A Paranoid’s Guide to Resource Efficient Self Hosting using nspawn

- **Speaker**: Tim Knox
- **Room**: 250
- **Time**: Saturday, Oct 24th 3:00 – 3:20pm

- **Format**: Talk (20 minutes)
- **Difficulty**: Intermediate
- **Track**: Systems & Virtualization
- **Additional Tags**: systemd-nspawn, Self-hosting, Linux, Containers, Privacy, Virtualization
- **Experience**: UNIX systems enthusiast and aspiring software engineer with a focus on finding practical, production-ready uses for obscure or underrated technology.

Description:

For the privacy-conscious self-hoster, finding a balance between security, resource efficiency, and simplicity can be a challenge. This session explores systemd-nspawn, a versatile but often overlooked native process encapsulation subsystem for Linux that serves as a middle ground between Docker and chroots. By leveraging kernel-based process encapsulation to implement FreeBSD jail-like functionality, nspawn provides a lightweight alternative to traditional containers or virtualization. The speaker will share their journey of switching from cloud-based to on-premise self-hosting, detailing the specific upsides and drawbacks of implementing an nspawn-based environment on a Red Hat-based system.

Target Audience:

- Privacy-focused self-hosters
- Linux system administrators
- Users interested in lightweight virtualization alternatives

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