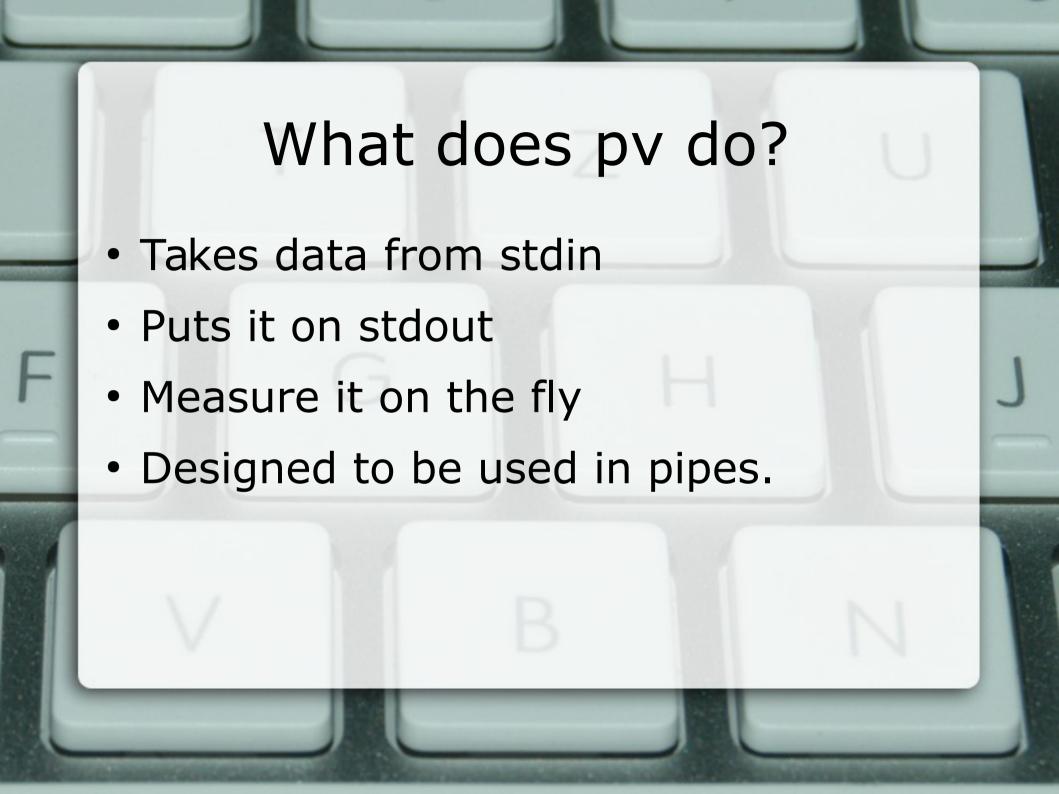# Cool tools of the month

- Linux and OSS are all about scratching your itch

- Then you provide a solution

- If you have a problem, someone else probably did

- So always look at what's out there!

- You will find many *cool tools*.

Monitoring progress: pv

- Command line tools sometimes lack a progress bar

- In a script, you can just display "please wait"

- The user can get impatient…

- … or complain the program hung when it's just slogging through.

- Here comes pv, a progress bar tool.

What does pv do?

- Takes data from stdin
- Puts it on stdout
- Measure it on the fly
- Designed to be used in pipes.

Example: tar

- Tar can show progress by listing a list of files. Not very helpful.

- Example:

  ```
  tar -zcvf /tmp/archive.tar.Z somedir
  ./somedir/a_file
  ./somedir/another_file
  ./somedir/oh_look_yet_another_file
  etc...
  ```

- A better way:
  ```
  tar -zcf — somedir | pv -rb > /tmp/archive.tar.Z
  136MB [25.9MB/s]
  ```

  The counter is updated in place. -r: rate, -b: byte counter.

Todo list: Task Warrior

- Many places have a formal task management system (e.g., JIRA).

- But what about little tasks not worth opening a ticket?

- Scraps of paper? How so 20th century.

- Enter Task Warrior.

Task Warrior

- TW is a CLI program to let you manage a task list. Install from usual repos

- Open any terminal and type task add:
  task add 'Select cool tools for LUG meeting'
  A configuration file could not be found in /home/fmora
  Would you like a sample /home/fmora/.taskrc created, so taskwarrior can proceed? (yes/no) **yes**
  Created task 1.

- You can edit ~/.taskrc to pick a color scheme. I like light-256.

Task Warrior (cont'd)

Show current tasks with task list:

```
task list

ID Project Pri Due Active Age Description

 4                             45s Harass colleagues to be presenters

 2                             1m Make sure food is available

 3                             1m Print signs to meeting room

 1                             4m Select cool tools for LUG meeting
```

- When a task is done: task xx done, where xx is the number or the text of the task
task Harass done is equivalent to **task 4 done**.

Task Warrior (cont'd)

- Edit tasks to add parents/children, notes, time spent...

- Share the `~/.task` dir with a file sync tool and use your task list on any machine!

- Many more tricks. See the web site taskwarrior.org.

Minitube: Archiving Youtube

- Ever had a problem demoing a Youtube video because of bandwidth?

    – Customer access to Youtube is blocked

    – Toddler wants his Youtube while you are driving through a network wasteland

- If only there was a way to archive these videos to a local file and play them back later...

- Of course, that's what Minitube is.

Minitube demo

- Enter a search keyword

- Click Download

- Video will be saved in MPEG4 format

- Can be played back with VLC.