

The 1992 NTUG Annual Meeting

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The 6th Annual Nordic T_EX Users Group Meeting was held on 23 November, 1992, in Copenhagen, Denmark and hosted by Peter Busk Laursen, UNI-C. Elections were held and the 91/92 Nordic committee and chair were voted in for another year; an additional member from Denmark, Frank Jensen, Aalborg University, was also welcomed to the board. The 1993 annual meeting is scheduled for November and will be hosted by Martti Nikunen, Department of Mathematics, Helsinki University, Finland.

From activities during 1992 it was reported that Kauko Saarinen, Finland, successfully had been able to support the start of an Estonian user group and will keep in touch with Enn Saar, the chair of the group. Furthermore, KTH, Stockholm, could sponsor Yannis Haralambous who was invited by the University of Vilnius, Lithuania, to help to install a version of T_EX, adapted to the local language.

Meeting programme

The programme for the 1992 meeting was organized under six major headings: *Installations*, *ΛT_EX extensions*, *Applications*, *Future*, *Macros* and *Organization*.

Installations

The *Installations* session featured three talks. Kresten Krabb Thorup, Aalborg University Centre, introduced an Emacs-based integrated environment for writing ΛT_EX documents in “AUCT_EX — A front end for ΛT_EX” (published as “GNU Emacs as a Front End to ΛT_EX,” in *TUGboat* 13, no. 3, pp. 304–307).

Next, Ole Carsten Pedersen, UNI-C Copenhagen, presented the concept and design objectives of “A distributed UNIX-based T_EX installation” — an online distribution of ready-to-run public domain UNIX software. This service for workstations was introduced by UNI-C in the autumn of 1992.

Finally, Sven Spanne, Lund University, gave an overview of the use of emT_EX and auxiliary programs at the Departments of Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics at Lund University and the Lund Institute of Technology: emT_EX — a

public domain T_EX implementation for IBM-compatibles”. The modifications necessary in order to use it for writing Swedish, especially regarding input of national characters and hyphenation, was also mentioned.

L^AT_EX extensions

Frank Jensen, Aalborg University Centre, provided an introduction to “The New Font Selection Scheme (NFSS)” and discussed the L^AT_EX interface to NFSS for both text and math fonts. He also presented some styles based on NFSS and outlined some of the limitations of NFSS and some ways of overcoming them.

The problems specific to using plain T_EX and L^AT_EX with the Nordic languages — national letters, hyphenation, diacritical marks, national paper formats and the hard-wired texts in L^AT_EX — were dealt with by Peter Busk Laursen, UNI-C Copenhagen, in “Towards a Nordic T_EX”. He proposed a solution to these problems based on standards: a European T_EX font (Cork encoding), NFSS for the font selection, and Babel style files for hyphenation, paper formats and hardwired texts. The contents of a standard ‘Nordic T_EX’ distribution on one or more Nordic servers were also outlined.

Applications

The only talk in the *Applications* session was “A document archive controller for Sun Sparc/X11 and Windows 3.X — based on database management, hypertext, L^AT_EX and SGML”, given by Hasse Haitto, NADA, Stockholm. The Document Archive Controller (Darc) system supports the creation re-use, and dissemination of documents through document bases. The multi-user system combines approaches from database management and hypertext systems in a cooperative, network-based, working environment. Darc is implemented in an object-oriented language (C++) for two platforms: Sun Sparc/X11 and PC/MS Windows 3.X. The main components of the system are: a database manager, a translator interface, a hypertext-capable presentation tool, and a virtual filing mechanism.

Future

This year’s invited talk was by Chris Rowley, Open University, Milton Keynes, on “The L^AT_EX 3 Project”.

Macros

The Nordic T_EX Users Group — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden — covers a huge geographical area. Much of the information exchange therefore takes place over computer networks. Jan Michael Rynning, KTH, Stockholm, gave

an overview of the possibilities in “Finding macros on the networks and getting help using them”.

One such generally available macro package was presented by Kristoffer Høgsbro Rose, DIKU, Copenhagen, in “XY-pic — typesetting graphs and diagrams with \TeX ”. This macro package was developed to provide an environment in \TeX for typesetting a wide range of graphs and diagrams. Examples of simple and complex diagrams were presented and explained, as well as how XY-pic is installed.

The e-mail address of the Nordic TeX Users Group is `nordictex@kth.se`.