

NTG's continuation: The Third Year

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An NTG year of activity parallels the Dutch academic year: September to September. The membership has been increased by roughly 40% to circa 140 members of which 25 or so are institutional members. Due to the intermediate \TeX course some financial reserve has been built up.

NTG's third year can be characterized by 'continuation,' and the embarkation upon a multi-year project.

1 Continued activities

1.1 Meetings

Two meetings were organized: the fall 1990 meeting was hosted by Digital Equipment Cooperation and the spring 1991 meeting was hosted by Elsevier Science Publishers. At the first meeting Van der Laan presented his SGML(\TeX ,...) paper; at the latter meeting accounts were given from sites where \TeX is in production:

- EGD (Energiebedrijf Groningen en Drente) and
- CAWS (Centrum voor Automatisering van Wapen en Commando Systemen der Koninklijke marine).

On both meetings much exchange of know-how took place and organizational details were discussed. Each meeting attracted about 40 members. Prior to each meeting 'MAPS' (Minutes & AppendiceS) were distributed to the members, and to the secretaries of TUG and the LUGs.

1.2 Publications

Noteworthy are the number of \TeX articles, by NTG members, published in TUGboat, the presentations given at the Euro \TeX 90 conference by Johannes Braams, Victor Eijkhout, Kees van der Laan, and Nico Poppe-lier. Also noteworthy are Nico's contribution as invited speaker to the Dedham conference and Kees' Math into BLUes part I contribution. Johannes reported about his Babel project at the Euro \TeX 91 meeting at Paris, while Kees continued with his Math into BLUes, part II.

1.3 BoD work

For the NTG president it was hard to participate in the Board of Directors meetings and to contribute to

the publications and long-range planning committees of TUG. The handling of the e-mail emerging from BoD (and committees) discussions and votings, and the various user group lists are time-consuming.

1.4 Working Groups

Very much appreciated are the activities of NTG's WGs —Education, PCs, Communication, SGML- \TeX , \TeX 3.14..., and 'Neerlandica,' with reports of their activities published in the MAPS. Furthermore, Nico and Johannes are active in the international \LaTeX 3 project. It was felt that the work on Journal Guidelines was mainly the concern of publishing houses, and therefore the WG on the matter was removed.

1.5 Contact T(L)UGs

Contacts with TUG and other LUGs were cherished: participation in the GUTenberg and Euro-Summit meetings, where cooperation and the internationalization of TUG were discussed.

1.6 Listserver and fileservers

Steady use was made of the listserver `tex-nl@hearn` —questions & answer, and info exchange— and the fileservers: `tex-nl@hearn`, and `mail-server@cs.ruu.nl`. (For the latter also anonymous FTP is possible.) No data on the frequency of access of the fileservers are available.

1.7 NTG days

It is a pity that no open meeting —so-called NTG-days— has been organized, because of lack of volunteers to do so. On the other hand, with the Euro \TeX meetings each year one could ask whether there is still a need for it. No courses were offered by NTG.

1.8 Floppy service

Gerard maintained a floppy service for archive material aimed at those deprived from email access.

2 New activities

2.1 Board election

The renewal process of the NTG board has started. The aim is to have active members on the board, raised to their position by election. Kees van der Laan was (re)elected as president and Jos Winnink was elected as member.

2.2 Membership services

An emTeX distribution service has been set-up. An Info-package and a welcome-package, for candidate respectively new members, has been initiated. The reciprocal membership TUG-NTG is near to be agreed upon.¹

EMTeX is distributed via a 'floppy-chain,' guarded by the PC Working Group.

2.3 Multi-year plans

Furthermore, we embarked the multi-year project:

'TeX for the scientists, why not begin with the mathematicians?'

In order to get this off the ground, the Dutch (Math) scientific community has been asked for its support in facilitating the use of TeX. With respect to the mathematicians 'Het Wiskundig Genootschap' (Dutch equivalent of AMS) and 'Het Centrum voor Wiskunde en Informatica (CWI),' have been approached.²

3 Projected meetings

- NTG's 91 fall meeting, 21 November at Eindhoven, is themed: Fun with TeX.
- NTG's 92 spring meeting is themed: Scientific publishing and TeX.
- NTG's 92 fall meeting: 'Typography,' to be worked out.

4 TUG issues

Last but not least, much attention has been given to create an International TUG, and to reorganize TUG-boat into a more scholarly journal, along with a separate newsletter TeXand TUG news, TTN. Both will certainly influence and strengthen our MAPS.

BoD positions are open for elections.

¹ Actually agreed up in October 1991 for ordinary members.

² The October meeting yielded a cooperative attitude with 'Het Wiskundig Genootschap' offering some pages in their 'Mededelingen' for announcements, and what NTG is up to. It was also suggested to participate in the spring Dutch Math meeting and tell about TeXing math. We will certainly do so.