

UNIX System Administration Handbook

Corrections to Printing 4

In the following updates, changed words are italicized. Sometimes, changes are just described rather than written literally.

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Erich Boleyn's GRand Unified Bootloader (GRUB), now maintained as part of the GNU project, is gaining popularity as an alternative to LILO and the Windows boot loaders. It offers a variety of advanced features. See www.gnu.org/software/grub for more information.

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Some GNU utilities (in particular, **zgrep**) can make it a lot more convenient to keep log files in a compressed format. It is also faster on some machines to read compressed data from the disk and decompress it on the fly; compressing old log files can be a double win.

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Regarding the expandability of fiber installations, we received this interesting report from a person at the University of Utah: "The University of Utah was the first large installation of air-blown fiber technology in North America. The technology was developed by British researchers and then commercialized by Sumitomo of Japan. Instead of buried fiber cables, we have buried hoses about 5cm in diameter; four of these enter the math.utah.edu machine room. Each hose contains 6 or 8 transparent tubes, each of which holds 6 or more cladded fiber cables, each of which can contain 6 to 18 fibers (depending on whether single-mode or multi-mode fibers are used). A new fiber cable can be blown in or out of the transparent tube at a speed up about 1m/s, over a distance of up to 5000m. The result is massive expandability without ever digging another trench, and we are supremely glad that we chose this excellent technology."

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A final word on the origin of the name **comsat**, from Kirk McKusick: "...**comsat** and **biff** were written by Bill Joy one day when Heidi Stettner came in told him that her dog

barked when the postman came, so why couldn't she get the same thing for email?
comsat stands for 'communications satellite' (e.g., beaming down email?) and uses the same name as the ITS program with a similar function."