Andrew Consortium
School of Computer Science
Carnegie Mellon University

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The Andrew View Newsletter

Highlights in this Issue

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The Andrew newsgroup is comp.soft-sys.andrew. Access it directly, or subscribe to our mailing list and receive posted messages in your mailbox by sending your request to info-andrew-request@andrew.cmu.edu. (Please specify whether you would like to receive mail with or without Andrew formatting.)

My Own View - Exciting Times

Wilfred J. Hansen, Director

When I was but a mere lad, I used to rue the fact that I had not been born in the much more exciting times of knights and dragons. Wow, was I ever wrong. More has happened in 1995 than happened in all the times from King Arthur to Mary Queen of Scots. For me this year, the last kid left for college and I joined a church. More tellingly, this was the first year when royalties from my computer game exceeded those of my textbook. Of course this should be expected in a society where paid video rentals now exceed free library loans.

Computers were everywhere this year. The first fully computer-animated movie premiered. The web exploded. It's a new game where everyone can actively play and businesses can fiercely compete, each trying to attract more visitors by outdoing the next. There have been excesses; at one time it seemed that there were a hundred web pages on the game of Go, with every page consisting of links to all the others.

Politics in 1995 was the usual "smoke and mirrors". Politicians were struggling to come to grips with the web. They were using it to promote their careers by regulating the unregulatable. At the same time they were auctioning off radio frequencies in the greatest expansion of communication potential ever seen. Two steps forward and one step back. The Irish voted to permit divorce just at the time when US politicians--some of the most prominent of whom are not married to their first wives--are espousing family values (but not forbidding divorce).

Yet progress is even discernible this year in solving some of the worlds many armed conflicts, such as those in Bosnia and Ireland. Global warming has been acknowledged; the ozone hole was enormous and ozone thinned everywhere. This presages a time when international communication and peacekeeping efforts will be absolutely necessary to preserve a modicum of civilization. And what could a knight in full armor do? Against the ozone dragon he would surely be tilting at windmills.

As 1995 enters the archives, let me wish you

Greetings of the Season

and best wishes for all your endeavors in the new year.

Software Developments and Features

Rob Ryan and Susan Straub, Technical Staff

In the "W"orks As this newsletter goes to press, we are hard at work on the two "W" projects: widgets and the web.

Widgets are off the ground; the key steps have now been taken. A comprehensive scheme for widget attributes has been implemented so that attributes can be fetched from widget definition files or from data streams. In addition to ordinary attributes value types like integer and string, two key types have been implemented: figures and functions. Thus the attributes of a widget can include a figure showing what the widget looks like and functions to dictate its behavior in response to various events.

Our new ***web*** browser from Tom Neuendorffer (alpha version) has just been converted to C++ and compiled. Since it ran fine in its C incarnation, we expect the new version to come alive early in '96. Among the features:

- o web--a web browser application,
- o a command to replace selected text--which should be a URL--with a clickable button to warp to there,
- o a command to visit the web page at the URL which is the currently selected text,
- o a method programmers can call to bring up a web page in the browser.

PGP (Pretty Good Privacy) is a program that gives your electronic mail something that it otherwise doesn't have: privacy. It does this by encrypting your mail so that nobody but the intended person can read it. When encrypted, the message looks like a meaningless jumble of random characters. The jumble is so good that PGP has proven itself quite capable of resisting even the most sophisticated forms of analysis aimed at reading the encrypted text.

Thanks to a couple of clever Andrew users, you can now apply PGP to the Andrew Message System by adapting the sendmail program to it. Although it takes some fine tuning, this refinement is a godsend for the insecure. Please check the Andrew FAQ for details (anonymous ftp at ftp.andrew.cmu.edu: pub/AUIS/FAQ or via the web at http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~AUIS). The FAQ on PGP itself is available via ftp on ftp.prairienet.org in /pub/providers/pgp/pgpfaq.txt.

News from the Consortium

AnnMarie Zanger, Assistant Director

First Annual Membership Drive Congratulations to those of you who became Andrew Consortium members during 1995. A resounding "THANK YOU" to all who continued their support for Andrew yet again this year by renewing their membership.

Membership grants for 1995 allowed us to keep the Andrew system "up and running" for use by the general public. However, funding was insufficient to allow us to take Andrew in all of the novel directions we would like for it to go.

For 1996, we hope to remedy this...with your help. The Andrew Consortium welcomes all of you whom we know would like to become members of the Consortium but have just not taken that first step. We are ready to do whatever is necessary to help you convince your supervisor, your system administrator, your company's information technology guru, or whomever, that the Andrew system is the system you need to get your work done. Whether you are a new user or a user who has known Andrew for years, we ask each and every one of you to consider joining us. Please help us to make our first annual membership drive a success. If you haven't already heard from us, you will be contacted soon. Or better yet, contact us directly!

Membership in the Andrew Consortium, 1996

The School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University established the Andrew Consortium in 1992 to maintain and enhance the Andrew User Interface System (Andrew). The Consortium offers outside organizations the opportunity to help shape the future of the system by becoming members. The efforts of the Consortium staff are directed toward:

* *increased quality in existing media,*
* *enhancements, including a direct manipulation interface builder,*
* *embedding of applications such as generic X applications,*
* *increased potential for transition from Andrew to successor systems,*
* *interoperability with standards such as Posix, Motif, C++, OLE, and SGML.*

Membership in the Consortium is encouraged if your organization would like to participate in the development of Andrew, utilize the latest advances by our technical staff, and undertake commercial exploitation with the active cooperation of the developers. Members support the Consortium as it:

* *enhances, maintains, and distributes the Andrew software base,*
* *conducts an annual meeting to review progress and set priorities,*
* *distributes a quarterly newsletter,*

* *monitors the info-andrew mailing list.*

The Andrew Consortium offers four levels of membership, each renewing annually. Members at every level have access to Andrew7.2 in C++, our most up-to-date source code, as well as to many other benefits.

Associate Members enjoy:

* *Frequent source updates for internal use at one institution.*
* *Non-voting participation in the Consortium's Annual Meeting.*

Contributing Membership gives the additional opportunity for:

* *Redistribution rights to the code in non-source form for a nominal royalty fee.*
* *Receipt of modest assistance in response to problems.*

Full Membership provides:

* *Access to Andrew developers with further opportunities to learn how to exploit the system, understand its internals, and influence its future. Specifically, this includes these rewards.*

    - All the benefits of Contributing membership.
    - Incorporation of member-specific changes into the central source, thereby minimizing efforts to import new versions.
    - Comprehensive education and technical support.
    - Direct contact with established experts in object-oriented graphic application development.
    - Voting rights in deciding Consortium priorities.

Participating Members are further entitled to:

* *Send their employees to work at the Consortium for extended periods.*
* *Develop specialized enhancements with the aid of the Consortium staff.*

You are cordially invited to join us. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about these valuable opportunities.

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Back to Books (Computer Books) With the holidays upon us, you are likely to have a couple of extra hours to spend away from the computer screen. Try the old-fashioned approach: pick up a book (a computer book that is), find a comfortable chair, and read.

The December 1995 issue of *UNIX REVIEW* magazine included its "Best Books of 1995" list. Maybe you'll want to make one of these titles your very own holiday present!

Debugging the Development Process
by Steve Maguire (Microsoft Press)

Designing Visual Interfaces: Communication Oriented Techniques
by Kevin Mullet and Darrell Sano (SunSoft Press-Prentice Hall)

Exploring Expect
by Don Libes (O'Reilly & Associates)

The Future Does Not Compute: Transcending the Machines in our Midst
by Stephen L. Talbott (O'Reilly & Associates)

HTML for Fun and Profit
by Mary E. S. Morris (SunSoft Press-Prentice Hall)

Managing Internet Information Services
by Cricket Liu, Jerry Peek, Russ Jones, Bryan Buus, and Adrian Nye (O'Reilly & Associates)

The Mythical Man-Month (20th Anniversary Edition)
by Frederick P. Brooks Jr. (Addison-Wesley)

Panic! UNIX System Crash Dump Analysis
by Chris Drake and Kimberley Brown (SunSoft Press-Prentice Hall)

PGP: Pretty Good Privacy
by Simson Garfinkel (O'Reilly & Associates)

POSIX.4: Programming for the Real World
by Bill O. Gallmeister (O'Reilly & Associates)

Running Linux
by Matt Welsh and Lar Kaufman (O'Reilly & Associates)

TCP/IP for Everyone
by Pete Loshin (AP Professional-Harcourt Brace & Company)

The Usenet Handbook: A User's Guide to Netnews
by Mark Harrison (O'Reilly & Associates)

Using csh & texh
by Paul DuBois (O'Reilly & Associates)

Using E-Mail Effectively
by Linda Lamb and Jerry Peek (O'Reilly & Associates)

When You Can't Find Your UNIX System Administrator
by Linda Mui (O'Reilly & Associates)

Fear not! Those who cannot bear to be "computerless" for long can go ahead and fire up the web browser. With it, you will find these Internet pages offering (literally) thousands of computer books and computer book reviews to peruse.

Macmillan Computer Publishing
http://www.mcp.com/8284546703099/mcp/

O'Reilly Publishing
http://amber.ora.com/gnn/bus/ora/index.html

Australian Computer Journal Book Reviews
http://frey.newcastle.edu.au/~acjbooks/Reviews/

Book Reviews/Press Releases From Book Publishers
http://www.awa.com/nct/books/booklead.html

Business Groupware Book Reviews
http://www.consensus.com/groupware/business_books.html

With this, the Andrew Consortium would like to wish you all the best for the new year. We hope to hear from you in 1996, whether it be over the telephone, by fax, through email, or in person. Hang on to our contact information (below) and use it to find us when you need a hand with Andrew.

We close out our fourth volume of *The Andrew View* with this fourth and final issue of 1995. It was a productive year for us and we hope it was for you, too.

Happy happy holidays to our users all around the world !

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Demo: finger @atk.cs.cmu.edu

Access: ftp.andrew.cmu.edu: pub/AUIS/

Web: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~AUIS

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BEST WISHES for the NEW YEAR ! ! !

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