

General Delivery

From the President

Karl Berry

I'm honored to serve as the new TUG president (as of the \TeX Users Group 2003 annual meeting), following in the footsteps of many past and present \TeX stalwarts (Pierre MacKay, Nelson Beebe, and Christina Thiele come immediately to mind; see <http://tug.org/tugpres.html> for a rogues' gallery).

2003 TUG organizational matters

- TUG once again has an executive director! The board has given Robin Laakso this title, which more accurately reflects her many various tasks and responsibilities. Congratulations, Robin.
- As has been mentioned in electronic postings, we've opened a small online TUG store: <http://tug.org/store/>. Software releases, *TUGboat* issues, and various past memorabilia are available; members get a 10% discount.
- As of 2003, we are officially shipping three issues of *TUGboat* per year. This is to help us get back on track, without publishing ersatz "double" issues. The regular U.S. postal permit for periodicals requires at least quarterly publication; fortunately, our new nonprofit status (see <http://tug.org/tax-exempt/>) gives us lower mailing rates in general, so our mailing costs are not increasing unduly.
- We now ask that members explicitly request the CTAN archive on CD, instead of mailing it to everyone. (This can be requested when joining or renewing, or by mailing office@tug.org at any time.) In our surveys, we found a significant proportion of members did not use the CTAN CD's, and so this allows us to save considerably on production and mailing. The CTAN archive is also included on the \TeX Collection DVD, which is sent to all members. (We very much hope that the 2004 \TeX Collection will be available soon, but can't give a precise date.)

Icelandic \TeX user group

A new \TeX user group was formed in the summer of 2003 for Icelandic \TeX . We congratulate them and wish them much success. The group's web page: <http://www.rhi.hi.is/istex/>

A list of all user groups and information thereof is available at <http://tug.org/usergroups.html>.

Board resignation and appointments

In January 2004, Stephanie Hogue resigned from the board, owing simply to lack of time. We thank her enormously for her efforts on behalf of \TeX and TUG over the years.

In my capacity as president, I have appointed several hard-working \TeX folks to the board, to fill some of the vacant positions: Jim Hefferon (long-time maintainer of TUG's CTAN node), Gerree Pecht (long-time \TeX enthusiast at Princeton), Steve Peter (linguist, translator, and very active \TeX xie), and Steve Grathwohl (in charge of \TeX ncical operations at Duke University Press).

I'd like to thank them all for agreeing to serve. More information about them and the other board members can be found via the web page <http://tug.org/board.html>.

To continue in office, appointed directors must stand in the next regular election, which will be in 2005; you'll find an announcement about that elsewhere in these pages.

Notable \TeX ncical events

- The Mac \TeX TUG Technical Working Group was formed at the TUG 2003 meeting, led by Wendy McKay and others. Its goal is to work on action items that would enhance current and future development of \TeX on Mac OS X. They are in continuing contact with Apple. There are many interesting items on their web page: <http://tug.org/twg/mactex/>
- John Hobby, author of MetaPost, has delegated bug fixing and general maintenance to a group led by Taco Hoekwater and Hans Hagen. Activities are coordinated via a MetaPost project at <http://metapost.sarovar.org/>. (Sarovar, supported by the TUGIndia user group, is a public software repository site reasonably analogous to sourceforge.net and savannah.gnu.org.) John retains overall guidance and direction for MetaPost.
- A small update of the \TeX Directory Structure document (version 1.1) is available via CTAN and <http://tug.org/tds/>. The most notable changes are better definitions for font map and encoding files.

I will close with a reminder that the TUG board welcomes input or questions at any time; email us at board@tug.org.

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