General Delivery

Editorial Comments

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New TeX groups: TUGIndia and TUG-Philippines

On November 16, 1997, the Indian TeX Users Group was informally launched at the academic premises of the Department of Mathematics of the University of Kerala, Trivandrum. The session was chaired by Prof. K.S.S. Nambooripad, "a world renowned mathematician and an ace TeX programmer"; he was unanimously elected the first chairman of the new group. The other officers are C.V. Radhakrishnan, Secretary, Dr. R. Rajendar, Treasurer, with an executive board of nine other academics; it was planned to invite three representatives of the TeX-using publishing industry to round out the executive committee.

The formal inauguration ceremony has been set for January 1998, with Sebastian Rahtz, representing UKTUG and Elsevier Science, agreeing to be present for the occasion. The group plans to circulate a quarterly newsletter, TUGIndia, and to sponsor courses and seminars. Information can be obtained by sending e-mail to `tugindia@mailexcite.com`.

A report of the inaugural meeting will appear in the March 1998 issue.

The other "new" group has actually been in existence since 1993, although we have only recently learned of its existence. TUG-Philippines will sponsor its third nationwide seminar-workshop in May 1998. The president, Dr. Severino V. Gervacio (`cossvg@mail.dlsu.edu.ph`) reports that they are in the process of creating a Web page with information about the group.

TUG CTAN host and Web site

The addresses for the TUG host machines have finally stabilized. The CTAN host is on one machine, and can be reached either by FTP or a Web browser at

`ctan.tug.org`

The Web site is on a second machine, at the URL

`http://www.tug.org/`

The Web site contains links to many other sites, including those of all the local user groups, TeX suppliers (CTAN, other sources of free and shareware, and commercial vendors), and is updated regularly

as new information becomes available. Your comments and suggestions for additions to the site are welcome.

SGML extensions — update

Draft proposals for the Mathematical Markup Language (MathML) and the Extensible Markup Language (XML) have been submitted to the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) for balloting. XML was granted Proposed Recommendation status on December 8, 1997, and a similar status is expected for MathML early in 1998. (These two tools were described briefly in last issue's *Editorial Comments* column.)

John Bosak, chair of the XML Working Group, made a presentation at the San Francisco TUG meeting, but was unable to complete a paper for the proceedings. During most of 1997, the technical landscape was changing so rapidly that a static version of Jon's presentation would not be accurate, and he preferred to wait and revise the material in light of the specification as finally approved. Since the draft of XML had reached Proposed Recommendation status and was undergoing balloting at the end of the year, this goal is in view. An update should be available for the March issue of *TUGboat*.

One significant honor can be announced, however. The XML Working Group was named a recipient of the 1997 Seybold Editors Award. The 19 winners "include products, technologies and companies that have already made a notable impact, or are likely to have a substantial effect, on the future of online and print publishing." The portion of the announcement relating to XML reads:

> W3C's XML Working Group.
> A working group within the W3C created a simplified form of SGML called the Extensible Markup Language, or XML. With the initial XML specification complete and vendors lining up to support it, we salute the XML Working Group for creating a metalanguage that will improve text processing, searching and composition on the Web.

Readers seeking more information on MathML and XML can consult the following URLs:

`http://www.w3.org/TR/WD-math/`
`http://www.w3.org/XML/`
`http://www.ucc.ie/xml/`

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