From the desk of ...

Adam

This is just perfect.

I had a nice long editorial written for this column. Erudite, concise, full of insight – all the things that my articles usually are. Then disaster struck.

The NeXT is a wolf in sheep's clothing. It's cunning, fast, sleek (misunderstood?) and has teeth that could chew through your leg like it were toilet paper.

I was trying to get UUCP and Netnews to happen on a stand-alone machine. I wouldn't have even attempted it without the tireless assistance of Lawrence "Spunky" Clarke. His determination and generosity are matched only by his lunacy. I got to play with all sorts of new tricks; dump, restore, chmod, et al. None of them work-ed the way I wanted to, but my geek quotient must have risen by twenty points.

I should apologize right now to those I'm going to insult. I'm sorry all you pencil-protector-wearing, geek propeller-heads. There, now to continue ....

I did not buy a NeXT to learn UNIX. Mr. Jobs is attempting to bring UNIX to the masses. The fact that I couldn't simply backup (and consequently restore) my Cube with a small, idiot-friendly front-end to dump and restore is one of a number of sad symptoms.

NeXTStep is an undeniably brilliant piece of work, but it is just a beginning. As a graphic designer, I already spend far too much time screwing around with systems and hardware. If the NeXT wants to suc-ceed as more than an *academic wonder-toy* it needs not only a suite of high level appli-cations that compliment it's hardware and system capabilities, but a more robust collection of NeXTStep utilities. As for my system problems, I am now up and running again but I seem to have lost a few things that I thought I had saved onto OD before we had to do all those BuildDisks.

Enjoy the new newsletter. I enjoyed working with Spunky and Joe to create it, and I look forward to seeing it advance and improve further. ◆

Joe

After months of procrastination, I finally took the plunge and set up a UUCP link between my site ("wcraft") and Wimsey Associates ("wimsey"). It took some sacrifices and curses, but I finally have electronic mail flowing reliably (touch wood). So, send me e-mail (NeXT mail welcome) at my new e-mail address: "jchin@wcraft.wimsey.bc.ca".

A big thank you goes to Jiro Nakamura who took the time to write a *sendmail* configuration file to meet the particular requirement of my site. I would also like to thank O'Reily and Associates for the two bibles of UUCP: *Managing UUCP and Usenet* and *Using UUCP and Usenet*.

I want to invite everyone to embark on a campaign to encourage software vendors to develop software for the NeXT com-puter. The NeXT will not proliferate without top notch application software. So, please write, phone, fax your favorite software developers and make sure they don't miss this wonderful computer of ours. Help yourself to any of these areas that are sorely in need of decent application software: professional desktop publishing (how about it Quark?), computer aided design (AutoCAD?), business productivity, and the list goes on!

For those who care, this newsletter is put together using *FrameMaker 2.0d* on my NeXT computer. The graphics are done by Adam using *Coreldraw* and *Photostyler* on a PC. *Photoshop* has also been used to touch up the cover photo. Almost all article submissions are received by e-mail. Adam and I use the fax and e-mail medium extensively to send proofs to each other. The Lino output is done at WYSWIG Graphics (thanks!). Eventually, we want the entire production to be done on the NeXT computer. I look forward to the day when *QuarkXPress*, or another professional layout program of the same calibre, becomes available for the NeXT, and I promise you will see an even better *VNUS Newsletter*! ◆

Larry

Well, how do you like the new layout for our newsletter? It took an extra month but I think it was worth the wait. Copies will be available on the ftp sites, **cs.orst.edu**, **sonata.cc .purdue.edu** and **cs.ubc.ca**.

I would like to see NeXT do more advertising *and* have a better support program. Here's the scenario for me if I have a problem:

1. I call NeXT at their 800 number and say, "I have a problem."
2. They say contact your local NeXT campus consultant.
3. I call the NeXT campus consultant. He's not in but leave a message and he will get back to me.
4. He eventually calls me back and I tell him the problem. He says he's not quite sure what the answer is, but he will call NeXT get back to me.
5. He calls NeXT and they say, "we don't know, but we will ask someone and get back to you."
6. They eventually call the campus consultant back with some suggestions.
7. The campus consultant eventually calls me back.

Well by the time all this has taken place, I've either figured out the problem myself, the problem goes away, or I consider buy-ing a SUN (nice tech support).

I am hoping that my employer, TRIUMF, will purchase NeXT machines in the near future and I would like to say that their technical support is top notch. So how about it NeXT? An 800 number that anyone can call 24 hours a day to ask questions about their NeXT system and receive technical support. If the NeXT machines are used in the daily operation of the TRIUMF Cyclotron and we have a problem, we can't afford to wait around. It costs about $18,000 an hour to run TRIUMF.

I will still recommend the NeXT over any other computer. I don't understand why anyone would use anything else. Everyone that I have showed the machine to wants one right away. Open your eyes and experience the power of a NeXT. ◆

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Submission

The Vancouver NeXT Users Society extends an invitation to any and all interested people who would like to contribute to future issues.

The VNUS Newsletter is a forum for NeXT users of all types, from UNIX gurus to new-comers and novices. We invite you to submit articles or letters of any length via the Internet or postal service. While we make every effort to print work in it's entirety, we must reserve the right to edit submitted material for content and/or space considerations.

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From the prez

Lawrence Clarke

Welcome to another issue of the VNUS (Vancouver NeXT Users Society) Newsletter. There have been some changes since the last newsletter.

I have taken over the responsibilities of the Vancouver NeXT user group, sort of by default. Lionel Tolan, the previous chairman, was told by his boss not to be a part of the NeXT users group, as it conflicted with SFU's policy. Lionel recently took charge of SFU's computing services division. Per-sonally if anyone told me what I could do on my own time, I'd tell him to take a hike. But that's me. *Spunky.* I felt the group, since it was a group, should *DO SOMETHING*. It bugs me when people just talk about things but never actually do anything. So I took it up-on myself to do something. They hate it when I do that at work.

I wrote to the British Columbia Government (Department of Corporate and Consumer Affairs) for the incorporation forms. Hiroshi Takahashi, a group member, came up with the name VNUS (Vancouver NeXT Users Society). So I had a name search done, and that name was approved. Cost of the name search was $30. I then decided to appoint an executive com-mittee instead of asking for volunteers. I wanted people who were right for the job. We all signed the application for incorporation and then mailed it off on May 18, 1991, my birthday. Yes folks, I'm a *Taurus*. The application was approved and I received the *Certificate of Incorporation* on May 29, 1991. Cost of the incorporation was $60.

Next, we needed a place to meet so I asked my employer (TRIUMF) if we could use their auditorium to hold our monthly meetings. It's equipped with a sound system, stage, screen, overhead and slide projectors, video cameras and monitors. The only thing lacking is a good quality video projection system, that can be used with the high scanning frequency of the NeXT system. So until further notice, all of the VNUS meetings are on 7pm, the last Wednesday of every month at the following location:

TRIUMF Auditorium 4004
Wesbrook Mall, UBC

I asked Adam Smith to come up with a logo for the group. This logo is used on all advertisements, correspondence and meeting agendas. Bob Bajwa and I opened a bank account under the VNUS name and had some cheques printed up with the VNUS logo on them. Both of our signatures are required on our cheques. I then asked Lionel for the money the user group was awarded from NeXT, and depo-sited it into the VNUS account. The amount was $4,400.00. I also asked the Questor Project Society if they would provide Internet/Usenet/NeXTmail access to VNUS members. They said yes, providing VNUS supplies them with a modem. So I purchased a Telebit Trailblazer T2500 Plus modem and handed it to Questor. The modem remains the property of VNUS and is on loan to Questor (also a non-profit organization). The cost of the modem was approximately $1100. It's the same type of modem used by Questor's mail router (Wimsey). The modem uses Telebit's own P.E.P. protocol for data transmis-sion. Most unix sites use a Telebit modem for fast reliable transmissions. Now anyone in the group can send and receive NeXT mail to anyone else in the group or in the world. Let's get interpersonal! If you would like an account on Questor you can call them at 682–6659. Give them your name, address, etc., and tell them that your a member of VNUS.

They will check your name against the VNUS membership list, so be sure to register when you are at the next meeting. News groups are also available so you can keep up with what's going on in "**comp.sys.next**." or any of the other news groups on the Internet. We then made a bulk order purchase of items from the NeXT promotional catalog. T-shirts, mouse pads, coffee mugs, pens and pencils. The package cost approximately $1200, which we will recover by selling the items at VNUS meetings and other NeXT demonstration events.

I've decided to start up a VNUS social club where the members can get together and go out for a drink, or movie, beach party, barbecue or whatever. A lot of NeXT users get so involved with their work they forget to have a social life or spend time with their family and make new friends. So this will provide an outlet for an important part of life.

I've always wondered about the way NeXT does its advertising. I suppose they have their reasons, I just don't understand what they are. Anyone that I've shown the NeXT to, wanted to have one immediately. They were totally amazed at what the NeXT can do. One person I talked to just wanted one because it was black and it matched the rest of his furniture. He wasn't interested in learning what it could do. Some people just hate to learn anything new. I am looking into a couple of local television shows that highlight various computer systems and user groups. I'm also looking for volunteers to setup a demonstration booth at various shopping malls around town on the weekends. Anyone willing to loan themselves and their NeXT systems for demonstrations, please get in touch with me. So many people I've talked to about NeXT respond by saying "What's a NeXT?". PC and MAC advertising are everywhere but you have to look hard for any advertising for NeXT. Maybe NeXT is afraid they won't be able to manufacture enough if they put out some real advertising.

Starting in September membership dues will be levied. Membership in VNUS will cost you $50 per year. We need some sort of income to cover the cost of newsletter production, advertising, photocopying, mailing, refreshments, bringing in speakers, donations to the Questor Project Society, social events, etc. Dues may be paid in a lump sum or monthly post dated cheques made out to the Vancouver NeXT Users Society. We are now a Visa and Master Card merchant. This will also be handy for the promotional items (Tee-shirts, etc.) We have purchased a 4x7' vinyl sign with our logo on it. The cost was $150.00.

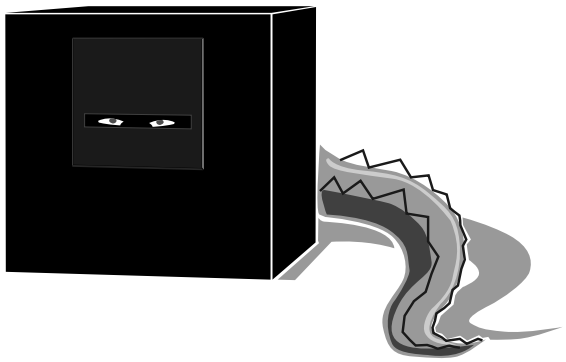
I am also on the executive committee for the Vancouver Oracle Users Group (VOUG). The VOUG June newsletter suddenly lost their sponsor, so I placed an advertisement in the VOUG newsletter on behalf of VNUS. Cost of the advertisement was $125. The September 18/91 meeting of VOUG will demonstrate Oracle running on the NeXT computers. The VOUG meetings are held at 1055 West Hastings, Vancouver, B.C.

Advantage Computers setup a NeXT display at this years Oracle Solutions Conference, to allow Oracle to demonstrate their new product. There was a lot of interest.

We set up a display of NeXT compu-ters at this year's AAPT (American Association of Physics Teachers) conference. The academic world loves *Mathematica* and the NeXT computer.

So that about sums up the recent changes. Hope you enjoy this issue and I look forward to your com-ments, suggestions, and submissions for this newsletter. ◆

Zilla



Conrad Geiger

Congratulations are in order for NeXT's Richard Crandall for his ap-plication "Zilla" which won the 1991 Computer-world Smithsonian Award for Science. The awards are based on achieving excellence through Information Tech-nology in a particular field.

Until last night NeXT Computer was one of five finalists for this award. Our distinguished competition included:

- Project Center for Supercomputing with their ETH Zurich Algorithms that permit the study of large chemical systems using rigorous theoretical methods that have been developed and applied.
- University of California, Davis, with their highly sophisticated neural-network-based image classifier with broad applicability in medicine and industry.
- University of Maryland ASTROLABS uses computer simulations of telescope observations to explore, measure and interpret a variety of astronomical phenomena from the motions of the satellites of Jupiter to the expansion of the Universe.
- Wistar Institute – European Molecu-lar Biology Laboratory Computer visualization techniques have enabled them to provide the first detailed 3-D structure of a denovirus.

The Award ceremony consisted of a reception and banquet. The Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Ed Bradley, CBS News Correspondent and Co-Editor of *60 Minutes*. The sponsors of the event are the Smithsonian Museum and International Data Group/Computerworld. The first award was for Science, so NeXT received immediate visibility.

Attendees, included: the Chairman of IDG, Patrick J. McGovern, the chairman of MCI, William G. McGowan, the Chairman of Siemens, Dr. Hans Decker the Chairman of Price Waterhouse, William H. Cawly and more.

Awards were given in the fields of: Business Services, Education and Academia, Environment, Energy and Agriculture, Finance, Insurance and Real Estate, Government, Non-Profit Organizations, Manufacturing, Media, Arts and Entertainment, Medi-cine, Science, and Transportation.

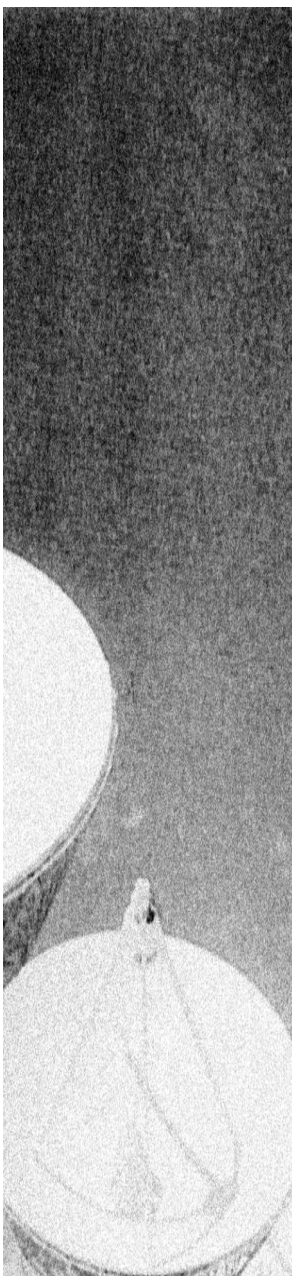
The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to the late, Robert Noyce, founder of Fairchild Semiconductor, and founder of Intel Corporation.

Ronald Weismann, Director of Higher Education, received the award for Richard Crandall and NeXT Computer while a video played on the main screen. This event could be likened to the OSCARs!

Congratulations Richard Crandall for such an outstanding job! ◆

Note

Vancouver NeXT Users Society was privileged to have Dr. Crandall speak to us during the June meeting. He spoke at great length of the virtues and accomplishments of Zilla. He also shared some information on his speech recognition research using the NeXT computer. We would like to thank Dr. Crandall for taking the time to talk with us. Eds.



bradley head

FEATURE

WARNING: Although you will find much useful information in the Usenet news groups (e.g. comp.sys.next.misc), Usenet can be incredibly addictive, and may be detrimental to your productivity. We assume no responsibility for what may happen! Proceed at your own risk ...

Setting Up Usenet News

This is a guide to installing *Usenet News*, or simply *news*, on the NeXT. This installation assumes that you will be polling a news feed-site using *UUCP*. Therefore, it assumes that you are familiar with, or have already installed a *UUCP* connection. I also recommend that you read *Managing UUCP and Usenet* from the *Nutshell Handbook* series by O'Reilly and Associates. I will be making the assumption that you have this book as a companion to this installation guide. I also assume that you have already successfully installed a *UUCP* connection with a site that offers Usenet news, and that you are polling this site periodically using *cron*.

In this guide, I will step you through the process of installing the news management program *C News*, and Jayson Adams' NextStep news reading program *NewsGrazer*. If you wish, you can install a command line news reader, such as the highly recommended and popular *rn*, but that is not covered in this guide simply because *NewsGrazer* is a wonderful news reader that takes advantage of the user interface of the NeXT.

Background

C News is the software package that drives Usenet, the distributed bulletin-board service in which over 20 megabytes of articles (in the form of code, prose, data and pictures) pass daily. *C News* takes news articles from another computer connected via *UUCP* (or *NNTP*) and organizes them into the proper directories