NeXus Memo
NeXT User Society in Japan
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NeXus Memo:

The English version of *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 Harada, 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 *NeXus Memo* from ETL (etlport.etl.go.jp 192.31.197.99) or SRA (srawgw@sra.co.jp 133.137.4.3). The third issue of *NeXus Quarterly* is due in July.

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: Volunteers

Kazunori Shioya:	President	Shouichi Hachiya, Kazuyuki Inoue,
Katsuhiro Ohashi:	Newsletter editor	Taketosi Mori, Hironobu Suzuki,
Syuichi Tashiro:	Software library admin	Norimasa Yamagishi, Kenichi Yanase,
Yoshio Yamada:	SIG coordinator	Kaoru Ozawa, Masana Harada
Mitsuhiro Kishimoto:	International liaison	

Membership:

A one year NeXus membership includes four issues of out newsletter, *NeXus Quarterly*, and 12 monthly *NeXus Memo*s. 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 Memo* and *NeXus Quarterly.* 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 Seventh Meeting

Written by Katsuhiro Ohashi
Translated by Masana Harada and Kaoru Ozawa

Date: February 27, 1991
Place: SRA Yotsuya
Attendance: About 40

Preface

The format for NeXus meetings was one of the problems which has troubled the NeXus staff. The exchange of information among members had not been as successful as had been hoped, even when many members attended the NeXus meetings. The meetings tended to be a one way briefing. At this meeting, however, we tried to encourage free discussion by the setting the seats in a circle. Various topics were presented and opinions **were** actively expressed. Accordingly, we considered this meeting a success.

Although the meeting discussion tended to be a little too unstructured, we would like to maintain the atmosphere of this meeting, that is, to ask questions freely, while we set the main topic of each meeting. We feel it is best if we can create an environment in which any member can ask even a beginner-level question and have another member kindly respond to it.

This meeting report summarizes the free discussion mentioned above. Please note that the contents of this report are not completely correct because they are mainly the records of oral discussion at the meeting.

2.1. NeXus Network (by Communication SIG)

The contact person is Mr. Shioya. We would like to establish a NeXus network for members in order to experiment with multi-media communication and to exchange information among members.

Like JUS (Japanese UNIX Society), we are going to obtain a IP address for our network in the future. We also want to communicate (exchanging announcements) with other networks. For the time being, we would like to establish a network connecting members' NeXT machines through public telephone lines.

If we try to get our network connected with JUNET, we should be careful not to send garbage information to JUNET for the time being.

There is a rule that JUNET cannot be used for commercial purposes. Since our network is closed and available for commercial purposes, we may assume that it has its own merits that existing networks do not have.

2.2. Report on GUIde (by K. Ozawa)

This is a report on another NeXT's user meeting called 'GUIde' which Mr. Arthur C. Kyle holds from 18:30 on every second Thursday at the Canon Shin-Kawasaki Office.

This meeting originally began to exchange information among three Americans (including Mr. Kyle) possessing a NeXT machine. When Mr. Kyle joined Canon Inc., the GUIde started as a meeting which anyone can join regardless of his or her nationality in order to share and exchange NeXT information more broadly.

Half of the members of the GUIde are Japanese and half foreigners. There is no member requirement for joining and no membership fee is required. Unfortunately, all group conversation is in English. Although Mr. Kyle himself is not fluent in Japanese, he is tolerant of broken English. He would welcome anyone's attendance to the GUIde meeting.

The contents of the last meeting held on February 14 is as follows:

1. The Release of FaxModem

Abaton started to ship its InterFax 24/96 NX FaxModem, and Mr. Kyle is now in trial use. This modem uses a serial interface. It can send and receive files, including an EPS file as facsimile.

2. IBM RS6000

NeXT OS 1.0 support for the IBM RS6000 has been completed.

3. Bundling of Lotus Improv

If you order a NeXT machine by this March, you can obtain a free copy of Lotus Improv.

4. Demonstration of NeXTmail

NeXTmail can send and receive PostScript files merged with text among NeXT machines. However, NeXTmail can send only text between NeXT and other machines since NeXTmail is basically for NeXT-to-NeXT use. You can switch modes by clicking on an icon.

5. Review of the First Issue of *NEXTWORLD* Magazine.

Mr. Kyle frankly commented that the first issue of *NeXTWORLD* contains too many advertisements and lacks substance despite the number of pages, but he looks forward to future improvements.

The first issue has an article comparing three spreadsheets, namely, Wingz, PowerStep, and Improv. The article evaluates Improv as the best because its approach is the newest. The other two are just within the scope of old spreadsheets. The release of PowerStep was postponed, and there is a possibility that its shipment may be cancelled because it cannot compete with Lotus Improv.

One NeXus member mentioned that NEXTWORLD might be sold at Ikebukuro Pascal.

Ten copies of NEXTWORLD obtained by NeXus were distributed to members who wanted copies by drawing lots after the meeting.

2.3 First impressions of NeXTstation by Aoyama

When entering my password on the login window, it reacted so quickly that I thought the system went down. Generally it is fast, and especially printing jobs work quickly. Displaying windows are also improved in speed.

Right now on my system the server works with OS1.0. And when I try Mathematica and IB through the network, the system goes down. I feel it rather sloppy. Pressure on time may have caused it.

2.4 Discussion at the meeting

How to get Abaton FaxModem

Canon may become a retailer. Mr.Komatsu, who sells FaxModems, said that Abaton FaxModem has two models with different firmware for Macs and for UNIX machines. For use in Japan, it is necessary to adjust the firmware and power supply and to clear regulations. Mr.Kyle said he uses it without any problems but he doesn't use Japanese. If you use it as it is now, 2-byte code is not be treated properly. Also it cannot read a fax header and it cannot connect with extension numbers.

68040 upgrade board

Due to delayed shipment of the 68040s, the upgrade board is expected to come in April. You can get a 2.0 upgrade kit MO disk by contacting Canon.

Where to get MO disks
Canon Zero-One Shops sell a two-sided blank MO disks which NeXTs can use.

Memory chips for Mac on NeXT
We tried installing Mac 1MB 80ns SIMMs. It works and costs only 6,800 yen. 4MB SIMMs for SUN work too.
A question was raised on mixing parity SIMMs. Under OS 1.0, it's OK since the OS ignores of it.

About serial ports
The new serial ports works under RS-423. They have a different pin layout compared to the old RS-232C, which is Mac compatible.

About SCSI
The new SCSI connector is a SCSI-2, the same as SPARCstations but different from the old, Mac compatible SCSI. A conversion cable costs about 9000 yen in Akihabara.

How to get 2.8MB floppies
Toshiba sells a five disk package.

How to copy a large file onto floppy discs
A UNIX utility dump will do it. GNU tar may be able to do it also, but there is no NeXT style way now.

How to connect a hard disk drive for a Mac to a NeXT
You can get an external Maxtor MB HD drive, which has the same disk inside as the internal drive of NeXTs, from a mail order shop (Mac Gallery, ads in the journal *Mac Power*) for 30,500 yen. It may be formatted 512 bytes per sector. With OS2.0, there should be no trouble connecting it to a NeXT. Canon does not recommend its use as an internal drive, however. Since the internal connector for MO is not SCSI, you can not install other MO drives inside a cube.

3. NeXus Quarterly Spring Issue

Written and Translated by Mitsuhiro Kishimoto

The second issue of our quarterly newsletter *NeXus Quarterly* Vol. 1 Issue 2 was published and shipped to all members in late April. This issue has 72 pages, 24 pages more than the first issue. If you are not a NeXus member, you can obtain a copy for 1,000 yen plus S/H charges.

This distribution differed from the first. We asked attendants of the April user meeting on April 24 to help with shipping to the members not present. So far, it is not clear how NeXus's non-technical members can help with NeXus's operation. This voluntary shipping is one way for non-technical members to help. Most of the attendants helped and the work took less than twenty minutes. Thank you very much for everyone's help.

The contents of this issue are as follows:

1. Summaries of NeXus meetings.

From fifth to eighth user meeting summaries.

Although a few editorial notes are newly attached, these summaries are also found in the English version of *NeXus Memos.*

2. Open letter to CANON Inc.

This is an open letter to CANON Inc. asking them for non-charge Kanji Fonts of the Japanese NeXT OS. We have sent it to Mr. Hosokawa, director of Canon's NeXT Division.

This letter is written in Japanese. You will find the English version in *NeXus Memo #6*.

3. Interview

We, NeXus, are trying to talk with vendors and acquire information and ask them to improve their products. This was our first interview with engineers of NeXT Computer Inc. and CANON. We discussed NeXT OS 2.0, the MC68040 processor, programming environment, documentation and Japanese OS.

This interview was held on November 20 at NeXT's private show.

4. NeXT Station Review

The workstation magazine *Super ASCII*, published by ASCII Corp., asked our NeXus office to write a review of the NeXT Station. ASCII and CANON setup a NeXT Station and Japanese OS (beta version) for us. This article will appear in the March issue of *Super ASCII*.

5. Software Report

This article consists of three parts. The first one is about NeXTAnswer, a Q&A archive by NeXT's Developer Technical Support team. The second one is an explanation of distributable software. In this issue, we introduce Altdock, LockScreen and Performance Monitor. The last is about 'Objective DB Toolkit,' a software development environment for SyBASE.

6. Tutorial: Software Installation

In this issue we give installation tips for UUCP, Wterm (Kanji xterm with kana-kanji translation feature) and mh.

7. Conference Report

Mr. Ohzawa wrote a BaNG meeting report based on Mr. Joe Barello's summary. Mr. Narita wrote a Mathematica Conference report. He explained new features of Mathematica 2.0 in detail.

8. Voice of Members

Two members said a few words:

Hironobu Suzuki: editor of Japanese version *NeXus Memo*

Norimasa Yamagishi: editor of *NeXus Quarterly*

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, including 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 NeXus user group 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 allow disclosure of personal information to corporate members.
( ) Yes. ( ) No.

10. How can we improve the user group?

11. Comments and Suggestions: