries to prepare custom iso - March 2019

* viewing Comment information in a JPG file browser

- This investigation was prompted by a need to quickly check the captions saved in JPG files. After some exchange on the linux _at_ oclug.on.ca list, I recorded what I found, including a nice simple tool built on the **feh** package. See

  scanjpgwoes.pdf

  . Because the Irfanview program for Windows (32 bit particularly) is useful for both Linux and Windows, documentation of how to use it to view JPG Comments in full-screen mode is presented separately as

  viewjpgcmt.pdf

  .

* removing restrictions on pdf files

- TD Canada Trust seems in 2017 to have started to put restrictions on pdf statement files. It is useful to be able to delete boilerplate and add in payment records using **pdfshuffler**. Here is a recipe.

  fixpdfrestrictions.pdf

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