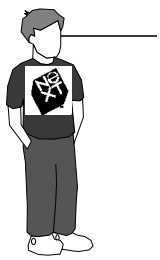

SCaNeWS

Southern California NeXT™ Users Group Newsletter

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4
MAY 1991

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After a six-week absence, SCaN and *SCaNeWS* are back. SCaN meetings have moved to a new night, the first Tuesday of every month, in an coordinative effort with SNuG (the San Diego NeXT User Group) to attract a greater variety of speakers to the Southern California NeXT community. This month's *SCaNeWS* is a little shorter than some of its predecessors, to leave room for this month's supplement, a tutorial on Interface Builder and Object-Oriented Design in the NeXTstep Environment. This tutorial was presented by Mike Mahoney at this year's ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems to an international audience, and we're pleased to be able to include it as an appendix to this month's newsletter.

MAY INTRO

Lorraine Rapp
rapp@csulb.edu

Also included in this month's issue is a press release concerning NeXTedge, a new customer support program; info on NewsGrazer, a nifty graphical interface to rn available via anonymous ftp (invaluable for navigating high-traffic groups like comp.sys.next!); an update to the ongoing FAQ; and excerpts from the April Bay Area NeXT User Group meeting. Of special note is a plea from Lighthouse Design for an interested party to carry on the tradition of the Big Green Disk, a compilation of all the best public domain and shareware software available for the NeXT. Any individual or organization with some extra time and an Internet connection should consider contacting Lighthouse and continuing this valuable service.

Last month's well-attended meeting featured a NeXTstation Color Computer demonstrated by Rick Jackson of NeXT: all of those Scene images and movies we've all grown accustomed to in grayscale took on a new vibrancy in 4096 onscreen colors. With a high probability that the NeXTdimension board will be demonstrated at the May meeting at UCLA, we can expect to be dazzled yet again.

If you would like to host a SCaN meeting at your location, contact one of the SCaN officers.

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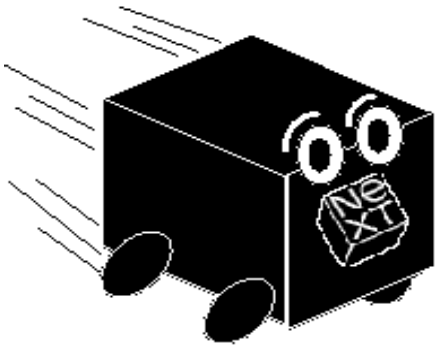
Interface Builder and Object-Oriented Design in the NeXTstep Environment



NeXT Press

NeXT INTRODUCES NeXTedge: COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE, SUPPORT, TRAINING PROGRAM

Motorola Will Provide Hardware Service

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., April 4, 1991 NeXT Computer, Inc. today announced NeXTedge, a program that encompasses all NeXT's hardware service, software support and customer education.

NeXT also announced that it has signed an agreement with the Field Service Division of Motorola Inc.'s Computer Group under which Motorola will be NeXT's preferred service provider in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico, with primary responsibility for providing hardware service to NeXT's direct customers.

NeXTedge will enable customers to obtain support and service from wherever they purchase their NeXT equipment: directly from NeXT or through a value-added reseller (VAR), dealer or other distribution channel. NeXTedge provides a one-year warranty service that is bundled with all NeXT equipment, as well as a menu of additional service options, support products and education courses.

"The trend in the computer industry is for vendors to take greater responsibility for post-sales service and support through all channels," said Paul Vais, director of NeXTedge at NeXT. "We decided to take responsibility one step further, to offer our customers service, support and training that is as innovative and high-quality as NeXT computers themselves. With this goal in mind, we created NeXTedge."

Motorola Agreement

In March, and as part of the NeXTedge program, NeXT expanded its existing partnership with Motorola to include service of NeXT computers. The two companies have a long, established relationship: NeXT shipped the first computer to be powered by Motorola's 68040 microprocessor, and all NeXT computers also incorporate Motorola's 56001 Digital Signal Processor (DSP) chip. Under the auspices of NeXTedge, Motorola's nationwide network of field engineers will provide hardware service for NeXT customers. Motorola has approximately 450 field engineers at 150 U.S. and 6 Canadian locations, who have been trained in hardware and UNIX systems since 1981.

"Motorola has a very successful history servicing UNIX systems," said Carol Dickson, vice president marketing and sales for Motorola's Field Service Division, headquartered in Dallas. "We are very pleased to be adding NeXT to our program."

NeXT Computer, Inc. designs, manufactures and markets professional workstations, which combine the power and networking of today's most advanced workstations with the ease of use and productivity applications of today's best personal computers. NeXT's professional workstation systems promise to enhance the way groups of people work together in the 1990s. NeXT is headquartered at 900 Chesapeake Drive, Redwood City, California, 94063.

NeXT SHIPS 8,000 CPUs IN FIRST QUARTER

Makes NeXT One of Leading Professional Workstation Vendors

REDWOOD CITY, Calif., April 4, 1991 NeXT Computer, Inc. today announced that it shipped 8,000 NeXT CPUs during the first quarter of 1991, which ended March 31. It was NeXT's first full quarter shipping its new line of workstations.

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NeXTPress

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All of NeXT's shipments were into the professional workstation category, making NeXT one of the leading vendors in this segment. Professional workstations, unlike traditional scientific/technical workstations, are UNIX workstations designed for non-technical users.

"In our first full quarter shipping the new systems, we think NeXT has nearly matched market leader Sun in shipments to the professional workstation segment," said Steven P. Jobs, president and CEO of NeXT. "Customers are beginning to grasp the benefits of NeXT's concept of 'UNIX for mere mortals' and they like what they see."

Comparing NeXT's first quarter 1991 with other vendors' most recently reported sales, NeXT tied with Digital Equipment Corporation in the overall workstation market. In the professional workstation category, NeXT ran a close second to market leader Sun Microsystems.

Sixty percent of NeXT's sales were to customers in business and government and 40 percent were to universities. More than 30 percent of NeXT's 8,000 CPUs were sold internationally to customers in Europe and Asia. NeXT coordinates its European activities through its three subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, France and Germany. In Asia, Canon, Inc. is the company's exclusive representative.

Professional Workstations

Professional workstations represent a rapidly emerging new category of UNIX workstations. Professional workstation users require the power, networking and multitasking capabilities of UNIX workstations, but also need a computer that runs personal computer-like productivity applications and is easy to use. These users work in areas such as publishing, financial services, entertainment/advertising, medical and legal services, government and higher education.

Customers in non-technical fields generally purchase workstations rather than personal computers for three reasons: to develop mission-critical custom applications; to run networking-intensive installations; and to run more powerful versions of productivity applications than are available for personal computers. In time, NeXT believes, they will also demand greater interpersonal computing capabilities to increase group productivity and collaboration.

NeXT computers have the technology that commercial users are seeking as they migrate to workstation technology. NeXTstep, NeXT's graphical user interface and application development environment, offers the most powerful and easiest to use environment for custom application development. NeXT's systems also provide extremely powerful built-in networking capabilities including TCP/IP and both twisted-pair and thin Ethernet yet setting up and navigating around a network on NeXT is extremely simple.

Unlike other workstation vendors, NeXT has a wide assortment of breakthrough productivity applications, such as Lotus Improv and WordPerfect (both shipping now). These applications are superior in functionality to, but compatible with, their versions on other platforms. They also have the ability to read files by other spreadsheet and word processing vendors, thus making them compatible with 80 percent of the installed base of software. Lastly, NeXT is the only computer company focusing on interpersonal computing, with built-in, easy-to-use electronic mail that allows everyone in an organization to use voice, text and graphics to keep each other informed.

NeXT's family of professional workstations comprises the NeXTstation and NeXTcube, which began shipping in November 1990; NeXTstation Color, which began shipping on March 12; and NeXTdimension, due to be available to customers in May. NeXT's first quarter shipment numbers do not include the two color products. All four systems are based on Motorola's 68040 microprocessor.

Distribution

One of NeXT's challenges in 1991 is to structure its distribution strategy to match the quality of its products. In the first stage of this program, NeXT is rapidly expanding its dealer base in the U.S., putting greater emphasis on campus resellers in the higher education community, forging partnerships with more value-added

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NeXTPress

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resellers (VARs) and increasing its direct sales force.

Along with building credibility for an entirely new category of computers professional workstations NeXT has also had to take a fresh look at the right distribution strategies to reach professional workstation customers," said Todd Rulon-Miller, NeXT's vice president, sales. " Our distribution goals are two-fold: to expand our total distribution capabilities and to choose channels that give us greater leverage with customers. The changes we've initiated in 1991 take us a long way toward accomplishing these goals."

To reach individuals and small- and medium-sized businesses, NeXT is establishing a network of independent dealers that are aggressive, technically savvy, owner-operated retailers with strong regional reputations. Included in this group will be individually certified Businessland centers, chosen on a case-by-case basis according to their track record selling NeXT's professional workstation products. NeXT expects that these Businessland centers will make up about 10 percent of its total dealer base.

NeXT's VAR strategy focuses on specific vertical markets that depend on proprietary custom software, and for which NeXT is particularly well suited, including publishing, financial services, entertainment/advertising, medical and legal services. Historically, more than half of all workstations have been sold through VARs.

To increase its leverage among higher education customers P which account for 40 percent of NeXT's total sales worldwide P NeXT is concentrating more effort on campus resellers (i.e., bookstores and on-campus computer stores). The company is focusing on establishing key resellers at computer-intensive colleges and universities, which are responsible for about half of all higher education computer purchases.

Many large corporate customers, as well as many government organizations and higher education institutions, prefer to purchase computers directly from vendors instead of through intermediate channels. NeXT has doubled its direct sales force in the last six months to better serve these customers.

NeXT Computer, Inc. designs, manufactures and markets professional workstations, which combine the power and networking of today's most advanced workstations with the ease of use and productivity applications of today's best personal computers. NeXT's professional workstation systems promise to enhance the way groups of people work together in the 1990s. NeXT is headquartered at 900 Chesapeake Drive, Redwood City, California, 94063.

New NeXT Music FTP Site

The former NeXT music software anonymous ftp site, winnie.princeton.edu, is no longer in service. Music software is now available in pub/music at princeton.edu.

BANG BITS:

Excerpts from the April Bay Area NeXT User Group Meeting

Arthur Kyle speaks of Canon and NeXT in Asia

Arthur Kyle of Canon, Inc. spoke first about his experiences of working in Tokyo as a an employee of Canon working as a third-party liaison, primarily with NeXT. Arthur gave some background information, pointing out that Canon owns 16.67% of NeXT, which it purchased for $100 million. When Arthur first heard that Canon would sell NeXT in Asia, he viewed it as the "kiss of death" for NeXT, as Canon sells 60% - 70% of all Macs in Japan, and thought that this would block NeXT's success. This has not turned out to be true, and Arthur has turned into a "true believer" in both the NeXT machines as well as the NeXT/Canon relationship.

The Canon name we hear really represents two distinct companies:

Canon, Inc. is more the scientific and engineering side, producing cameras, photocopiers, optical disks, etc, as well as selling the NeXT machines; Canon Sales is more the sales and distribution arm, including the Mac computers as well as the NeXT machines in smaller volumes. Canon Inc. is currently selling NeXT in about 10 Asian countries (Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, etc) with about 1,000 older cubes in place,

(continued on page 7, column 1)

OFF THE NET

Editors' Note: The selection criteria for Usenet postings are based solely on their interest. SCaN makes no claim, explicit or implied, as to the accuracy of the information contained in these excerpts. We also assume that people who post on Usenet will enjoy seeing their words in print. Special thanks to Alison Bomar (bomar@csulb.edu) for braving f comp.sys.next in search of articles for this feature.

NewsGrazer

Jayson Adams
Jayson_Adams
@next.com

Hola,

I've placed NewsGrazer, a NeXTstep news reader app, out on the archives. At the moment it's available from sonata.cc.purdue.edu (download /pub/next/submissions/NewsGrazer.52.1.-tar.Z). It's also in the /pub/\temp folder at umd5.umd.edu. Here's a brief description:

NewsGrazer gives the news reading and manipulation process a graphical interface. You can select groups by clicking on them, which displays a list of the group's articles (optionally sorted by title and time). You can read an article by clicking on it; articles can be exported to other apps via Services (if they accept files). NewsGrazer allows users to post messages and to reply to posters by mail. NewsFolders (similar to Mailboxes) allow easy storage and retrieval of news articles. Filters have similar functionality to rn kill files.

NewsGrazer requires NeXTstep 2.0 and supports both mounted and nntp news sources. NewsGrazer does not configure a system to retrieve news from a news feed or to run nntp.

Please let me know about any bugs you run across. You can also ask me for features, but don't expect them any time soon. If you have questions about how something works, or it looks like a feature is missing, please be sure you've checked the on-line documentation and Preferences panel before you send me mail. Thanks in advance. The following two paragraphs should also help answer a couple questions most people will have:

When NewsGrazer starts, it displays a browser of the available news groups. If you switch to List mode, you'll just get a list all of your subscribed groups (unless you explicitly ask for all groups). You can set the default mode (Browser or List) in NewsGrazer Preferences.

When replying by mail, NewsGrazer will open a new Mail Send window and attempt to place the article, etc. into that window. If you have another Send window on-screen, this info will get blasted into that send window (this is a Mail bug).

Enjoy!!!

jayson
NeXT Computer, Inc.

Hello all.

A while back, Lighthouse Design set out to donate our time and money to perform a service for the burgeoning NeXT community: we compiled all the public domain and shareware we could stuff onto an OD (see contents below), and began distributing it for as little money as possible under the moniker "The First Compilation Disk".

Well, a year and a tripling of optical disk prices later, the burden is proving too much for our tiny organization. The now renamed Big Green Disk, proceeds from which are donated to environmental charities, is pretty popular, and requires more time and effort than we can give it. For this reason, we will stop distributing the disk May 15. But we'd hate to see it die.

The End of the Big Green Disk?

Ray Ryan
Lighthouse Design
disk@lighthouse.com

With this posting, we're officially extending the invitation to another group to take over duplication, updating and distribution of the Big Green Disk. Why? The Big Green Disk ensures the flow of free and shareable software to those without net access. And saves a tremendous amount of time even for those who do. We'd like to make sure that access is maintained.

We'll point you to a cheap source of double-sided OD's, and hand you the pile of stuff we were getting ready to add to the disk (we'll even pass you a list of our favorite charities...)

If you or your group might be interested in taking things over, please write to disk@lighthouse.com (...!uunet!lighthouse!disk) and we'll talk. Thanks for your consideration.
(continued on next page)

OFF THE NET

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Sample Contents as of 26 Apr

• The entire GNU distribution, including:

  GNU emacs
  gdb, the GNU debugger
  GNU versions of awk, diff, grep, cpio, troff, postscript, tar, sed...
  GNU utilties used by NeXT in NeXTStep 1.0 are included

• Programs from the Purdue NeXT archive, such as:

  AltDock, allows you to extend your dock
  NX_VOID, a 3-dimensional asteroids game
  Tetris, the ever popular arcade game
  DefaultMgr, an editor for your Defaults database

• News and newsletters, including:

  Archives of the USENET newsgroup comp.sys.next
  Bay Area NeXT Users Group (BaNG)
  Rocky Mountain NeXT Users Group (rmNUG)
  NeXT Users Journal (formerly the *BuzzNUG Buzzings:)

• An X11R3 server for NeXTstep 1.0, a beta test version formerly named XNeXT

• comp.sources.unix archives (all since its creation)

• kermit and cnews

End Sample

Ray Ryan
Lighthouse Design, Ltd.
rjrjr@lighthouse.com
6516 Western Ave.
+1-301-907-4621
Chevy Chase, MD, USA
20815-3212

Spring 1991 NeXT on Campus

Jeff Wishnie - jwishnie@next.com

The Spring 1991 edition of NeXT on Campus has just come off the presses and is enroute, via U.S. mail, to subscribers. An electronic version of the journal, in both FrameMaker and PostScript file formats, has been sent to the nova.cc.purdue.edu anonymous FTP archive site.

The deadline for project information submissions for the Fall 1991 issue of NeXT on Campus (to be published in mid August) is May 31, 1991. If you would like your project(s) to appear in the Fall issue, please complete the attached information request form and return it to: next_on_campus@next.com

If you do not wish to submit project information but would like a free subscription to NeXT on Campus (starting with the Spring 1991 issue) please fill out the attached information request form and return it to: next_on_campus@next.com

For those of you unfamiliar with NeXT on Campus, here is a brief description:
NeXT on Campus is a journal produced by the Higher Education Group at NeXT Computer, Inc. The purpose of the publication is to highlight uses of NeXT computers in higher education -- both teaching and research, to foster communication among educational users of NeXT technology, and to provide useful resources to educational users. It is published three times a year (Winter, Spring, and Fall). Hard copy is distributed to approximately 40,000 people and electronic versions are placed at the public archive sites.

Jeff Wishnie
Technical Editor, NeXT on Campus
Higher Education Communications
NeXT Computer, Inc.
e-mail: jwishnie@next.com
voice: 415 780-2753

Information Request Form

Full Name:
Title:
Institution/Organization:
Department:
Address, phone, and e-mail address:
Which contact information you would like listed (i.e. e-mail only)?
Number of NeXT computers in department:
Would you like a free subscription to NeXT on Campus?

If you would like your project listed in the Fall '91 issue of NeXT on Campus, please fill out these additional questions:

Project title and discipline:
Project status (i.e. completed, being coded, prototyped, proposed):
Briefly describe your project:

BANG BITS

(continued from page 7, column 3)

and about 1,280 '040 processors placed in the first quarter (an unknown amount of these were '030 - '040 upgrades). The main purchasers are universities and research centers, with software developers also being significant customers.

Steve Jobs is a folk hero in the Japanese computer industry given his success at Apple, which was important in his developing a strong partnership with Canon. In Arthur's opinion, NeXT has an excellent chance to really succeed in Asia when Kanji is finally fully supported - NeXTstep 2.1J is currently in beta, and supports mail, edit, IB and ".rtfj" (for Japanese) files. Each character requires two bytes. Programming in Kanji cleanly requires use of the text objects, with the English shared libraries replaced by Kanji ones. The basic programming model is for developers to keep strings separate, and to have English translated into Kanji where needed, keeping separate English/Kanji string modules.

Canon is very serious about its partnership with NeXT, and has committed outstanding in-house talent to the partnership, and provided expertise in the software necessary for the Kanji/multi-lingual support. Additionally, Canon provides NeXT with a sales, distribution, and technical support capability throughout Asia that would be otherwise beyond NeXT's limited resources to achieve.

Randy Nelson Waxes Philosophical Upon Aspects of NeXT Development

To Randy Nelson, head of Developer Training for NeXT, the company's evolution can be split into pre- and post-Improv worlds. Improv represents a true milestone, now just being realized, in that it represents a new potential for users to customize a shrink-wrapped application, and to in turn connect it to other programs. Lotus is just now releasing its API which will allow developers and sophisticated users to tap into the underlying technology of Improv. Lotus itself worked on the interface of Improv until very late in the product development cycle - the plastic nature of the interface allows for many ways to access and utilize the core algorithms - future users will be able to develop there own interfaces layered on top of or horizontally to what currently exists.

Randy also sees enormous potential and opportunities in the building of quality objects. Rather than building huge programs that do enormous amounts of things adequately, and a central task very well, he sees the future lying in "building one high quality brick, rather than a thin wall," and in "making great tools, not panaceas." An example of this that will hopefully come from NeXT itself is DBkit, which is a set of objects to access SQL data bases.

His background is an unusual one, having come from a Fine Arts (painting) education into the world of computing, and an excellent one from which to perceive the emerging need in programming for changing from ground-up approaches to "providing linkages between great-working things." Randy is insistent that we must focus on providing quality tools and interfaces that other people can leverage off of to create other tools. NeXT IB, palettes, speaker/listener, and standard objects are the underlying technologies that NeXT provides to realize this.

On the developer's training front, Randy stated complete agreement that a "developer-camp-on-a-disk" would be highly desirable, but also stated that there is no current commitment to do so.

Also, for those contemplating development on the NeXT machines, or new to it, Randy highly recommends getting a copy of "The NeXTstep Advantage" from NeXT, which shows the development of a plotting application and is very informative about creating software on NeXT computers.

Randy was very receptive to feedback from BANG, and promised to take back two requests to NEXT for further consideration:

1) developers need access to more NeXT training materials, so that they can do in-house training of their colleagues to share what has been learned at developers camp;

2) everyone developing wants self-paced courses!

Randy also announced that the 2.0 documentation is complete

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BANG BITS

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(including the Concepts manual!), and being printed. Distribution is now the key issue - hang on!

Lee Boynton Speaks on the Workspace Manager

Request the "Info Panel" on your Workspace Manager (WSM), and "Lee Boynton" greets you as one of the authors of this excellent application. Lee gave a high-speed overview of the app (he was squeezed for time due to a fire-alarm that cut 15 minutes of content from our meeting).

Here are some highlights of what he covered:

• You can change the icons for a directory easily. There are two icons - one for the standard directory display, and one for the "open" directory (one that is having a file moved, copied, or linked to it).

To change the standard icon, place your tiff icon into a file called ".dir.tiff"

To change the open icon, place your tiff icon into a file called ".opendir.tiff"

• The Workspace inspector (invoked via the tools menu) is new and uses multi-tasking. For instance, under the Attributes Inspector you have the "Compute" button.This fires up a separate task to compute the disk usage of the specified directory.

• The inspector is actually extensible - NeXT needs to release the API for this. No word on when this might happen.

• The WSM was rewritten to "de-kernalize" it, so its now more modular and multi-tasked - before it was one giant program. Specifically, the WSM starts up a File Mover, a File Sizer,a Finder, or a Disk Mounter as directed by user requests.

• You can now use a Find panel to find a program and launch it via double-click on the file name in the panel.

• The Process panel allows you to inspect either background or application programs. Again, you choose by double-clicking. Copy/move are examples of background processes.

• A key problem the WSM group had to deal with in development was the asynchronous nature of giving the results of a completing parallel task (say File Mover). Error messages presented similar problems: how do you notify the user, who may be making a cursor-driven selection, about something when the notice migh inadvertently change the selection? For instance, you would not want the WSM to insert a new file name into a file list during a copy right as you were double-clicking another file name. Here the solution was to not allow updates while the cursor was in the window with the file list, so that the list is not updated until the cursor leaves the window (so as a consequence, if you want faster feedback, move the cursor from the window during WSM copies and moves!).

• Here is a typical multi-tasked transaction history by the WSM in copying a file:

create new process
WSM ⟶ File Mover

reply to launch

⟵

start copying

⟶

update pie chart
(on background panel)

⟵

update pie chart
(on background panel)

⟵

. . .

copy complete

⟵

• Lee's conclusions regarding dealing with asynchronous processes are

1) provide immediate feedback to the user when possible
2) avoid moving controlling pixels asynchronously
3) don't make the user wait for something to complete before other requests can be made

• If you want to make a link to a file (versus copy or move), control-drag it to the desired directory.

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BANG BITS

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Dan Lavin Clarifies Changes at NEXTWORLD

Dan Lavin, NEXTWORLD's Technical Editor, briefly outlined changes that have occurred at the magazine:

• Former Editor in Chief Michael Miley is writing a book, and has been replaced by Dan Ruby, previously with MacWeek and InfoWorld.

• The magazine will now be published on a quarterly basis, every 3 months instead of every two months. Dan is hopeful (not certain!) that current subscribers will still receive a total of 6 issues of the magazine for their subscription, since that what a year's subscription meant when they subscribed.

• Subscribers will additionally receive a monthly newsletter (which will not include advertising) so hotter news will reach subscribers more quickly - the newsletter will be published even during the months the magazine is published. NEXTWORLD believes this format will better serve the existing NeXT community given its current size.

• Simpson Garfinkel of MIT Media Lab fame is joining NEXTWORLD to add to the magazine's already considerable technical depth.

• Please contact NEXTWORLD if you have useful information regarding NeXT/NeXT community, which, besides obvious kinds of topics, includes:

1) fun mystery photos
2) actual code names used during the development of NeXT (and 3rd party) products
3) new shrink-wrapped software announcements
4) rumors!

Please contact Dan at: dlavin@-nextworld.com or 415-922-NEXT

Updates to FAQ

Pascal Chesnais
John Garnett
Erik Kay

lacsap@plethora.media.mit.edu

The information contained in this post is a compilation of answers to questions posted by participants in the comp.sys.next USENET group. No guarantees are made regarding the correctness of these responses.
NOTE: We are not affiliated with any of the companies mentioned in this posting.

What color monitors can I use with the color NeXT machines?

Sony GDM-1601 were demonstrated with the NeXT color products. NeXT is not shipping these monitors. Sony no longer makes them, however there is a replacement GDB-1606 which has a long lead time on delivery [2-3 week delivery on a sample point of one monitor:-)]. It does require alignment to adjust for the different scan rate...

The important specs for the color monitor are:
Horz Scan Rate: 61 KHz
Vert Scan Rate: 68 Hz
NON-INTERLACED

Where can I get 13W3 to BNC adapters to connect third party color monitors?

NuData in NewJersey carries 13W3 female to 4 BNC male connectors. 908-842-5757, the price is about $100. Call for details.

Where can I get a NeXTstep netnews reader?

By far the most versatile newsreader for the NeXT is NeXTgrazer by Jayson Adams of NeXT. It is on the archive servers and is extremely useful for coping with the volume of news we are faced with.

Where can I get plotting software?

• nxyplot by Tom Pulliam is available from cs.orst.edu.
• graph is available in source form from 4.3BSD systems. It is useful for dealing with pairs of numbers that need to be viewed.
• psplot comes with the NeXT. It takes the output of the graph program and generates a .ps file that can be previewed with Preview or Yap.
• gnuplot is available from prep.ai.mit.edu.
• jsplot clone of graph that generates ps files directly.
•psplot is a library of c routines that generate 2D, 3D and contour plots. It is available on the purdue archive.

SCaNeWS' Role in the NeXT User Community

Our goals in distributing *SCaNeWS* are modest. We are geared more toward the needs of end-users, students and faculty than those of developers. Developers may find our newsletter interesting but perhaps not as technically oriented as they may like. Among our regular features we plan to include product reviews, tutorials for basic software development as well as for some of the more complex applications, bug reports, updates on how NeXT is faring in the marketplace (with an emphasis on the comings and goings of third-party vendors, ever-crucial to a product's success), and pointers to the most reliable sources of NeXT information.

We refer developers and other sophisticated programmers to the *NeXT Users' Journal*, which can be downloaded from the same archive site as *SCaNeWS* (see the adjacent box "Downloading .."). We read it and love it (thanks, Erica!) and occasionally make copies available at our meetings.

Downloading SCaNeWS (from an Archive)

If you miss(ed) any issues of *SCaNeWS* and have access to Internet, you can obtain them via anonymous file transfer protocol (ftp) as follows (**bold** indicates onscreen prompts, *italics* what you type):
At your local system prompt, type

ftp -n nova.cc.purdue.edu
ftp> *user anonymous <your full address>*
(e.g. mahoney@beach.csulb.edu)
ftp> *binary*
ftp> *cd /pub/next/Newsletters/SCaNeWS*
ftp> *ls -l*
This will give you a listing of all the newsletters currently available. To retrieve an issue:

ftp> *get <filename>*
Repeat the last command for as many issues as you want to retrieve. To return to your local machine:

ftp> *bye*

The file is in compressed form (you can tell by the .Z extension). To uncompress it, type *uncompress <filename>*. Now the newsletter is ready to be loaded into the NextApp *Preview* and printed.

SCaNeWS CONTRIBUTORS

Contributors:
Jayson Adams
Pascal Chesnais
John Garnett
Erik Kay
Arthur Kyle
Mike Mahoney
Ray Ryan
Jeff Wishnie

Editors:
Mike Mahoney
Lorraine Rapp

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SCaN OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Michael K. Mahoney
Computer Engineering/Science Dept.
California State University
Long Beach, CA 90840
(213) 985-1550
mahoney@csulb.edu

VICE-PRESIDENT: Bob Desharnais
(213) 343-2056
bob@biol1next.calstatela.edu

SECRETARY: Lorraine Rapp
rapp@csulb.edu

TREASURER: Henry Chiu
chiu@csulb.edu

If you have any comments or questions about SCaN, please contact one of the above officers.