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A Simple Birthday Remainder Application Using Ruby

Posted on [August 21, 2011](#)

Hi,

One of my friend **Arulalan** had developed an wonderful Birthday Remainder application in Ruby some years back. It is really an cool application which reminds you of our friends birthday when we log into our system.

Arulalan had published a blog about this application. Here is the reference link.

<http://tuxworld.wordpress.com/2009/11/19/automatic-birthday-remainder-using-ruby-notify-bin/>

I tried to use that application in ubuntu 8.04. But it was not working. After that I tried to use that application in Ubuntu 9.10. In this version also it was not working. I dont know why it was not working. At that time I dont know much about Ruby. So I could not able to debug and find the issue. I just left after that.

Now I learnt Ruby and completely working on Ruby. Suddenly that application came to my mind some time back and thought why can't I debug the application now and make it work. I asked Arul about where he is having the code so that I can debug it. Then he gave his blog reference and I tried to find the issue and fix it.

There was not a very big issue with the code. There were some simple syntax problem since I took the code from the blog. And the date and time functions he used in his code where deprecated in the newer version of Ruby. I fixed the issue and now it is working fine. I also optimised the code.

Birthday Remainder Code: birthday.rb

```
1  #!/usr/bin/env ruby
2  require 'rubygems'
3  sleep(10)
4  db_file_path = File.expand_path(File.join(File.dirname(__FILE__), "../birthday
5  file = File.open(db_file_path , 'r')
6  file.each do |bday|
7    bday = bday.chomp!
8    bday = bday.split(",")
9    name = bday[0].to_s
10   dob = bday[1].to_s
11   image_path = bday[2].to_s
12   if image_path == "default"
13     image_path = "~/birthday_remainder/cake.jpg"
14   end
15   today = Time.now.strftime("%d-%m")
16   tomorrow = (Time.now + (24*60*60)).strftime("%d-%m")
17   if today == dob
18     system("notify-send 'Birthday Remainder' 'Today is #{name} Birthday' -i #
19     sleep(10)
20     system("notify-send 'BirthDay Remainder' 'Did U wished #{name} Birthday ?
21   end
22   sleep(10)
23   if tomorrow == dob
24     system("notify-send 'Birthday Remainder' 'Tomorrow is #{name} Birthday' -i
25     sleep(10)
26     system("notify-send 'BirthDay Remainder' 'Did U Purchased Gift For #{name}
```

The above code will remind today's and tomorrow's birthday.

Procedure for using this application

The procedure for using this application is already given in Arul's blog.

<http://tuxworld.wordpress.com/2009/11/19/automatic-birthday-remainder-using-ruby-notify-bin/>

To use this application just follow the steps below.

Step 1: First we need to install the following:

```
1 | $ sudo apt-get install libnotify-bin
2 |
3 | $ sudo apt-get install ruby
4 |
5 | $ sudo apt-get install rubygems
```

Step 2:

1. Create a folder **birthday_remainder** in your **Home** folder.
2. Put the file **birthday.rb** and your friends' photos in this folder.
3. Create another file **database** in this folder.

Conditions:

In this file you have to give your friends' birthday in the following format.

Format: name,dateofbirth,image_path

Example : Arulalan,21-08,~/birthday_remainder/ramachandran.jpg

You have to notice that the date of birth format. It is day and month separated by (-) symbol. Both **day(1-31)** and **month(1-12)** should be given in double digit.

The image path can be any path. If you don't have your friend's photo you can just have a name "cake.jpeg" in the birthday_remainder folder and specify the path as default. It will be the image path of the cake image.

Example : Ramachandran,22-08,default

Step 3 : Change the permission of birthday_remainder folder as

```
1 | $ sudo chmod -R 777 ~/birthday_remainder
```

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Step 4 : Add this application as startup application

1. Go to **Sytem -> Preferences -> Startup Applications**
2. Click on **Add** button.
3. In the dialog give the name as "Birthday Remainder".
4. In the command field browse the birthday.rb file from **Home -> birthday_remainder -> birthday.rb**
5. Give some description about this application in **Comment** field.
6. Then click on **Add** button.

Thats all. Now this application is added as startup application. It will remind your friends birthday when you log into your system.

You can check this by giving a sample date of birth as current date in database file in the format mentioned earlier.

Example : database

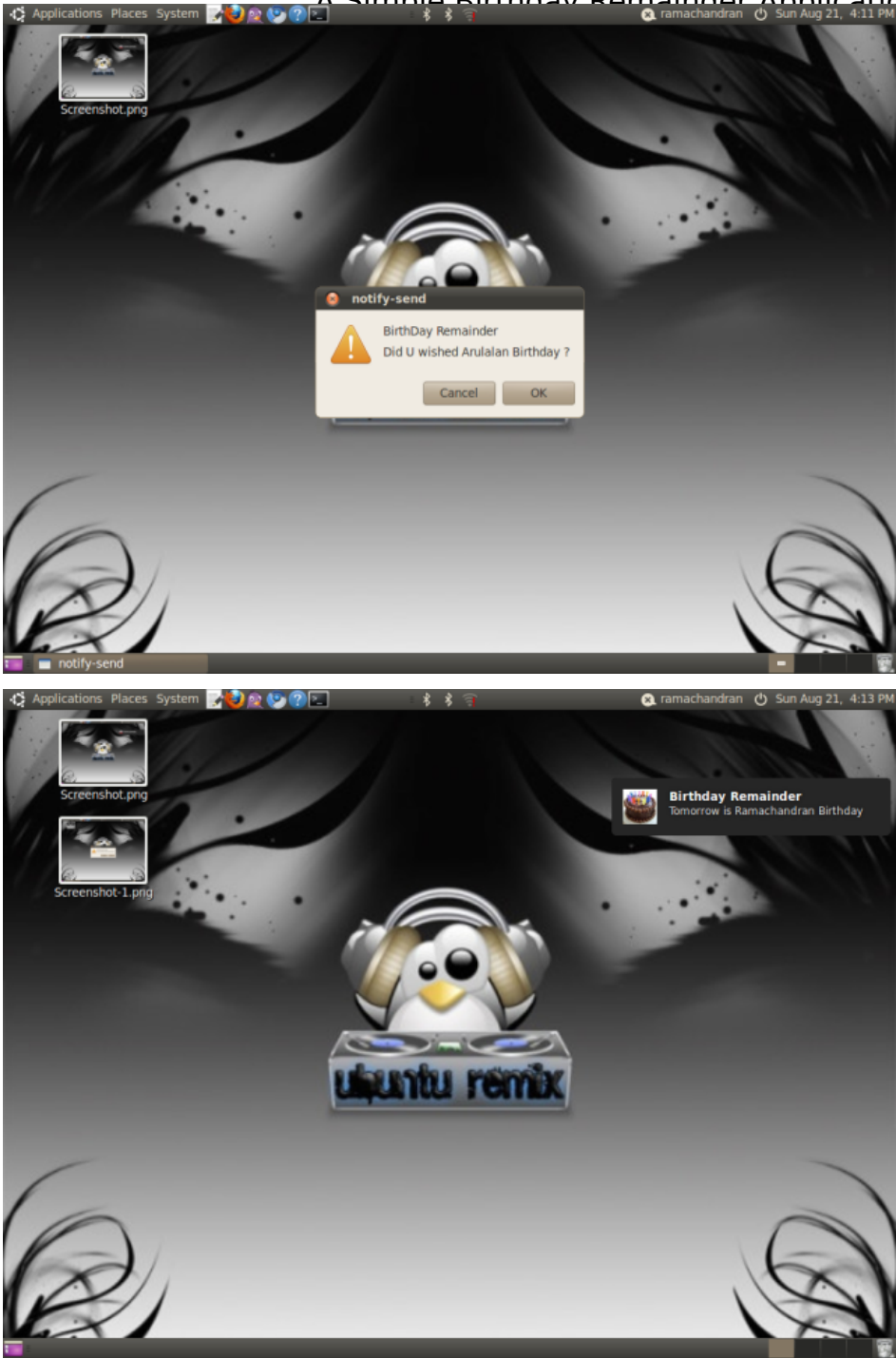
Arulalan,21-08,~/birthday_remainder/Arulalan.jpg

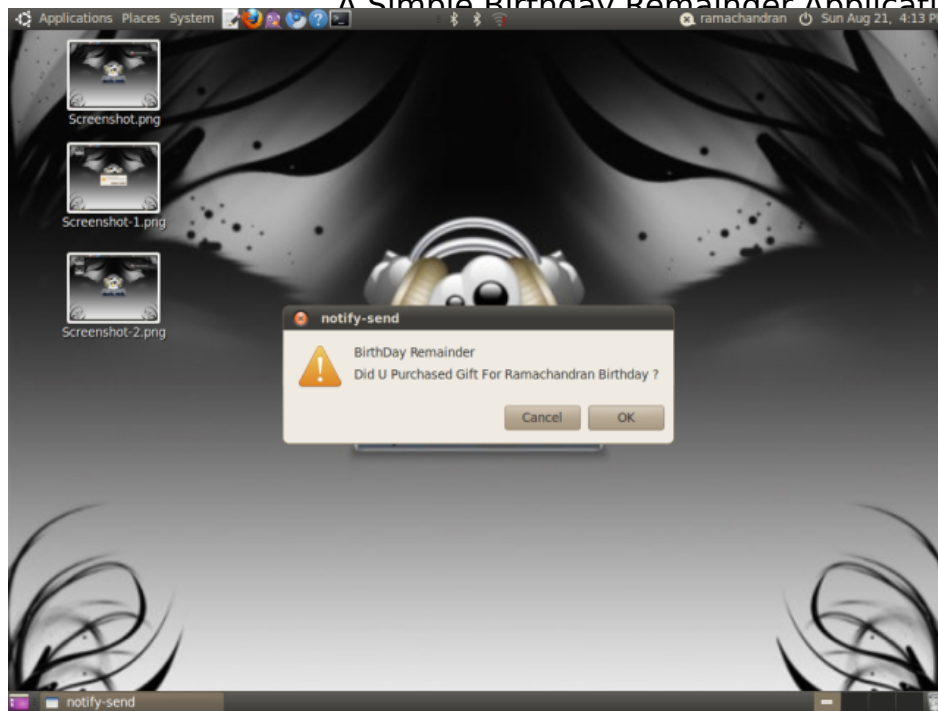
Ramachandran,22-08,default

Then **logout** or **restart** the system. The application will show the remainder in the desktop.

Screenshots:








Wow. Isn't that cool. Just try this application in your system.


Enjoy!!!

Regards

Ramachandran

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About ramachandranv

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One Response to *A Simple Birthday Remainder Application Using Ruby*



[arulalant](#) says:

August 22, 2011 at 7:24 pm

Its great dude.

Thanks for fixed bug & optimized the code...

Keep rocking...

[Reply](#)

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