NeXus Memo
NeXT User Society in Japan
NeXus Memo Vol. 1 Issue 3
90.11.22

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NeXus Memo:

The English version of the NeXus memo (what you are now reading) is formatted on a NeXT cube using WriteNow and is printed on the NeXT Laser printer.

The Japanese version is produced on a NeXT cube with a 330 MB hard disk using XNeXT, kterm, nemacs and JLaTex (ASCII version) and printed on a LaserWriter II NTX-J which has Kanji fonts. The equipment is networked by Ethernet and Appletalk bridged with FastPath4.

English version Editors: Mitsuhiro Kishimoto, Youichi Tanaka, Kaoru Ozawa, 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 also interest us. We are the first and only 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, which includes the latest NeXus Memo.

The NeXT meeting will be held on November 28 at the ASCII Corp. Kurokawa office.

Newsletter:

We publish a monthly NeXus Memo and quarterly Newsletter. The NeXus Memo is distributed at every monthly meeting. The first Newsletter is expected to be published this fall.

Special Interest Groups:

We are planning to have several SIGs: Japanese, Mathematica, DSP, Graphics, Mach OS, Programming, Object-oriented programming, Music, 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 floppy disks.

Networks:

Currently we run mailing-list (NeXus-mail@sran125.sra.co.jp) on JUNET. We are also trying to create a NeXT news group called 'fj.sys.next'.

Another Activities:

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

Executive Committee:

Kazunori Shioya:	President
Katsuhiro Ohashi:	Newsletter editor
Syuichi Tashiro:	Software library admin
Yoshio Yamada:	SIG coordinator
Mitsuhiro Kishimoto:	International liaison

Volunteers

Shouichi Hachiya, Kazuyuki Inoue, Taketosi Mori, Hironobu Suzuki, Norimasa Yamagichi, Kenichi Yanase, Youichi Tanaka, Kaoru Ozawa

Membership:

A one year NeXus membership includes four issues of the NeXus Newsletter and 12 monthly NeXus memos. You can pick them up at monthly meetings or, if you miss any meeting, you can receive them by snail mail. The first fiscal year started in October '90 and will end in September '91. Members joining NeXus in the middle of the fiscal year will get back issues of NeXus Memos and Newsletters. You also get our software 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 is attached at the end of this memo.

2. Summary of Fourth NeXus Meeting

Written by Katsuhiro Ohashi
Translated by Kaoru Ozawa

Date: October 24, 1990
Place: SRA Headquarters 4th Floor, Conference Room
Number of Attendants: 50

2.1. NeXT's Security - by Mr. Hironobu Suzuki

CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) sent a NeXT security alert directly to the people concerned in various countries by E-mail. We, NeXus, obtained the alert within just three hours after its distribution and reviewed it. Thanks to support from Canon Inc. and net people, we were able to take quick action.

We found four security problems relating to:

(1) /usr/etc/restore0.9 (in Release 1.0 and Release 0.9)
(2) /usr/lib/NextPrinter/npd --- (Note: Although on NeXus Memo Vol. 1 Issue 2, this was described as "/etc/chmod," we needed to replace it as "/bin/chmod." The original English version also misstated it as "/etc". - commented by Mr. Hironobu)
(3) The Window Server(in Release 1.0 and Release 1.0a)
(4) BuildDisk

NeXus Memo Vol. 1 Issue 2 (distributed at the meeting day) explains the detailed information, including the solutions to these problems.

2.2. The Distribution of New npd and New FreeWare & ShareWare -by Mr. Kishimoto

NeXus prepared a set of copies of the above software (3.5 inch or 5 inch floppy, MS-DOS format or Mac format) at the reception desk of the meeting. If you wish, you can get them for 500 Yen per floppy. We intend to utilize the balance (the difference between the revenue and the cost for this distribution) for future NeXus activities.

2.3. The Establishment and Administration of SIGs -by Mr. Yamada

We explained the following "Special Interest Groups" (SIGs), and counted the number of attendants who were interested in joining each SIG by a show of hands:

(1) The groups directly related to NeXus Administration

* NeXus Administration Committee (shioya@sra.co.jp)
* Large Area Networks (shioya@sra.co.jp) ---- 6 people. This SIG will discuss: a. How to effectively utilize the established internet or BBS and NeXT original mail systems. b. To establish new networks suitable for NeXT ----14 people.
*PDS, Freeware (tashiro@etl.go.jp)----2 people. To collect, evaluate, administer and distribute PDS or freeware
*Publication (ohashi@sunrise.ocean.juice.or.jp) -----None. To publish the NeXus Memo, Newsletter, etc.
*NeXT Information (kiss@flab.fujitsu.co.jp)------None. To collect information related to NeXT

(2) SIG

* Interface Builder (yamada@lab1rdb.nissan.co.jp)----9 people. To research on IB.

*Networks (?)----7 people. To research on communications among NeXTs or between NeXT and other computers such as Mac.
*MACH (suzuki@nttcoin.ntt.jp)----4 people. To research on MACH OS.
*Mathematica (MIX: sjitoh)----3 people. To research on Mathematica
*Human Interface (?)----11 people. To research on user-friendly, easy-to-use interface. To study on using multimedia user interface on NeXT.
*Japanese Environment (mori@jsk.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp)----7 people. To research and develop NeXT Japanese environments such as Nemacs, jTeX.
*Hardware Environment (sato@sra.co.jp)----4 people. To research on NeXT hardware connect peripheral equipments.

We designated a person in charge for each SIG shown in parentheses. We would like to continue NeXus activities by focusing on each SIG activity. We suggested that each SIG should:
a. Prepare a mailing list of members
b. Hold a meeting once a month
c. Post report on Newsletter.

For the time being, we cannot allocate any money from the budget for the SIGs. Thus each SIG should work on a volunteer basis. Each SIG leader should manage on his own leadership.

2.4. Data Show '90 Report -by Mr. Kato (Phase Micro Inc.)

Many people paid attention to NeXT's new products such as NeXTstation and its Japanese environment. With respect to Fujitsu products, a thin 950g lap-top computer called "FM CARD" and new OASYS products were noteworthy. From Apple, three new low-cost models were unveiled. In general, there seemed to be many new models of notebook-type personal computers.

2.5. Q&A -by Mr. Kishimoto

Q: Are there software packages similar to InterfaceBuilder running on other hardware? How are their evaluations?
A: The following software have functions similar to IB: a. Guide or EXoCode (running on Xview) on SUN WS b. ViewEdit, AppleScript (not yet released), Prototyper and HyperCard on Macintosh c. Vcells on SmallTalk

Q: When I tried to create fonts by developing TeX, it took a quite long time and still I could not complete the creation. How should I deal with such cases?
A: Since TeX fonts are quite large, it is possible that the font creation was not finished. It is better for you to develop only the portion of fonts you require.

Q: When I connect NeXT with a LaserWriter and print on it, I found that page 29 of the NeXT on-line manual always could not be printed. What should I do?
A: Use the postscript utility program named ehandler.ps, up-loaded on the news group comp.lang.postscript of JUNET. You may find at which point the error occurs.

2.6 Mr. Arthur C. Kyle's other NeXT user meeting

On every second Thursday, people who are interested in NeXTs gather and have a meeting at Canon Inc. at Shin-Kawasaki. Almost all are foreigners and use English in the meeting. Since there is no requirement for attendants, we would welcome anyone to participate.

3. NXApp appSpeaker

Written by Kazunori shioya
Translated by Mitsuhiro Kishimoto

This section consists of various information reported by members.

NeXT Computer Show at Shinjuku in Tokyo: Canon Inc. had a NeXT Computer Show on November 20 and 21 in Shinjuku. Canon expected to have ten thousand people attend but only three thousand went. NeXT seminars were especially popular. A Canon rep told me that the FaxReader for the new NeXTs will only be demonstrated, because the deliver of the SCSI Fax Modem is delayed. Why do not they use the Fax modem for Macintosh or IBM PC?

Buy an old cube as your first NeXT: New NeXTs has no MO. As you know, the MO drive is very slow but is the best backup device. New NeXTs have a 2.88 MB FDD instead of a MO drive. A MO drive is optional for the new cube, but cannot be connected to NeXT stations. The FDD is suitable as a software transfer medium. But backingup your hard disk using a FDD is a nightmare. I recommend you to buy an old cube and upgrade to a 68040 board and buy the optional FDD. It is cheaper than the combination of a new cube and optional MO. The drawback is that you miss the microphone on the Mega Pixel Display.

PLI will supply external FDD drives: Before NeXT Computer Inc. said they had no plans for an optional external FDD drive. They changed thier decision and will supply the drive to Peripheral Land Inc. (PLI), and PLI will sell the drive for $499. PLI is famous as a Macintosh peripherals supplier. PLI also supplies the 1.4 MB NeXT FDD.

Free Improv for Japanese users: Canon has decided to bundle free Improv for the people who ORDERED new NeXTs or 040 upgrades before the end of this year. It also means no one in Japan will get new NeXTs before the end of 1990 !!

200 MB model: NeXT will add 200 MB models into the new NeXT line up. This model bundles the standard NeXT OS and is not for developers or programmers. It sounds as if 105 MB is not enough, even for the minimum configuration. I recommend 105 MB models only for the people who plan to connect to a LAN and can mount a NFS file server. It is impossible to use Japanese on a stand-alone 105 MB model.

New Magazines: The first issue of NeXT World has hit the market. A sample copy of Baran's Tech Letter was sent to the NeXus office. Please contact Dr. Ohashi if you are interested. Baran's Tech Letter is an independent newsletter for the NeXT computer user.

A. NeXus Membership Application

Welcome to NeXus! Please complete the following application.

1. Name :____

2. Address:____

City:_______________________ State: _________ ZipCode:_______

Country: ________________

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

( ) Internet:_______________ ( ) CompuServe:_____________

( ) Nikkei Mix:_____________ ( ) Fido Net:_________________

( ) Snail Mail:_____________ ( ) Facsimile:________________

( ) other: __________________

4. Membership type:

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

( ) overseas 10,000 Yen/Year (air mail deliverly, include Students)

5. Method of payment:

( ) Pay dues to NeXT User Group, 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 at the NeXus user meeting.

6. Do you have a NeXT?

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

Hard disk:_____ MB, RAM: _____ MB, Printer: ___________

Daily applications: ____________________________________

7. What other computers do you use besides NeXT?

____

8. What would you like to do in NeXus?

SIG: ____

Volunteer work: ____

9. How can we improve the user group ?

10. Comments and Suggestions: