Editor’s Column  
(Susan Small)

We are now halfway through the second year of news@uk and, as eagle-eyed readers will have noticed, I am always short of material concerning events at LUGs. Therefore, this is a plea for those of you who have something to say about the work that you are doing (or intend doing :-) to come forward and offer a talk at your local LUG. If you feel that there is not a LUG near you, then please let Lindsay Marshall know and perhaps we can start a new one in your area.

Charles Atkinson is now providing you with a regular column devoted to PC issues. Therefore, as an experiment, the next issue of news@uk will focus on UNIX for PCs. Already lined up are reviews of MKS Toolkit (for those who can’t kick the DOS habit) and such offerings as BSD/386, Linux, ... If you feel that you would like to contribute on this theme, then please get in touch with me.

I was pleased to receive two letters for publication regarding items in the last issue and would encourage others to write similarly about anything to do with the UKUUG and your newsletter.

Contact addresses for people or organisations mentioned can be found, as usual, on the back page.

Advertisements consisting of 2-3 column inches will be accepted from members at no cost. However, if you wish to insert an A4 flier for dispatch with the Newsletter this will cost £100. Full details of this service can be obtained from the UKUUG Secretariat. Deadlines for copy for future issues appear below, but you don’t have to wait until the deadline if you have news of a forthcoming event - let me know now!

Our stalwart at Owles Hall, Bill Barrett, has been convalescing after a recent thrombosis, but we couldn’t keep him away from providing his usual cheery contribution.

Deadline: 19 July  
Publication: August

Deadline: 19 September  
Publication: October

Deadline: 19 November  
Publication: December
UKUUG News

Report from the Chair
(Mick Farmer)

At last Spring is in the air and your Council are busy improving the services we provide to you, our members. I've outlined some of our future plans in previous issues of the newsletter, so it's nice to announce what positive steps have been taken.

First, we have ordered a CD-ROM mastering system. This will enable us to offer software from the UKUUG archive on CDs. Apart from the fact that a CD is very compact and holds much more data than a tape, this system means that when you order something from the archive, you get the very latest versions as each CD is created on demand. However, popular items such as GNU software and X11 releases will be created in bulk in order to keep the cost to you to a minimum. This is a very exciting project for the UKUUG and there are, no doubt, other uses for the system that we haven't explored yet. If you have a novel or innovative use for this system, please let me know! Further details concerning this service will be announced in the next issue, or contact your secretariat at Owles Hall for news of the latest situation.

Second, we are currently editing a video provisionally entitled "Plan 9 — from Bell Labs" featuring speakers from our 1990 conference, including most of the developers of Plan 9, such as Tom Duff, Rob Pike, Dave Presotto, Dennis Ritchie, and Ken Thompson. Note that our earlier videos are still available from your secretariat; these include:

- Security Workshop (February 89)
- System Administration Workshop (February 90)
- LISA Workshop (July 92)

Finally, let me take this opportunity to congratulate our Treasurer, Zdrav Podolski, on being elected Chair of EurOpen (see EurOpen Update later in this issue). I hope this means we won't be losing a Treasurer, more gaining a European colleague.

Cambridge LUG
(Jane Shute)

Tadpole made good hosts and provided an interesting meeting last April. However, there were no UKUUG members present, although they may be interested in the next meeting at Tadpole in September, when we will be shown the development area.

Meanwhile the next SUKUG meeting will be held at the Applied Psychology Unit in Chaucer Road, Cambridge on Wednesday 14 July starting at our usual time of 5:00pm for refreshments and 5:30pm start for official proceedings.

The speaker, from Sun technical support, will be talking about Sun OS disk
handling, to include SCSI formatting and bad block handling.

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**London LUG**  
(Andrew Findlay)

There are no firm details yet about the next London LUG meeting, apart from the date and venue. Thursday 24 June 1993 is the date to note and informal discussions will take place in the Fitzroy Tavern, Charlotte Street after the meeting. Further details will be issued by Andrew in due course.

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**Oxford LUG**  
(Charles Curran)

Following the initial meeting in February, no further details have been issued as to how the Oxford LUG intends to operate. If you are interested in getting involved, or just want to attend the meetings, please contact Charles Curran.

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**PC SIG**  
(Charles Atkinson)

Hello, gentle reader. Hopefully you're enjoying the longer daylight hours now that Spring is upon us. Enhanced extended temperatures don't come amiss, either.

Spring has brought announcements thick and fast in the UNIX world in general and in the PC UNIX world in particular. This column will concentrate on the latter. These developments have been spurred on, no doubt, by a spectre (so far) called NT.

Potentially one of the most important, especially in the desktop battle, is Sun's Wabi. This allows applications written for Microsoft's Windows to display in X-windows. Apparently Wabi is not an acronym so cannot possibly stand for Windows application binary interface.

Wabi has been demonstrated running most of the popular Windows applications. It seems that the Windows application programming interface is not fully documented and so cannot be fully supported. One way around the problem would be to create a public Windows interface (PWI) and this is precisely what Sun have proposed with backing from a host of worthies not including Microsoft.

Readers of an open inclination who have taken an interest in Windows application interfaces will appreciate this Sun wordsmithery:

"SunSelect proposed that the initial specification for PWI be based on the Microsoft Windows application interfaces published by Microsoft and additional components of the Microsoft Windows API used in popular software products."

So, how do you get to run Wabi on an Intel platform? Easy — you buy Solaris 2.1 for Intel (when it's available) and get a coupon to exchange for Wabi when it becomes available. Or you wait until it's bundled with Interactive UNIX (by the end of the year, honest). Who said vapourware? It was about this time last
year that Sun announced Solaris for Intel 'by the end of the year' and it is now 'by the end of the month'. Any bets on first Wabi shipments?

What else is new? Sticking with Sun, Interactive's 3.2 version 4 is out with iBCS2 support, long filenames, symbolic links, boot time loadable drivers, and more hardware support including 256MB RAM and 2.8MB floppies. Installation is easier with a tape media option, RAM disk and a write-protected boot/install floppy. They still describe it as their low-end x86 product but price it at the high-end.

Not to be beaten, SCO have restructured their whole product range primarily to suit the corporate client/server market. There is too much detail to cover here and there will be plenty of reviews anyway but a couple of innovations are worth highlighting: one is 'Open Desktop Lite'. Sends a shudder down your spine — what are the marketing benefits of associating any product with lo (sic) alcohol drinks and Novell's most popular product? Be that as it may, this Lite packages UNIX, TCP/IP, X11R5, Motif and X.desktop. Good move. Or maybe not, if the competition is an X-terminal! The other innovation is server licensing which is now 1-16 and 1-512 active screens instead of the traditional 1-2 and lots.

As part of a growing trend SCO are offering very much lower prices for CD-ROM distribution media over floppies. For example £300 on ODT which is listed at £1,295 on floppies.

ICL announced DRS/NX version 7 recently. It is a SysV 4R2 both for their DRS/6000 RISC machines and DRS/3000 Intel PCs. This was the first RISC 4R2. More interestingly, the Intel version is for generic machines, not just the snappily named DRS/3000s. It will be interesting to see how a heavyweight like ICL positions itself against the generic PC competition; until now they have largely worked with an established customer base. Perhaps they still will, and just want to offer them a hardware choice to embrace Open fashions. Watch this space.

ICE TEN, YATE (Yet Another Terminal Emulator), is a James River Associates product. It is less widely known that James River bought Esix (SysV/386 4R0) from Everex. Given Esix's reputation it is not clear why they didn't simply set up in their own name as YARS (Yet Another Release 4 Source code licensee). They are saying all the right things about support and development. "Well, they would say that wouldn't they" to misquote CK. One spin off is that there is now a UK distributor. If you have decided against the big player's extended release 3.2 products it's not obvious why 4R0 would be preferable to 4R2 from Consensys, ICL or Novell. Correspondence awaited.

Correspondence also awaited, in spite of a reminder, from IBM who you may remember promised before the last news@uk to let us know what AIX on a PS/2 would be an optimal solution for. Draw your own conclusions if you can untangle the sentence.

On the free software front here is some contact information: for Linux (UNIX-alike) supplies contact Matthew at Novatech Systems, tel 021 456 5759 or see their adverts in Personal Computer World and MicroMart.

Not specifically PC (except that there's some DOS stuff on there) YACC are distributing the Free Software Foundation
One of the pleasures of writing a column like this is hearing from readers - usually putting you right! The latest was Phil Male of Computer Newspapers who wrote in response to the observation that most BSDI users were not simply looking for a cost-effective business solution. He wrote: "We are running BSDI on Compaq Contura laptops, they are being used to collect cricket scores. They will replace the official TCCB scorebook this season (starts in a week) and be issued to all county scorers. Application is written in tk/tcl with extensions. If you want to know more, email sjl@compnews.co.uk." Thanks, Phil.

So, another news@uk passes without major dig at SCO. Problem is I’ve just installed Open Desktop 2.0. One of the easiest opsys installs and most helpful documentation ever. It’s unfair, SCO. Give insults a chance!

Happy PC UNIXing until next time.

Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation (if they win)
The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 14 June (please note revised date) at 14:30 at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, Pond Street, London, NW3. The speaker will be Andrew Findlay. There will be a lunchtime rendezvous in a suitable local hostelry. More details will be sent out to the mailing list su2sg@lon.ac.uk.

HELP

Brunel University and Uxbridge College have recently launched a course on IT in a UNIX environment and need help with work placements. The course is sponsored by WELTEC and is intended for people who have been unemployed for six months. All the course participants have a good level of education and are already IT literate. We need 40 placements starting this summer for 10 weeks. These are free to the employer. Can you help? Please call Brunel University on 0895 256461 and speak to Tracy Walters.

Bill’s Bit
(Bill Barrett)

The Editor has kindly mentioned my indisposition as the reason why my Bit was missing from the last issue and invited me back. I am at Owles Hall, as you can see, and in the meantime I gather you are being well served by Jane to whom many of you know already.

Perhaps this item should be called "The Biter Bit". Don’t groan, chums, but there is a salutary warning here to all those who sit for hours before their VDUs, tapping their keyboards. I had always taken plenty of exercise - I’m an enthusiastic mountain biker, for instance – but in chunks as it were. I would sit for hours and then exercise for hours. But that just doesn’t compensate. And it’s not necessarily an age thing either.

Well, one morning I had a swollen ankle. Nothing alarming and I left it alone. Next morning I had a swollen leg. By then it was Sunday, of course, and my wife took me to hospital. Good thing she did, because in no time at all I was diagnosed as having a thrombosis in my leg, pushed into bed, put on a drip and told not to move (for fear of the clot moving around and doing me no good at all).

All seems to be well now - I will know for sure by the end of the month - but I do find it astonishing that one is warned about smoking, eating and good sense knows what but not (to my knowledge) about the danger of just sitting. Oh, and even worse than just sitting is sitting with your legs crossed - that really is bad medicine.

The moral is to get up and walk around if you’ve been sitting over long (like 45 minutes or so). And if you set off on a long car journey, don’t pace yourself to do it in three hours or whatever (which we all do) but make up your mind that you will
make a break or breaks and when.

So, there it is. Two things about the sojourn in hospital which, as I was there, I enjoyed. The first was the sheer pleasure of listening to the radio (I decided against TV) - it was really marvellous to be able to hear a long concert, play, documentary or whatever without fear of interruption. I love radio and was really able to indulge. The second thing was the delightful surprise of seeing the orderly almost literally stagger in one morning with a most beautiful basket of flowers and leafy plants with a get well message from UKUUG. That, plus many kind individual messages as well, moved me more than I can express.

I'll do my best to stay healthy. May I earnestly urge you all, friends, to do the same!

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**Inaugural Meeting of CommUnity**

The first meeting of CommUnity - The Computer Communicators Association - was held on 14 March 1993 in St. Alban's Centre, London. In the Chair was David Cluley; Eddy Robinson and Neil Ford acted as Secretaries.

It was resolved that a formal body should be set up, with aims as detailed below:

**Immediate Aims**

- Establish, maintain and connect a membership of technology and computer-based communications users who share a concern that access to technology, information and communication should be as freely available as possible.

**Eventual Aims**

- Extend our membership and organisation to include wider-Europe, or assist there in the establishment and networking of

Monitor and inform press and media coverage of technology and (principally) computer-based communications, responding to misinformation and prejudice with a coherent voice.

Raise public awareness about civil liberties issues (such as freedom of speech, communication and expression) arising from the rapid advancement in the area of computer-based communications media.

Develop among policy-makers a better understanding of the issues underlying free and open telecommunications, and support - by whatever means available to us - the creation of legal and structural approaches which will both ease the assimilation of these new technologies by society, and maintain access to them in line with the vision inherently expressed by the aims in this Mission Statement.

Connect with, and help to network, agencies and individuals (both in the UK and globally), who might share our concerns and hopes for the development of technology and computer-based communications as tools for the sharing of information and resources, and for social activity.
independent groups sharing our concerns, aims and vision.

Support litigation in the public interest to preserve, protect, and extend civil rights within the realm of computing and telecommunications technology.

Support and engage in educational activities which increase popular understanding of the opportunities and challenges posed by developments in computing and telecommunications.

Encourage and support the development of new tools which will endow non-technical users with full and easy access to computer-based telecommunications.

It was resolved that membership be open to both organisations and individuals, on the basis of one member, one vote. Categories of and fees for membership to be decided by committee and reviewed as necessary.

The meeting was informed of various approaches to funding in combination maintaining a democratic approach.

It was resolved to adopt the name: **Community - The Computer Communicators Association** in the form above.

The following were proposed and seconded for membership of the committee, and a short resume of who they are was also given:

Alistair Kelman
[akelman@cix.compulink.co.uk]

Senior member of the bar. Currently handling ATM case against the banks; represented Steve Gold & Robert Schiffreen when they were prosecuted for hacking.

Eddy Robinson
Freelance journalist/contractor. Wrote PC Magazine article on FAST/ELSPA regulation proposals, moderates bbs.freedom conference on CIX.

Maclom Arnold
BBS Sysop. Edits and publishes "The Message", a quarterly magazine dedicated to communications issues, and moderates the Cyberspace echo on Fido.

Stuart Dickhoff
Representing the GT Power BBS system.

Dave Winder
Journalist, organiser. Writes on computer communications and disability issues, and is active in these fields.

Nigel Hardy
BBS Sysop. Runs the Arkham BBS system, one of the best established FidoNet bulletin boards.

Len Stuart
Representing Netreach, the community computing network.

Peter Ceresole
Television producer. Has been involved with current affairs programmes such as Panorama. Soon going freelance as a producer.

Ian Jackson

Pat Winstanley
[peewee@cix.compulink.co.uk]
Freelance Journalist. Moderates the FAST&ELSPA echo on FidoNet and is a
co-moderator of the \textit{bbs.freedom} conference on CIX.

David Cluley  
Voluntary sector. Long experience with both computing and charity/voluntary work.

Dylan Harris  
Member of the electoral reform society; has run elections for the Green party and others.

Two to-be-filled places for representatives of JANET, the Joint Academic NETwork.

It was resolved that said committee had the authority to co-opt people as its members saw fit, and the responsibility that networks are represented, where possible.

It was agreed that a draft contribution be produced and distributed by 1 July, incorporating discussions on the networks, with best efforts.

It was agreed that another physical meeting take place at the beginning of September 1993, with a time and place to be arranged and published by the committee by 14 April.

It was resolved that action be taken to set up a Usenet Newsgroup under the \texttt{uk.*} hierarchy, and gatewayed to as many systems as possible. Organisation to be handled by the committee, and that a regular digest of proceedings be issued. This has now been done under the heading \texttt{uk.org.community}.

A voluntary donation of £5 was collected from each of those present to cover costs until the next meeting.

The meeting was informed of the first "European Computers Freedom & Privacy" conference, to be held in London in November 1993. Mail ecfp-request@demon.co.uk for further details.

It was communicated to the committee that they should consider a code of conduct for on-line systems.

\section*{Around Europe}

\textbf{EurOpen Update}  
(Mick Farmer, Ex-Interim EurOpen Executive)

Six months after the momentous events in Utrecht, the Governing Board of EurOpen met for two days in the Ambassador Hotel, near Heathrow Airport, to decide how to take EurOpen forward on the course agreed in Utrecht. The format consisted of six parallel workshop sessions, each devoted to a different aspect of EurOpen’s work (five of the topics were outlined in my previous column, EUnet was a late addition). Position papers for each session were prepared in advance by the Interim Executive, who spent most of the two days shuttling back and forth between sessions!

On the Sunday each workshop reported their conclusions. These can be summarised briefly. EurOpen will continue with the "flat rate" fee structure put forward in Utrecht — sponsor members pay 10,000 ECUs, ordinary members pay 5,000 ECUs, and junior members pay 1,000 ECUs (the UKUUG has already become a sponsor member). EurOpen will attempt to improve liaison with other groups such as Usenix and UniForum; it will also investigate closer ties with the EC. EurOpen has agreed to actively support EUnet in establishing itself as a pan-european network services
provider. EurOpen and EUnet will be present at the GUUG conference this September in Wiesbaden, by sponsoring an Internet Terminal and e-mail Room.

During the formal meeting of the Governing Board on Sunday our UKUUG treasurer, Zdravko Podolski, was elected Chair of EurOpen — once again, well done Zdrav. Kim Biel-Nielsen (DKUUG) and Lauthor Koch (GUUG) were elected onto the Executive Board. Unfortunately, nobody else was interested in working on the Executive, so the Interim Executive agreed to help out until others came forward.

Participants at this Governing Board meeting felt that the format of parallel sessions had been successful and that a lot had been achieved in the two days. Everything ran on time and the meeting finished ahead of schedule, something unheard of in earlier times!

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**European C++ User Group Conference**  
(Mike Banahan, Chairman, ECUG)

**Provisional Programme**

The European C++ User Group will be holding its second technical conference in Munich, Germany on 7-9 July at the Munich City Hilton. Highlights include pre-conference tutorials, a two-day technical programme, exhibition and product presentations. The conference provides coverage of a wide range of topics, but focuses primarily on the use and application of the language.

Several well-known speakers will take part, including standards committee members and Bjarne Stroustrup, the originator of the language.

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**Pre-Conference Tutorials**

Wed 7 July, 4 half-day tutorials
Morning session:
Uwe Steinmueller: "Design of Container Class Libraries"
David Reed "Moving from C to C++"

Afternoon session:
Frank Buschmann "Rational Architectures for OO Software Systems"
Mike Banahan "Exception Handling in C++"

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**Technical Conference**

Thur 8 July
"Constructing Real Time Systems Using C++", Mike O'Carroll, University of Leeds
"Building A Traffic Management System with C++", Claudia Traving, Hans Stadtherr, IXOS Munich
"Using C++ in the Development of a Communication Service", I. Videira, H. Sarmento, IST/INESC Portugal
"The Uses of C++ Classes with Private Constructors", Francis Glassborow, CUG UK
"Developing Graphical User Interfaces in C++ for OSF/MOTIF", Martin Baumann, Robert Schwegler, IXOS Munich
"OO Application Development for GUIs", Ellis Oglesby, ESM, Nuertingen
"From FORTRAN to C++ to GUI", David Heath, Interax, Oxford

Fri 9 July
"Why Consider Language Extensions?", Bjarne Stroustrup, AT&T Bell Labs
"Exception Handling and Compiler Complexity", Josee Lajoie, IBM Toronto
"Exception Handling in C++ - Views from both Sides", Alan Sloane, Sun Microsystems, Mountain View
"C++ and OO Numerics", Kent G Budge et al. Sandia National Laboratories,
Submissions, in the form of extended abstracts or full papers (5-10 pages), should be sent by 1 August 1993, to Alexandru Rotaru, GURU's chairman, at: GURU, P.O. BOX 63-42, Bucharest, Romania, or by e-mail to arot@guru.ro.

Final papers will be due by 1 September 1993.

For further information, including participation conditions for companies, please use any of the following:

Alexandru Rotaru  
Chairman GURU  
Net: arot@guru.ro

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Reviews

UNIX in a Nutshell - A Desktop Quick Reference for System V and Solaris 2.0  
(Richard Murphy)

This is the second edition of the book, expanded to cover System V Release 4 (SVR4) and Sun Microsystems' Solaris 2.

The book calls itself a quick reference on the front cover, a quick ref inside, and by the time the back cover is reached it has shrunk to a quickref!

This book isn't a tutorial and so definitely isn't for beginners to learn from. It is an
excellent reference book and therefore useful to both beginners and experienced UNIX users. It is particularly useful to those people who know what they want to do but can't remember exactly how to do it - how do I split lines over eighty characters long with fmt?

The book is divided into five parts. Part 1 is a very brief introduction to the history of UNIX and Solaris, a description of what is in the book, and a useful list of commands that are not available in SVR3. This is then followed by an alphabetical list of commands flagging those specific to Solaris 2. Beware that the descriptions of commands such as echo and ps are for the SVR4 variant, not for the BSD one.

Each entry is similar to the man page with the command syntax, a brief description, then a list of the options. Many entries also have examples, often with a larger number and more illustrative examples than those given in the man page. I've deliberately tried to use the book as my first source when needing help with usage or syntax and my experience has been that the coverage is excellent, with the entries being concise but accurate. Also in this part is an overview of the SVR4 shells including a useful summary table of the different mechanisms of features available in the Bourne, Korn, and C shells. The Bourne and Korn shells are described together in one section and the C shell in another.

The Bourne/Korn section flags those features which are only available in the Korn shell, such as coprocesses, so covering them together works satisfactorily. The coverage of the shells is again full and provides concise descriptions of the features.

Part 2 deals with text editing and starts with a summary of pattern matching followed by sections on emacs, vi, ex, sed, and finally awk.

The summary of pattern matching includes descriptions of the actions of the metacharacters, together with a useful table of which metacharacters are available in which programs. There are a couple of pages of examples which illustrate the use of patterns but again these are not for the uninitiated.

Although emacs is not part of SVR4, the authors have included a section on GNU emacs because it is a popular alternative to vi, available from the Free Software Foundation.

The section on awk covers the original awk, nawk (new awk), and gawk (GNU awk) which is available from the Free Software Foundation.

The three versions are covered together and those features specific to one version are flagged as such. The topics covered are similar for all such sections; command-line syntax, conceptual overview, patterns and procedures, system variables, operators, variable and array assignment, and an alphabetical listing of commands. Each topic is presented in the usual complete and concise manner that is the hallmark of the book.

Part 3 deals with text formatting and jumps straight in with a section on nroff and troff, followed by sections on the mm, ms, and me macros, and finishing with the preprocessors tbl, eqn, and pic. I'd like to know what has happened to grap, the preprocessor for setting graphs, which seems to have disappeared (not just in this book). There wasn't a plug for groff
I'm not a heavy user of either the \texttt{mm} or \texttt{me} macros, so I can't really comment on these sections. In the section on the \texttt{ms} macros, however, I was disappointed to see that although the macros are covered well, there was only a table of the reserved string (and macro) names and no discussion of user definable strings. I'm a believer in house style (when appropriate) and so frequently set up page header and footer strings to suit.

The preprocessor coverage is adequate but I felt that there could have been just a touch more in the way of examples.

Part 4 deals with Software Development and has sections on \texttt{SCCS}, \texttt{RCS}, \texttt{make}, and the debuggers \texttt{stdb} and \texttt{dbx}. \texttt{SCCS} (Source Code Control System) is normally distributed with SVR4 and Solaris 2 but \texttt{RCS} (Revision Control System) is not part of standard SVR4 but, surprise, surprise, can be obtained from you know who. Their functionality is very similar as they are both intended to do the same job. For those moving between the two, there is a twelve line conversion table which I suppose might be enough to point you in the right direction. The keywords, the commands and their options are covered for both utilities. The section on \texttt{make} briefly covers the macros, targets, and suffix rules. The sample defaults run to well over three pages (more than half the section) which I thought could have been better spent on expanded discussion and examples. By now I had come to expect a reference to GNU \texttt{make} but there wasn't one.

I could find no reference to Sun's use of the \texttt{default.mk} file. Especially as the system includes \texttt{file make/default.mk} which has a readable list of all the defaults but then I'm not sure if this has made it across to Solaris 2.

The Nutshell Handbook, "Managing Projects with make" is referenced and a brief scan of that reveals a section on the differences between System V and BSD derived \texttt{make} programs. I feel that a brief description of the differences would have been appropriate in this book.

The book notes that \texttt{stdb} is available in standard SVR4 but not Solaris 2 and \texttt{dbx} is available in Solaris 2 but not SVR4. I confess that I haven't really progressed from \texttt{stdb} (in UNIX Edition 7 and maybe earlier) so I feel unsuited to comment other than to say the section seems to provide an adequate description of the features and commands of both debuggers.

Part V is entitled Loose Ends and has two parts. First is a table of the ASCII character set with columns for Decimal, Octal, Hex, visible/keyboard equivalents, and remarks. Second is a command index, which is adequate, but I would have preferred to see a more complete index with concepts and keywords etc included.

In summary, the book is a good reference guide to UNIX SVR4 and Solaris 2 and is the book I would choose at present if washed ashore on a desert island with a UNIX workstation without any documentation.

\section*{From the Net}

\subsection*{World-Wide Web Software Put Into Public Domain (Tim Berners-Lee)}

A declaration that the basic World-Wide Web software from CERN is in the public domain has been signed by H Weber, CERN's Director for Administration and
W Hoogland, Director for Computing.

The declaration, signed on 30 April 1993, makes it clear that this is not a precedent for CERN software. It states, "CERN's intention is to further compatibility, common practices, and standards in networking and computer supported collaboration."

The declaration covers the "libwww" common code library, the line mode browser (www) and the W3 server (httpd).

The World-Wide Web (W3) is a global information system with an easy point and click interface. It provides access to almost all existing Internet-based information as well as a whole new world of data presented to the user as multimedia hypertext. By a sequence of hypertext jumps and text searches, anyone can find their way though the mass of information available all over the world.

The High Energy Physics community, of which CERN is a European center, already uses W3 extensively. In all there are more than 70 servers around the world providing data using special W3 protocols, including such diverse areas as hypertext of US law from the Legal Information Institute at Cornell University, to the "Thesaurus Linguarum Hiberniae" collection of mediæval Irish manuscripts from University College, Cork.

Software for making servers is part of that put into the public domain by CERN. The other part is the "client" software which allows the reader to move seamlessly through this data and also all the existing data on servers using existing "FTP", "WAIS", "Gopher", and network news protocols. There are more than 14 different client programs for different computing platforms, written by people from institutes in many countries. "The existence of a common, public domain kernel of software to handle the protocols will ensure compatibility, and prevent people having to 'reinvent the wheel'", says CERN's Tim Berners-Lee, W3's creator.

The W3 project is a success story of international collaboration. The National Center for Supercomputer Applications (NCSA) in Illinois have been a powerful force, producing a popular "Mosaic" client for workstations, and other contributions have come from many other universities throughout the world. In the US, the Web is seen as an answer to the Clinton administration's call for a National Information Infrastructure. It is growing fast. "Traffic we see on our CERN server has more than doubled every four months for the last two years", says Berners-Lee, "and of course there is a new server every few days".

"With the Web, we are sharing knowledge," says Berners-Lee, "without discrimination as to who or where in the world you are." The W3 developers look forward to a time when the Internet, and so the Web, will be accessible from homes and high schools anywhere. As well as an opening up of research center and government, they are looking for a sharing of ideas and educational material for all tastes and ages.
Dear Editor

EurOpen Update in Volume 2 Number 2 of news@UK

I would like to respond to the above mentioned article which appeared in the issue that I received today. I would like to make clear some of the facts of the situation and would be grateful if this letter were to appear in the next issue.

Last year in preparation for our attendance at the EurOpen Governing Board meeting at Utrecht, we, the Irish UNIX Users Group obtained advice from our accountant as to the current state of the finances of EurOpen based on the information that was available to us as Governing Board members. The results of this advice (which we paid for and as such was covered by our accountants' unlimited liability) was that the organization was behaving in such a manner that it was "insolvent" and that "bankruptcy" was looming very close on the horizon.

As someone who has been involved with EurOpen (and before that EUUG) for a very long time, I was very distressed to see it heading down the path of self-destruction. I also was very distressed to see EurOpen fritter away Nigel Martin's "prudent reserves".

I would therefore suggest that the assessments that the IUUG made were with the proper backing of figures. Your conjecture is that these figures were incorrect. If so, why were they? We, the Governing Board of EurOpen, were being asked to make decisions on the basis of these figures?

I know that these questions should not be directed at you. I do feel however, that
the advice that our accountant gave us was correct. I also feel, that if we (the IUUG) had not made such a fuss at the Governing Board, then EurOpen might not be in existence today.

Yours in UNIX.

Simon Kenyon, IUUG

The opinions expressed in this letter are my own and are not those of either IUUG or ICL, my employers.

Small Ads

Takelap Systems can supply the following ISO-9660 format CDROMs from InfoMagic:

The Internet CD (£33) - RFC’s, IEN’s, NetInfo documentation. 2nd Berkeley Networking tape, and WinSock documentation. Packet drivers, GNU sources, X sources, ISODE 8.0, UNIX networking software, DOS port of GNU EMACS and GNU C/C++, and DOS utilities for accessing compressed and tarred UNIX files. Includes the October 1991 edition of "RFC’s in HyperText" for Microsoft Windows.

USENET archives (£13) - Archives of USENET newsgroups. Includes comp.sources.* as well as many of the rec, alt, and other groups.

For more information contact Graham C Adams
Tel: +44 2915 357
Net: gadams@ddrive.demon.co.uk

BSD is now shipping Version 1.0 of BSD/386, derived from the Berkeley NETII release for your 386 or 486 machine. It’s a complete system: X11, networking, NFS, compilers, text processing - and more. It comes with full source, is available on CD, and is supported by experts. Sounds good?

Berkeley Software Design International (Europe) Ltd can tell you more:

Tel: +44 227 781675
Fax: +44 227 762554
Net: bsd@hillside.co.uk

Calendar of Events

1993

14 Jun, SU2SG, Royal Free HSM, London, UK
21-25 Jun, USENIX, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
6-7 Jul, UNIX Applications Workshop, Canterbury Kent, UK
8-9 Jul, European C++ User Group Conference, Munich, Germany
23-27 Aug, INTEROP - San Fransisco, CA, USA
13-15, Sep, HUNIX '93, Budapest, Hungary (HUUG)
14-16 Sep, JANET User Support Workshop, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
30 Sep-1 Oct, Romanian Open Systems Event, Bucharest, Romania
7-8 Oct, Workshop "OSF Distributed Computing Environment" Karlsruhe, Germany
1-5 Nov, LISA VII, Monterey, California, USA
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Conferences/Workshops

C++ Conference
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ECUG Conference
CSD GmbH
Enzianstr. 4
82 319 Starnberg
Germany
Tel: +49 8151 770543
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ECUG Conference
KBSL Ltd
1 Campus Road

Listerhills Science Park
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ROSE '93
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