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DISASTER ENDED

As we informed everybody on the North American mailing list, the system used for preparing both the newsletter and the software distribution was hit by we know not what. Every controller on the bus had bit 5 blown. We were off the air for 4 weeks but, "hossanna", we are now (October 29) fully restored except for some memory and a Versatec.

This newsletter should be mailed on November 3 and immediately thereafter we will resume processing software requests. The remaining issues for this year will be mailed at three week intervals.

SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTION

It will take a few weeks for us to handle the backlog of request for software distributions which has built up during the time we were down.

We have received corrections for the Harvard magtape drivers and an enhancement of the Harvard TU10 driver for multifile tapes. This are now on the distribution tape and we will mail diff listings for these changes, within the week, to those who have already received the distribution.

As the letter from Andy Tanenbaum indicates, we messed up the Pascal source on the tapes already sent out. We have made the corrections and all tapes sent from now on should be okay. If you have already received distribution 3 and need the Pascal, please write for it. The missing source is too large for you to keyboard from hard copy, so a tape will have to be sent. The easiest thing is probably to request distribution 3 again. This will also save your keying the tape driver corrections.

NEW TORONTO RELEASE

The tape containing the new Toronto release has been received. As is explained in the letter from Toronto, a new license form must be submitted. As before, the license form may be sent by educational institutions to the software center with the request for the software. Others will have to negotiate directly with Toronto.

MEETINGS

Planning for the early summer meeting in New York has begun. The local committee would appreciate your returning the reservation form as soon as you can.

PROGRAMMERS' WORK BENCH

The Programmers' Work Bench has been released for licensing. Licensing details are available from Western Electric. A paper by T. A. Dolotta and R. C. Haight, "PWB/UNIX - Overview and Synopsis of Facilities", describes the system and may be requested of Ted Dolotta at Bell Laboratories, Piscataway.

Address editorial material and software submission to

Melvin Ferentz
c/o CUNY/UCC
555 West 57 Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Subscription requests, payments and address changes should be addressed to

Armand Gazes
Physics Department
Brooklyn College
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210



HARVARD SCIENCE CENTER
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
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Office of the Director
1 Oxford Street
617 495-3637

September 21, 1977

25 August 1977
Computer Systems Research Group
The University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Melvin Ferentz
c/o CUNY/UCC
555 West 57 Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mel:

Please find enclosed with this letter the long-promised second University of Toronto Software Distribution. The newsletter once said that people should send everything which might be useful. Well, this tape contains over 1050 files, with over 8200 blocks. Maybe this will change your policy. (Actually, the bulk of the stuff is a few large packages, which people have actually been asking for. Deleting the trivial stuff would not cut the size very much.)

Once again, we are distributing only to educational and other non-profit UNIX license holders. Other cases must be decided by direct negotiation. Also, once again people must sign the baroque masterpiece which the University's lawyers insist must accompany any software.

One other problem to note: Your version of "stp" may not read this tape. (Our version has MDIRENT=2700, I think yours probably has a value of 2000. It is hard to tell, since there are so many versions floating around.) Our version is on the front, in the "tp" readable section, along with the first bit of documentation. I have verified that those instructions will allow you to read the tape. Our version does not depend on any special tape driver modifications. If there are any problems, please call.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Tilson

Mike Tilson

416-978-6320

P.S. please send the tape back with the requested distributions on it — forms enclosed.

Professor Melvin Ferentz
c/o CUNY/UCC
555 West 57 Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mel:

Here are bug fixes for the TM-11 driver provided on the third distribution tape. None of the bugs are substantial, and their only impact is in extra features available on the raw device, such as the write eof and the seek backward. Note that the first fix (on line 214) is just to remove a reference to B_PHYS, and replace it with an equivalent test for raw I/O. My understanding was that you bracketed this portion with IFDEF/ENDIF CPU70 so that line numbers may not match the distributed copy.

In addition, I have included a listing of changes made to include a file positioning capability for the raw device. This new feature allows positioning by file, using the stty call but with arguments very similar to seek. The address of the routine tmsatty must be added to conf.c (or c.c if you prefer).

Sincerely,

Tucker

Tucker Taft
Systems Programmer
Harvard Science Center Rm 110A
Cambridge, Ma 02138

P.S. Also find included bug fixes for MTNEW.C, as much as they are known.



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT
FACULTEIT DER SOCIALE WETENSCHAPPEN

Psychologisch Laboratorium

Prof. M. Ferentsz
Brooklyn College of CUNY
Brooklyn, NY 11210
USA

NUMBCHN, September 6, 1977
no. 5700/GR/wh

RJE and file shipping software sought.

Who has RJE and/or file shipping software between UNIX and IBM OS-NVT/VS1/VS2/MVS systems. A 2780 emulator for UNIX would be great to start with.

Please contact:

George Rolf
Psychological Laboratory
Erasmuslaan 16
Nijmegen
The Netherlands

Dear Professor Ferentsz,

As you might have noticed, I have switched departments.

About 3 months ago, I called you for information about heavy loaded UNIX systems, and file shipping between UNIX and IBM 360/370 machines. You directed me to Lew Law at Harvard, and to Chuck Franner at Berkeley. From them, I got very valuable information for a follow-up on my initial proposal.

The proposal is still in the mill, and may never get out, but my new department is interested very much in the RJE/file shipping part of my proposal. Therefore, I have included a note to be posted in UNIX News. At the same time I wrote to Rick Height at Bell Labs, a pointer that I didn't follow at the time I called you.

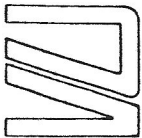
Thanks a lot.

Sincerely,

George Rolf
George ROLF

Bijlagen:

ERASMUSLAAN 16 NUMBCHN TELEFOON (000) 31.2633



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Prof. Malvin Ferentz,
c/o CUNY/UCC,
555 West 57 Street,
New York, N.Y. 10019,
U.S.A.

uw kenmerk uw brief van ons kenmerk datum 26.09.77 bijlage(n)

onderwerp

Dear Mel:

Apparently someone left part of the sources to our PASCAL system off the third distribution. If this was merely an oversight, could you correct it? Since we are at the end of the alphabet, I have a sneaking suspicion that maybe the tape filled up while copying our stuff onto it. If so, I would suggest you remove the binary files and libraries and replace them with the sources. People can make their own binaries from the sources, but the reverse is much trickier. Candidates for elimination are: PCOMPILER.8, PALIB.0, PC, PCLIST, PI, PILIB.0, PIPCLIB.0, PPASS 1, PPASS 2, SHARE.

Yours truly,

Andy

Andy Tenenbaum.

September 21, 1977

Melvin Ferentz
c/o CUNY/UCC
555 West 57 Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Ferentz:

I have a modified version of UNIX in which the large I/O buffers have been moved out of kernel space. This has several obvious advantages, particularly for machines without separated I/O space.

The memory management design dictated a reduction of the buffer size to 512 bytes (from 514); the only dependency on this that I have found is a bug in iget.c/trunc. All the standard device drivers are completely compatible with this mod (although two of our own had to be altered). In the assembler support I have only touched m40.s, so a small amount of work might be required to get it working on, say, an 11/68.

Unfortunately, we can't write tapes at the moment (only read them), but should be able to within a couple of months. I thought I'd let you know now in case anyone has similar plans.

By the way: a possible answer to D. W. Taylor's problem (UNIX news, January, 1977). There is a bug in tty.c/ttwrite. The last call to ttstart should be bracketed by an SPL5/SPL6 pair. This can cause occasional loss of characters with the KL/DL/DC drivers, most obviously when the user program does single character write requests. The DH driver doesn't have the problem (and if the above mod is made, then the priority fiddling in dh.c/dhstart could be removed).

Sincerely,

R. Sidebotham

R. Sidebotham

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Graduate College
CENTER FOR ADVANCED COMPUTATION
Urbana, Illinois 61801

September 28, 1977

TO THE UNIX COMMUNITY
(i.e., attendees at Urbana meeting in May of 1977)

Has anyone out there started to use the Qume Sprint Micro 3 Series of daisy wheel printers? We'd be interested in a hardware interface to it and/or a Unix filter for proof output to it. Especially, if anyone has done a filter for the twintrack model we'd like to hear about it. Failing that it seems likely we'll have to do one ourselves (with our highly competent but overworked and underpaid staff).

Karl C. Kelley

Karl C. Kelley, Sr. Research Programmer
Computing Services Office
344 Advanced Computation Building
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, Illinois 61801

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SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

PLEASE QUOTE
JL:AG

Professor Melvin Ferentz
Brooklyn College of CUNY

August 17th, 1977

Dear Professor Ferentz,

The third Australian UNIX Users Meeting was held again at the University of New South Wales on Monday July 4. We were very pleased to welcome our first overseas visitor, Jeff Rottman, a graduate student from Berkeley. Jeff was able to provide us with much relevant and first hand information on the UNIX scene. (We were delighted that he was able to spend a whole month with us. More so since he has fixed some remaining bugs in a Fortran compiler which he once sent us, and which is in regular use here.) We were also able to welcome representatives from the Computer Section of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission who have recently become UNIX licensees. Our fourth meeting will be held at the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, Lucas Heights, N.S.W. next February.

The University of Wollongong has had a free standing version of UNIX running now for nearly three months on their Interdata 7/32 but there is still much to be done before the transfer is complete. They have been able to adopt the Interdata Fortran and Basic compilers to run under UNIX. Progress slowed recently when Richard Miller decided to take a long overdue and well-deserved vacation.

At the University of New South Wales we are still digesting various software imports, including the second Chicago software distribution. We recently made a concerted effort to update all the documentation prior to reprinting the manuals. We recently discovered by accident that a much improved "NROFF Users Manual" is available as Bell Laboratories Computing Science Technical Report #54. Is the existence of this generally known?

When in March I sent you a letter regarding the availability of documentation on the UNIX Operating System, I little realised the full extent of the task ahead. I now understand how publishers earn their share of the customer's dollar! After correspondence with Western Electric last year I had understood that they would not object to distribution in the manner proposed. In March however Western Electric suddenly revived its interest and re-opened the correspondence. Thus when the first of some eighty requests reached me after the middle of May, I had to send out letters explaining that there had been a delay. Subsequently Western Electric agreed to the distribution provided that the prospective purchasers, being covered by a UNIX license, also entered an agreement with my University to treat the documentation received from us as if it had been obtained directly from Bell Laboratories. More letters! So far I have received back many completed agreements, and have despatched the books as requested, with the initial batch being posted on July 22.

However agreements have still not been returned by a sizeable fraction of the people who wrote originally. Some of the letters have taken a very long time to reach me, and I am concerned that some may not have arrived even yet. For instance two letters which had been despatched promptly at the end of April by surface mail did not arrive here till the end of July. If anyone feels that a reply is long overdue would they please write again (by airmail!).

Yours sincerely,

John Lions
John Lions.



Sept 6, 1977.

Prof. Melvin Ferentz,
c/o CUNY/UCC
555 West 57 Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Prof. Ferentz,

We are currently exploring the possibility of using UNIX for in-house time-sharing and word processing. Some of us are intimately acquainted with the advantages of UNIX, but there are some that feel that it is not appropriate.

Particular criticisms include: "the text editor is written for programmers, not secretaries," and hence that secretaries could not learn to use it; "the formatter is too obscure and needs too much user interaction to work it", also apparent trouble for secretaries.

With the intent of backing up the assertions we are making to our people about the performance of UNIX in a "secretaries' workbench" environment, I am soliciting opinions from other users on their experiences. If you have the time, please write to me on how UNIX has performed for you the role of a non-programmer system for word processing (text editing and formatting), message handling and/or special (administrative and managerial?) functions.

I don't know what I can offer in exchange --- perhaps a copy of the report I'm preparing from all this?

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours,

Rick McKarians,
Asst. Systems Analyst.

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CUNY
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Computing Center
555 West 57 Street, New York, NY 10019 Telephone 212 871-8000

September 19, 1977

Prof. Melvin Ferentz
CUNY/University Computer Center
555 West 57 Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Professor Ferentz:

This letter is to announce that preliminary arrangements are being made for the UNIX Users Group meeting in New York. We are currently in the process of making arrangements to hold the meeting at Columbia University from Wednesday, May 24 through Saturday May 27, 1978.

I would also like to announce that we are trying to arrange accommodations at Columbia for all of those participants in the convention who would prefer not to pay high commercial rates for a room in a downtown hotel (as high as \$40/night). Columbia has single and double rooms available, with the rooms arranged in two-room suites sharing the same shower; each of the two rooms is locked separately. Linens, towels, and soap are provided, and beds are made daily. The approximate charge is \$10/night for a single room and \$6/night for a double room. The rooms are not luxurious, but they are liveable and convenient (five minutes walk from the convention center); downtown hotels can be more than a half-hour away by bus, subway, or cab.

To help us make further arrangements, I would appreciate it if each UNIX installation would return to us a copy of the enclosed form to give us some idea of the number of people we can expect.

Further information will be published in login: as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Steve Eisen

NEW YORK CONVENTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Please fill in the answers as best you can at this time. Your answers to the questions do not commit you in any way; they are only to help give us a better idea of how many people to expect. Please return this form to me as soon as possible.

Steve Eisen
CUNY/University Computer Center
555 West 57 Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Your name and installation (please print):

Approximately how many people from your UNIX installation do you expect will attend the New York convention in May? _____

Approximately how many people from your installation do you expect will request housing at Columbia University?

Single room _____

Double room _____

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF I/WE have hereunto set my/our hand(s) this _____ day
of _____, 19 ____ .

IN THE PRESENCE OF:

Witness

(Signature of recipient)

Witness

(Signature of recipient)

AGREEMENT made this

day of

1977

between the University of New South Wales (hereinafter called the University) of the one part and

(hereinafter called the Licensee) of the other part whereas the University has at the request of the Licensee agreed to supply the Licensee with a copy or copies of "A Commentary on the UNIX Operating System" and "UNIX Operating System Source Code, Level Six" NOW THIS AGREEMENT witnesseth that in consideration of such supply the Licensee hereby WARRANTS that it has a license for UNIX software from the Western Electric Company and COVENANTS with the University that it will treat the portions of such licensed software included in the material supplied by the University in the same manner as if such included software had been received directly pursuant to the license agreement which the Licensee has for UNIX software.

Signed for and on behalf of)
)
The University of New South Wales)
)
in the presence of)
)
)
)
Witness)

Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Signed for and on behalf)
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in the presence of)
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Witness)

Authorised Officer