NeXus Memo
NeXT User Society in Japan
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NeXus Memo:

The English version of *NeXus Memo* (what you are reading) is formatted on a NeXT cube NeXT OS 2.1J using WriteNow and is printed on the NeXT Laser printer.

The Japanese version is produced on a NeXT cube NeXT OS 2.1J using JLaTex (ASCII version) and printed on the NeXT Laser printer using 2.1J's Kanji Fonts.

English version editors: Mitsuhiro Kishimoto, Kaoru Ozawa, Masana Harada, and Teruo Utsumi.

1. About NeXus

NeXus is a non-profit organization to facilitate collaboration among members and to collect and exchange NeXT and NeXT related information. The main topics we cover are:

- Easy-to-use, superior human interface
- Integrated network environment for interpersonal computing
- Graphical and multimedia applications
- Advanced object-oriented programming environment.

Our mother ship is a NeXT computer (NeXT station and cube). We, however, do not restrict our activities to NeXT. Other advanced high-tech computers are also of interest. We are the first NeXT user group in Japan and Asia. One of our principal interests is using Japanese on the NeXT computer. We have local activities in mainly the Tokyo area and our meetings are open to the public. We place our newsletters on worldwide ftp sites to distribute them freely. NeXus is not affiliated with any company. Enthusiastic volunteers support NeXus. We welcome your contributions.

NeXus Activities:

Meetings:

Monthly meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month starting from 7:00 p.m. The meetings are open to the public. The guest fee is 1,000 Yen, including the latest NeXus Memo.

Newsletter:

We publish a monthly memo and quarterly newsletter. *NeXus Memo* is distributed at every monthly meeting. You can also ftp *NeXus Memo* from ETL (etlport.etl.go.jp 192.31.197.99) or SRA (srawgw@sra.co.jp 133.137.4.3). The third issue of *NeXus Quarterly* is due in October.

Special Interest Groups:

We have several SIGs: Japanese, Mathematica, Graphical Human Interface, Mach OS, Programming, Object-oriented Programming, Networking, and others. If you are interested in any of these, please contact the executive staff.

Software Library:

We have a publicly distributable software library on MO disks and a video library.

Networks:

Currently we run mailing-list (NeXus-mail@nexus.or.jp) on JUNET. We are talking on a NeXT news group of JUNET named 'fj.sys.next' and 'FCSALON' forum of NIFTY-Serve comercial BBS.

Other Activities:

We contact and exchange information with overseas user groups, contact with NeXT Computer Inc., Canon group (distributor in Japan), and other third party developers. We are planning to have seminars and symposiums.

Executive Committee & Volunteers:

Kazunori Shioya, Katsuhiro Ohashi, Katsuko Ozawa, Mitsuhiro Kishimoto, Hironobu Suzuki,
Shuichi Tashiro, Shouichi Hachiya, Tamotsu Miyazaki, Taketosi Mori, Norimasa Yamagishi,
Hitoshi Abe, Tatsuo Inagaki Michi Iwasaki, Yutaka Enokida, Nobuyuki Kawai, Hensu Kim,
Kei Sato, Takeo Suga, Kazuto Miyai, Shinsuke Morinaga, Nobushige Yamamoto,
Kaoru Ozawa, Masana Harada, Teruo Utsumi

Membership:

A one year NeXus membership includes four issues of our newsletter, *NeXus Quarterly*, and 12 monthly *NeXus Memo*s. You can pick them up at monthly meetings or, if you miss any meeting, you can receive them by snail mail. The second fiscal year has started October '91 and will end in September '92. Members joining NeXus in the middle of the fiscal year will get back issues of *NeXus Memo* and *NeXus Quarterly*. You also get access to our software and video library with only shipping and handling charges. There are four types of memberships: regular, student, overseas, and corporate. An application form for regular, student, and overseas membership can be found at the end of this memo.

2. Summary of Seventeenth NeXus Meetings

Written by Katsuhiro Ohashi
Translated by Mitsuhiro Kishimoto

Date: November 27, 1991
Place: Nippon University, Ochanomizu,

2.1 Auditing Report by Mr. Aoyama

Mr. Aoyama has audited the NeXus accounts carefully. He found a few typographical errors in documents but they are not real problems. The total figures for all accounts are correct. The auditor's conclusion is that the last year NeXus accounts status is safe and sound.

Mr. Aoyama was asked at the October general meeting to do the audit.

2.2 NeXus 3.5' Floppy Disk Drive by Mr. Abe

We are now planning a large volume order of 3.5" floppy disk drives for only NeXus members. This floppy disk drive is for those who have bought the old cube and upgraded to the 040 CPU board. The drive is made by SONY and is identical to the one NeXT uses. We need to order many drives because we will purchase one lot of drives.

The drive kit consists of disk drive and connection cable. The 040 CPU board already has connector. The installation is just connect disk drive and CPU board bye the cable. We are now investigating the mounting frame and front panel. Front panel will have NeXus original logo.

The price depends on quantity, so the more ordered the less each will cost. It will take three months to produce them. This is a voluntarily project and NeXus will make no money from this project. You must pay before order.

Q: I already have a PLI external FDD. Can I use it as an internal drive?

A1: It is possible. You only need a front panel, SCSI cable, and mounting frame, but the NeXus FDD is cheap, so buy it for internal drive and use the PLI on you Mac.

A2: You cannot use PLI's FDD for Mac. You can use it for Fujitsu's multimedia PC TOWNS. TOWNS recognize it as a hard disk.

2.3 NeXus Hard Disk Drive by Mr. Abe

We are also now planning a large volume order of Maxtor 3.5" half height disk drives only for NeXus member. (531 MB, SCSI-2, 12 ms seek-time, transfer rate is three times faster than NeXT 660 MB drive) As with the floppy drives, the more ordered, the cheaper each will cost. External drive is not available at this time.

Q1: NeXT uses SCSI not SCSI-2.

A1: To tell the truth, NeXT uses SCSI-2 connector but not SCSI-2 protocol. However the transfer is much faster. NeXT 660 MB disk has about 700 Kbps transfer rate, this drive has more than 1400 Kbps. Start up time is also shortened.

Q2: Mark Crispin said connecting SCSI-2 drive to NeXT is tough work.

A2: New version ROM can handle the HP hard disk and can work on color stations. The HP hard disk and Maxtor's are different. Special installation is necessary for BuildDisk. If you once BuildDisk successfully, you don't worry any more.

Q3: Can my cube have a second internal hard disk?

A3: Cubes can have two half height hard disks. You need a power cable and a SCSI cable. You can buy them in Akihabara. If you have an old cube with MO disk drive, you can install one half height hard disk and one floppy disk drive with MO disk drive.

2.4 Hardware and Software Information

8 mm Backup Tape Drive by Dr. Ohashi

CANON Inc. is now considering to install Exabyte the most popular 8mm backup tape drive in cube. 2.5 GB type or 5 GB one is not yet decided.

Production of the internal MO disk drive has been discontinued. NeXT is now selling the ones remaining in stock. It will disappear when it sells out. Exabyte will replace the MO disk.

Power on problem by Mr. Shioya

My station color failed to power up. CANON's call center said early station color has a bug. All stations write automatic start and shutdown time set by preference application in their EP-ROM on CPU board. Early station color writes the start up time never come.

Temporarily removing the lithium battery to flush the EP-ROM will quick fix the problem. CANON replaced the CPU board.

CANON's special discounted old cubes have SIMMs from many semiconductor makers. Some makers' SIMMs prevent the cube from starting up. If your cube fails to start up, call CANON, and they will replace the CPU board.

Jconv has a bug by Mr. Hachiya

The kanji code conversion program 'jconv' in OS 2.1J has a bug. Jconv cannot treat some JIS second level Kanji. NeXT Mail-J uses jconv to convert local Kanji code (EUC code) and network Kanji code (7 bit JIS). Your mail using second level Kanji cannot send properly.

Contact the CANON call center. They will send a fixed version of jconv to you. You can re-distribute it to others who have NeXTs.

Another Kanji code converter 'nkf,' which is in the NeXus first software distribute, also has a bug. Please use the binary (it is correct). Don't compile and use source (it has a bug).

3. Floppy Disk Format for NeXus FDD

Written by Shoichi Hachiya
shou-h@ascii.co.jp

Translated by Mitsuhiro Kishimoto

We, NeXus, are now planning to discount 3.5" floppy disk drive only for NeXus member. This floppy disk drive is for the person who has bought old cube and upgraded to 040 CPU board. The drive is made by SONY and is just the same NeXT uses. We have tested the connectivity of the FDD.

640 KB	MS-DOS Format (PC-98 or MSX-DOS)	n/a
720 KB	MS-DOS Format (PC-98 or PS-55Z)	OK
1.2 MB	PC-98 Format (IBM 8' conpat., PTT spec)	n/a
1.44 MB	IBM-PC Format (PS-55Z)	OK
1.44 MB	NeXT Format (NeXT FDD)	OK
2.88 MB	NeXT Format (NeXT FDD)	OK

1.2MB:
FDD hardware cannot read or write 1.2 MB.

640 KB:
NeXT FDD device driver cannot treat 640 KB format.

Do not connect a PLI Turbo floppy drive to NeXT which has internal FDD. NeXT cannot auto recognize DOS disks in the PLI.

4. Let's Change Alert Voice

Written by Fumio Nagasaka
genesis@peter.pd.epson.co.jp

Translated by Mitsuhiro Kishimoto

NeXT alerts by voice when the printer paper is out or jammed. Japanese OS has a Japanese lady's voice (who works for CANON?). 'Printer ni kami wo hokyuu site kuda sai.' If you dislike her cold voice, replace sound files in /usr/lib/NextPrinter/Japanese.lproj. I have recorded heart warming voice from a female colleague and replaced CANON's. I use MacRecorder for sampling the voice and convert it by mac2snd.

Converting sound file format between Mac and NeXT is simple. Multimedia mail between Mac and NeXT is not tough. To achieve this goal, you just need to port the NeXT Mail application to the Mac. Will someone show it on Mac WORLD?

5. Install NeXus Hard Disk as an Internal Drive

Written by Nobuyuki Kawai
kawai@crow.riken.go.jp

Translated by Mitsuhiro Kishimoto

We, NeXus, are now planning to discount Maxtor 3.5" half height disk drive only for NeXus member.(531 MB, SCSI-2, 12 mS seek-time, transfer rate is three times faster than NeXT 660 MB drive) This is hand on report of NeXus hard disk installation

1. Replace station’s 100 MB internal hard disk by NeXus hard disk.

2. Start up from external hard disk (id - 1).
   At this time, you cannot see the new internal hard disk on your workspace.

3. Run BuildDisk.
   BuildDisk asks which disk do you want to build: rsd1 (internal) or rsd0 (external).
   Select rsd1. It takes about one hour to build a new disk.

4. New disk appears on workspace
   You can check the disk by the ’df’ command.

```
Filesystem      kbytes  used    avail   capacity  Mounted on
/dev/sd0a       634718  317522  253728   56%      /
/dev/sd1a       504266  227542  226303   50%      /RikenStation
```

5. Turn power off and on again.
   Before the normal login window appears, the monitor window appears and fails to start up.
   BuildDisk misplaces the two partitioned /etc/fstab file (/etc/fstab.sd660) instead of one partition (/etc/fstab.sd330).

6. Fix /etc/fstab file.
   cp /etc/fstab.sd330 /etc/fstab

7. Start up from internal hard disk.
   This Maxtor drive is very quiet.

8. Next.
   Reuse NeXT station’s 105 MB Quantum drive for Mac.

A. NeXus Membership Application (V2.0) date: 19__/__/__ NeXus # 91-_______

Welcome to NeXus! Please complete the following application.

1. Name :____

in Kanji(if any) : _________________________________

2. Address:____

City:__________________________ State: __________ ZIP CODE:_________

Country: __________________

3. Method of contact (please prioritize, 1 = highest):

( ) Internet:________________, ( ) NiftyServe:________________

( ) Nikkei Mix:_________, ( ) Facsimile:_______________,( ) Postal Mail

4. Membership type:

( ) Regular 7,500 Yen/Year, ( ) Student 4,000 Yen/Year

( ) Overseas (include Students) will get Monthly & Quarterly Newsletters in japanese.

( ) All Newsletters 7,500 Yen/Year, ( ) Quarterlys Only 4,000 Yen/Year

5. Method of payment:

*** We will send you latest news letter NeXus Quarterly after payment.**

( ) Pay dues to NeXT User Society, Fuji Bank Yotsuya branch (241)

Saving account:1642210

NeXT User Group, 4-4-2 Ebara, Shinagawa-Ku, Tokyo 142 (office address needed for deposit)

( ) Pay by Postal Money Order. Account: Tokyo 6-550935 NeXT User Society

6. Do you have a NeXT?

( ) Home ( ) Office ( ) Do not own,

Model:________ Hard disk:____ MB, RAM: ____ MB, Printer: ____________

Daily applications: _____________________________________

7. What other computers do you use besides NeXT? ( ) Can it display Kanji fonts?

8. What would you like to do in NeXus?

SIG: ____

Volunteer work: ____

9. How can we improve the user group?

10. Comments and Suggestions:

11. Profile Privacy

I agree to disclose my personal information to corporate members. ( ) Yes. ( ) No.