

Greetings

Michael D. O'Dell Editor-in-Chief

*W*elcome Back My Friends...

I am writing this just after returning from the San Diego USENIX meeting and am suffering from a touch of brain burn induced by information overload. I hope you attended and enjoyed it as much as I did.

With this issue, I think *Computing Systems*, reaching its second volume, is beginning to achieve some kind of status.

In this issue all the papers have to do with relationships: how to describe them, use them, implement them, and document them. The first paper by Mario Barbacci and several others at the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon, describes Durra, a language and an execution environment for “programming in the large” in a distributed environment. Durra provides tools for describing how a distributed system is constructed from multiple communicating processes; i.e., how all the moving pieces relate.

The second paper, by P. J. Brown, describes a hypertext system implemented on a UNIX environment. Hypertext systems, among other things, provide for constructing relationships between different textual objects. Further, hypertext is frequently cited as a natural form for documenting complex relationships.

The third paper, by Bjarne Stroustrup, describes a proposed extension to the C++ programming language, providing multiple inheritance within the class structure, or how a new object can be derived from several different contributing parents.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to all the readers who served on the Editorial Advisory Board for volume 1, and to direct your attention to the list of those currently serving for

volume 2. The differences between the two lists arise from an attempt to rotate people on and off the committee with some regularity so that more may serve and fewer grow weary of it. Many thanks to all those serving and having served.

While I'm on the Advisory Board, let me answer some questions that came up in San Diego. The procedures that we follow are quite straightforward. Submissions go in to Peter Salus, the Managing Editor, in Berkeley. Peter logs in the article and either sends me hard copy or the bits. A few days later he bugs me (that's part of his job) and I suggest several readers to him. There are always at least two readers other than me, usually there are three. Peter then contacts the readers, asks as to their current availability and willingness, and sends them the article and a response form.

The day after the response is due Peter bugs the delinquent reader(s), if there are any, and then reports on the responses to me. We put together a response for the author(s) and Peter sends that off. Most of the reading is done by the Advisory Board, but not all. We have called upon a variety of UNIX wizards and gurus for their collective knowledge. They have been amazingly responsive.

Peter and Michelle Dominjanni also correct grammar and spelling and generally keep authors out of verbal problems; Tom Strong keeps them out of typographical ones; the women in the Journals Department at the University of California Press keep both Peter and Tom in line.

And every few months there's another issue.

We ended volume 1 with an index to our first four issues; we end this first issue of volume 2 by reprinting the "Notes for Authors" which appeared in our first issue.

Finally, here is my usual plea for submissions. Again I suggest that potential authors consider revising internal technical reports for submission to the journal. The Durra paper is a fine example of good work which was done and which appeared in several technical reports, but would not normally have received wide distribution. I know there are other insights and results deserving a wider audience. The Board does not read everything nor know of everything.

So look around and send us something of yours or suggest to a colleague that something she has produced might be of interest to *Computing Systems*! What we publish is a function of what gets submitted.

Maybe it'll be warmer by the next issue.