

BIJLAGE M**One year NTG; presentatie NTG in Utrecht en Karlsruhe**

One Year NTG

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Abstract

A history of the start of the NTG is given along with a survey of this first years' activities. The relation of NTG to other TUGs is also dealt with.

1 Why NTG?

Some friends gathered and found out they shared the same problems, so this is the beginning of an old story repeated many times in many places.¹²

1.1 Name

NTG³, the Dutch T_EX Users Group, stands for:

Nederlandstalige
 T_EX
 Gebruikersgroep

2 Aim NTG

'Getting started' was the issue of the initiators, where the organizational 'details' — but details matter! — should be arranged along the way. Institutionalization is a (nasty) consequence, not the aim. The challenge is to find the right balance between informality and robustness.

Short term:

To facilitate the use of T_EX and related products.

Long term:

To promote 'electronic publishing'

¹Actually, the activity can be looked upon as a revival of an earlier, general activity, [12].

²Many (T_EX) users groups have been formed.

³At this conference 'Nederlandse' had been changed into 'Nederlandstalige', i.e. Dutch *language* oriented

3 Board

C.G. van der Laan (chair; RC-RUG)

G.J.H. van Nes (secretary; ECN):

E.N.R. Rekencentrum,

Postbus 1, 1755 ZG Petten,

02246-4185

The Netherlands,

EARN: vannes@ecn.nl (formerly: vannes@hpeenr51),

DECNET: enr001::vannes.

J. Braams (treasury; Neher lab.)

H.P.A. Mulders (member; KUB)

T. de Klerk (member; DEC)

This board arose around Kees and Gerard: those who ‘dared to speak’ on the first meeting were spotted as candidates for the board. Attention was paid to a board with as broad a background as possible. After the three year initial phase, the democratic phase is agreed upon.

4 Membership benefits

- Help of colleagues (awareness via membership database; once a year the members receive several prints of the membership database on alphabetically ordered keys: one with member names as key, another with hardware and yet another with drivers/peripherals in use. The primary key is the membership number. The database is handled via dBASETM.)
- Joint activities (e.g. working groups)
- Meetings (2 per year for members)
- NTG-days (1 per year with courses along the same lines as EuroT_EX and TUG meetings, aimed at members as well as nonmembers)
- Reduced participation rates for other national TUG meetings is in discussion
- Use of listserver TeX-NL, and other TUG listservers (anonymous help)
- Use of fileserver TeX-NL, and other T_EX servers (sharing of styles and macros etc.)

5 Membership ‘costs’

Profit and nonprofit company memberships along with personal memberships are possible. The latter costs something like fl. 75,-/year.

6 Activities

- Board (organizational)
 - to coordinate, stimulate, initiate, create, organize, ...
 - to maintain membership database,
 - to supply information (provide minutes of meetings, prints of membership database, references to T_EX related publications (distribution and pricing is the issue of the organization in question), hand-outs, ...),⁴
 - to ensure that (open) NTG days, along with courses, are held once a year,
 - to ensure meetings twice a year for members,
 - to ensure TeX-NL listserver and fileserver,
 - to handle financial matters (once a year financial statements and treasurers’ report must be agreed upon),

⁴No ‘selling’ of T_EX products for the moment by NTG, with a possible exception during NTG days.

- to explore and maintain contacts (DANTE, GUTenberg, ‘Nordic’TUG, TUG, UKTUG, ...; SGML-Holland, ...).
- Working groups
 - Function:
 - centre of know how,
 - starting point for development.
- Maintenance of TeX-NL fileserver
 - to take care of contents,
 - to update index,
 - to guard for (minimal) documentation,
 - to guard for time-stamps,
 -
- Individual
 - publications [3], [8], [19], [28],
 - various submissions to fileserver(s).
- Help via listserver (Eijkhout, Poppelier, ...).

7 Working groups

1. Education (courses (NTG-days, RC-RUG, ...); courseware: [4], [7], [13], [29], [32])
2. Guidelines for authors (Elsevier & Poppelier, [29]; Kluwer & Steemers, Van der Laan, [22])
3. Evaluation of products (Improved Layout of Kent Mc Pherson; [17])
4. Fonts
5. Drivers, printers, previewers, postscript
6. Photosetters
7. Pc’s (PD set MS-DOS [31], PD set Atari [9], Amiga, Macintosh)
8. Organization NTG-days (NTG89 done by ACCU-RUU; impressions: [5], [10])
9. Pictures and T_EX
10. SGML-T_EX ([2], [6], [20], [23], [30], [33])
11. Local and/or installation guides ([1], [11], [14], [15], [16], [24], [25], , [26], [27])
12. (obsolete)
13. Aspects specific for the Dutch language (National sty-files, [3]; hyphenation patterns)
14. Communication (TeX-NL listserver and fileserver)

8 Highlights 89

- Starting NTG (lively meetings)
- Information exchange via
 - elaborate minutes and appendices,
 - membership database prints,
 - various publications,
 - various submissions to listserver and fileserver,
 - floppy service
- 1st open NTG days; impressions: [5], [10]
- Build up (inter)national contacts
- Cooperation with SGML-Holland
- TeX-NL listserver for anonymous help
- TeX-NL fileserver (macros on demand)
- Dutch (standard/template) sty-files

- Public domain hyphenation patterns

9 History

In the past Universities were active with respect to \TeX . After [12] no formal meetings had taken place until ‘Some friends gathered ...’

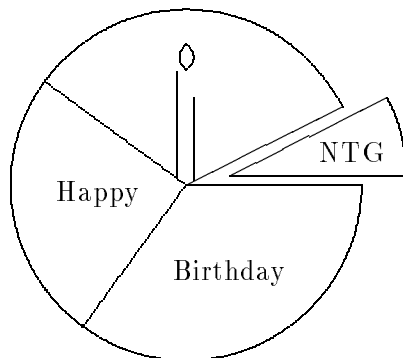
1986	Request CVDUR about status EP
jan 87	Gerards \TeX -rapport, [12]
april 88	KNUB (Dutch AAP) initiated SGML-Holland
June 88	RC-RUG and ENR initiative to start ‘NTG’ 1 st NTG meeting at Groningen
July 88	Euro \TeX 88 meeting at Exeter
sept 88	Looking for sharing experience: ‘UKTUG’, ‘DANTE’
fall 88	‘NTG’ made itself known to ‘the World’, [18]
nov 88	2 nd NTG meeting at Petten
may 89	3 rd NTG meeting at Leidschendam GUTenberg meeting (Paris)
June 89	1 st open NTG meeting at Utrecht
aug 89	Ten Years of \TeX and Metafont, Stanford Chairpersons national/language groups vice presidents of TUG
sept 89	Euro \TeX 89 meeting at Karlsruhe
oct 89	DANTE, UK \TeX meetings
nov 89	4 th NTG meeting at Tilburg
spring 90	2 nd open (joint SGML-)NTG meeting at Groningen

10 Future

- Very near: a formal NTG, with listserver, fileserver, regular meetings, one open meeting per year and steady information exchange.
- Near: a ‘wealthy’ NTG smoothly cooperating.
 - Europe sty-file?
 - Specialization of fileserver?
 - NTG or Europe newsletter?
 - European/international courseware, [7],
 - Mutual membership TUG and NTG?

- Joint activities with other users groups.⁵⁶⁷
- Remote: NTG
 - ↓
 - ‘Nieuwe Technologie Gebruikersgroep?’
 - (Hypertext?)

PS S S S S S S t



Acknowledgements

The contents of this paper has been presented at the first open NTG meeting in Utrecht, june 1989, as well as at the EuroT_EX meeting in Karlsruhe, september 1989. Not all the work mentioned has been done in this one years' period but I tried to give a compact and as complete as possible survey. The paper has been updated through september and reprinted in modified form because of the context — for the proceedings of EuroT_EX the use of `article.sty` was required — while the original form consisted of slides and had been prepared via `TRSPAR.STY`, the author's modification of `REPORT.STY` for preparing transparencies. Each section in this paper was originally one (logical) transparency.

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⁵At TUG89 in Stanford formal organizational contacts were agreed upon: a chairperson of a national/language group is in principle invited to become vice president of the board of directors of TUG.

⁶At the Paris89 meeting it was felt useful to consider members of other national/language T_EX Users Groups as members with respect to the national meetings.

⁷A joint meeting with the SGML-Holland group is scheduled in spring 1990.

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