NeXus Memo
NeXT User Society in Japan
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CONTENTS

1. About NeXus 2

2. Summary of the Sixth NeXus Meeting 3

3. McGill X 7

4. NeXT on Japanese Magazines 8

A. NeXus Membership Application 9

To Contact NeXus

(1) e-mail:
Internet: NeXus-office@etl.go.jp
juice: ohashi@sunrise.ocean.juice.or.jp
Nikkei-MIX: shioya
NIFTY: PFC02015(Ogawa), PDG03047(Yamada)

(2) Facsimile:
+81-03-351-0880 (Shioya, SRA, Inc.)

(3) Snail mail:
NeXus Office c/o Ohashi Clinic
4-4-2, Ebara, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, 142 JAPAN

NeXus Memo:

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

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

English version Editors: Mitsuhiro Kishimoto, Kaoru Ozawa, Masana Hamada and Teruo Utsumi.

1. About NeXus

NeXus is a non-profit organization to facilitate collaboration among members and to collect and exchange NeXT and NeXT related information. The main topics we cover are:

- Easy-to-use, superior human interface
- Integrated network environment for interpersonal computing
- Graphical and multimedia applications
- Advanced object-oriented programming environment.

Our mother ship is a NeXT computer (NeXT station and cube). We, however, do not restrict our activities to NeXT. Other advanced high-tech computers are also of interest. We are the first NeXT user group in Japan and Asia. One of our principal interests is using Japanese on the NeXT computer. We have local activities in mainly the Tokyo area and our meetings are open to the public. We place our newsletters on worldwide ftp sites to distribute them freely. NeXus is not affiliated with any company. Enthusiastic volunteers support NeXus. We welcome your contributions.

NeXus Activities:

Meetings:

Monthly meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month starting from 7:00 p.m. The meetings are open to the public. The guest fee is 1,000 Yen, including the latest NeXus Memo.

Newsletter:

We publish a monthly NeXus Memo and quarterly Newsletter. NeXus Memo is distributed at every monthly meeting. You can also ftp from ETL(etlport.etl.go.jp). The second issue of NeXus Quarterly is due in April.

Special Interest Groups:

We have several SIGs: Japanese, Mathematica, Graphical Human Interface, Mach OS, Programming, Object-oriented Programming, Networking, and others. If you are interested in any of these, please contact the executive staff.

Software Library:

We have a publicly distributable software library on MO disks and a Video library.

Networks:

Currently we run mailing-list (NeXus-mail@sra125.sra.co.jp) on JUNET. We are talking on a NeXT news group of JUNET named 'fj.sys.next' and 'FCSALON" forum of NIFTY-Serve.

Other Activities:

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

Executive Committee:

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

Volunteers

Shouichi Hachiya, Kazuyuki Inoue, Taketosi Mori, Hironobu Suzuki, Norimasa Yamagichi, Kenichi Yanase, Kaoru Ozawa, Masana Harada

Membership:

A one year NeXus membership includes four issues of Newsletter, NeXus Quarterly, and 12 monthly NeXus Memos. You can pick them up at monthly meetings or, if you miss any meeting, you can receive them by snail mail. The first fiscal year started in October '90 and will end in September '91. Members joining NeXus in the middle of the fiscal year will get back issues of NeXus Memos and Quarterlys. You also get our software and video library with only shipping and handling charges. There are four types of memberships: regular, student, overseas, and corporate. An application form for regular, student, and overseas membership can be found at the end of this memo.

2. Summary of the Sixth NeXus Meeting

Written by Katsuhiro Ohashi
Translated by Kaoru Ozawa and Masana Harada

Date: December 26, 1990
Place: Canon Inc. Shinjuku Headquarters, Dai-ichi Life Insurance Buld. 18F Hall 1
Number of Attendants: 43

Thanks to Canon Inc.'s support, we were lucky to use a large conference hall in Dai-ichi Life Insurance Building. We are very grateful to Canon Inc. because the hall had a large space and its location was easy to access. We asked Canon Inc. for special treatment because we used the facility after the business hours.

On NeXus Quarterly (Vol. 1, Issue 1) By Mr. Shioya and Dr. Ohashi

The first issue of NeXus Quarterly ("NQ"), the quarterly magazine of NeXus, was published. We explained about the magazine as follows:

We plan to issue NQ four times a year, namely in January (Winter Issue), April (Spring Issue), July (Summer Issue), and October (Autumn Issue). Shipment will be made in the month prior to issue. Since the first issue was released in January (that is, it became Vol. 1 Issue 1.), it is easy to count the issue number. This time, we printed 150 copies, twice the number of NeXus members. We can give a back issue to a new member or meet the request for a copy from a Corporate member and non-menber.

In this issue, we printed the table of contents on the cover page. However, since we received the opinion the table was too short, we would like to consider inserting a more detailed table of contents in the next issue. We found several printing errors in the issue despite our frequent checks.

There was an opinion that it is convenient if NeXus Memo is included within NQ for storage purposes. We also consider adopting this option if many members prefer. Since the contents of NeXus Memo and NQ are overlapped to some extent, we would need to select non-overlapped contents and print them in NQ when we adopt this approach.

We think that NQ should contain not only technical information on hardware or software installation (thus for record purpose), but also the article interesting to read. We consider that it is interesting idea to print the network communications after appropriate editing. A discussion on a certain subject such as the article of "How NeXus Started" in this issue is an example. In this case, we would like you to discuss the following later:

- The copyright issue on NQ quotation from mails or news.
- How to deal with information which an author does not want to print.

We would welcome information on hardware or software installation. We would also appreciate your requests of how to install certain products.

NeXus Memo English Version By Mr. Kishimoto

We also issue NeXus Memo English version, which you are reading now. Since NeXus Memo includes information from U.S. user groups, we mainly distribute the English version to them in order to express our thanks. The English version is also available to NeXus members upon request.

The Characters of NeXus Memo and NeXus Quarterly By Mr. Kishimoto

The purpose of NeXus Memo is to make NeXT information widely available to the general public. Thus, you can freely copy or distribute them. At present, NeXus Memo is provided electronically through JUNET, NiftyServe, Nikkei MIX and ftp sites (Japan and USA).

On the other hand, NeXus Quarterly is intended as a record of the activities of NeXus, and is exclusive to the members. As a general rule, we do not provide NeXus Quarterly electronically. Different from NeXus Memo, copy or distribution is subject to the permission of NeXus. If someone other than NeXus members wants the Quarterly, we can distribute it to him at a reasonable charge.

The Supplement of Hard Disk Installation   By Mr. Kishimoto

In order to connect an external hard disk drive, hard disk itself, a power supply, a case and a SCSI cable are necessary. In the case of NeXTstation, we need a conversion cable between SCSI-2 and SCSI, which we can obtain from a shop, say, in Akihabara, Tokyo. The specifications of required cable are:

- One end is a unfenole 50 pin connector, full pitch
- The other end is micro 50 (DSUB-50 pin half-pitch connector)
- Price is about 9,000 Yen

As shown in the NeXT Quarterly article, Canon Inc. takes a position that the installation of the OS into a third party hard disk is not allowed on a NeXT Node System, which does not have MO. However, this position is doubtful because NeXT License Agreement does not provide this.

There were two attendants who installed hard disk by themselves. Their conclusion is that the statement of "/etc/disktab" is tricky.

If you cannot write this portion correctly, the "build disk" does not pass, then the program goes to monitor. As a result, we should use a command line interface.

We can safely assume that 0,3,6 can be used as SCSI ID for external hard disk.

One attendant asked whether or not we could install two internal 3.5-inch half height drives. Another attendant answered, "We probably can." In case of models with a 40 MB accelerator hard disk, you should leave the hard disk even if you install another half height hard disk. The 40 MB accelerator hard disk makes swapping faster.

The Explanation of the Article "A NeXus at Ottawa"   by Mr. Shioya

Although Mr. Shioya had planned to report this subject in the last meeting, he could not attend the meeting owing to circumstances. Thus, we printed the contents of the subject in this NQ. He explained about the article.

New NeXT Presentation Video by Steve Jobs   By Mr. Shioya

Although we had announced the presentation of the above video, we were forced to postpone it because video equipment was not available. NeXus Secretariat obtained the summary version (about 15 minutes) first. Now the longer version is also available. If you wish to watch the video, please check your name on the reception list. NeXus will circulate the video to you as we do for MO.

On the Corporate (Support) Member System   By Mr. Shioya

About the rules on a Corporate Member of NeXus, we are now discussing with Canon Inc. and Canon Software

Inc. We are also considering the future joining of other third parties. Our draft rule provides that:

- A Corporate Member Fee is about 100,000 yen.
- Up to five persons from a Corporate Member can attend a NeXus meeting.
- A Corporate Member may advertise its product at the meeting.
- A Corporate Member may also advertise its product on NQ and utilize NQ for sales promotion.

One attendant asked the question whether NeXus will provide Corporate Members with information on each NeXus member. NeXus Secretariat answered basically no. Then, there was opposite opinion that it was no problem disclosing information to Corporate Members. Each member may welcome direct mail and a Corporate member cannot find its merit if it cannot obtain NeXus members' information.

The conclusion is that, as a general rule, the NeXus member list will not be disclosed. However, each member will be asked whether or not he or she agrees to allow disclosure of personal information to Corporate Members. The attendants of today's meeting are required to check "Yes" or "No" about information disclosure on the reception list.

The Result of Voting on the Establishment of fj.sys.next in JUNET

By Hironobu Suzuki

The result of the above-mentioned voting is as follows:

For: **179**

Against: **3**

We expect that fj.sys.next will be established at the beginning of next year.

Note: At present, fj.sys.next has already been established and been for use.

The Supplement

by Mr. Shioya

We decided to open a new electronic forum within NIFTY Computer Salon. We have not yet decided the name of the new forum. In addition, NeXT Library will also be established. We are consider keeping small tools and utilities such as npd (distributed before), but not large source code files which cannot be up-loaded because of the speed limitation of 2400 bps modems.

Demonstration of NeXTstation

Canon Inc. presented a monochrome NeXTstation and Japanese system. It astounded people by the 040's performance, especially on the demo of Mandelbrot.

Viewer: Directory Browser in 1.0 is substituted for File Viewer. Design and function are modified. It has rows of icons above the previous Browser's window. Less smart. To copy a file, move the icon below into a directory icon above. Copy works in background, hence you can do the next thing immediately. In OS 1.0 only PrintManager works as multi-threads.

Recycle: Black Hole icon becomes Recycle Mark. It is unclear to us what function recycle mark represents. I prefer Black Hole or Trash Can.

Japanese Editor: It supports multiple-fonts. Kanji-code is EUC code. Canon supplies its own Japanese Front End Processor (program) to the NeXT Japanese system. Interface to the system will be public. Wnn, the most popular UNIX Japanese Front End Processor, can be ported to work with this editor. Text class for Japanese is a super class of the ordinal Text class. To install the Japanese system, 40 MB of extra space are necessary for fonts.

Digital Librarian: It has been modified for Japanese, but searches for full matches only.

InterFace builder: You can include small applications like Calculator or Watch into your applications easily. Just drag icons in Interface Builder and link (as easy as HyperCard?). When many useful parts are available, a combination of them will give a full application.

Demo of Lotus Improv: It can not handle Japanese. If an application uses Text class, it is easy to adjust it to Japanese system, but Improv handles texts in a primitive level. It would be difficult to make a Japanese version.

Image Scanner: With the Canon 300 dpi scanner the computer gets images and displays them. Canon will release the source of the driver as FreeWare. There should not be serious problems connecting with other SCSI products. We can connect an Epson's easily. Scanned images are saved as TIFF files. The OCR application, OCR servant, reads text off the images. Even though it can not read Japanese text, it will be very useful. (At the demonstration, as is not unusual, it didn't work well.)

Digital Camera: With a Canon Digital Camera RC470 (400 TVline resolution) they took a picture of the meeting. A two inch floppy holds the image and Still Video Player (about $2,500?) transfers it to NeXT. The image quality is better than Digital Camera (QPIC) + DigitalEyes's.

Fax Modem: Avaton will release a fax modem for NeXT, which connects to the serial port. Not available soon though.

Internal microphone: The new displays have an internal microphone. It might work as a listening microphone through a network. There is an item in Preference to disable remote access. To protect completely, a dummy jack on microphone connector behind will make the internal disconnect.

Wishes: When pushing the keyboard forward, the connectors bend between the display. Some consideration, move them to the side, is preferable. Audio output jacks should be in the front of the display to make the connection easier.

3. McGill X

Written by Taketosi Mori
Translated by Kaoru Ozawa

I am Mori of University of Tokyo. I am also the coordinator of the NeXus Japanese Environment SIG. This article mentioned McGill X was also posted to 'fj.sys.misc.'

Beta Site Test

While there were articles on McGill X in comp.sys.next, I have also been doing the beta-site test of it for several weeks by contacting with McGill Univ. directly.

I have already received all announced archives. Thus, I would be happy to send these archives by an appropriate method if someone needs them.

Impression of the Test:

McGill X is a little bit inconvenient because only its source code is available. It takes about 4 hours for MakeWorld and 40 minutes for installation. McGill X is somewhat faster than XNeXT for drawing or displaying (xengine 150). However, obtaining mouse events are considerably slower. McGill X is a 24-bit color server and supports only two button mouse.

I tested kterm (Kanji xterm) and the others with McGill X and found that they worked smoothly.

Different from XNeXT, McGill X is not opened as a window of NeXTStep, but overlaps it. (You can move between NeXTStep and McGill X by hot keys.)

I hear that McGill X does not support OS 2.0. However, I feel that McGill X may "work" better than XNeXT if all of us continue to customize McGill X because we get its source code.

I was fairly impressed when Xeyes, oneko and oclock appeared at SHAPE as expected. Anyway, X is one of the most important options in order to use Japanese on NeXT until Canon Inc. releases Japanese NeXTStep. Accordingly, I think that we should use an excellent server if it exists. That is we need not unreasonably stick to NeXTStep.

McGill X calls itself Xnext, and you can boot it by double-clicking, different from XNeXT. (Though the technique is a clever.) You can have a view that McGill X is weaker than XNeXT because McGill X cannot cut or paste data to or from NeXTStep. However, even in the case of the link between XNeXT and NeXTStep, only Scene will be used in most cases. Therefore, I assume that we can accept this level of McGill X inconvenience. What do you think?

4. NeXT on Japanese magazines

Written by Kazunori Shioya
Translated by Masana Harada

Reviews of two articles.

MacJapan

Arthur Kyle's Meditation Space #16 'Just do it!' About Mac and NeXT. Thanks to Mr. Kyle. He introduced us NeXus.

The Computer

The cover story 'Mac and NeXT: Jobs' machines in '90's'. I agree with him basically. 'Steve Jobs as a producer' is very critical.

From 'Can NeXT survive?': Apple-II makes a complete package for a Personal computer and Macintosh initiates GUI based Personal Computing. But when looking at NeXT nothing is drastically new but it just integrates many known concepts. Steve Jobs has been great when he deals with innovations. Hence I dare say he should try to create a portable computer.

I don't think so. On this chaos of workstations, charisma of Jobs is asked to make the world better. We want a sexy machine. I love Mac too.

A. NeXus Membership Application

Welcome to NeXus! Please complete the following application.

1. Name :____

2. Address:____

City:_________________________ State: __________ ZIP CODE:________ Country: __________________

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

( ) E-Mail: network___________address__________________

( ) Snail Mail:_______________( ) Facsimile:________________

4. Membership type:

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

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

5. Method of payment:

( ) Pay dues to NeXT User Group, Fuji Bank Yotsuya branch (241)

Saving account:1642210

NeXT User Group, 4-4-2 Ebara, Shinagawa-Ku, Tokyo 142 (office address needed for deposit)

( ) Pay at the NeXus user meeting.

6. Do you have a NeXT?

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

Model:________ Hard disk:____ MB, RAM: ____ MB, Printer: ____________

Daily applications: _______________________________________

7. What other computers do you use besides NeXT?

8. What would you like to do in NeXus?

SIG: ____

Volunteer work: ____

9. Profile Privacy

I agree to disclose my personal information to corporate members. ( ) Yes. ( ) No.

10. How can we improve the user group?

11. Comments and Suggestions: