TUG 2007: A few words

Tim Arnold SAS

The 2007 T_EX Users Group annual conference was a gathering of old friends and new faces, all concerned with and excited about the future of "T_EX and friends".

The workshops preliminary to the conference were interesting — I only wish I could have attended them all. The chief architect of the Lua language (and its principal reference, the book *Programming in Lua*), Roberto Ierusalimschy, provided a great introduction to the language and its design and goals. Taco Hoekwater teamed up with him to give an overview and examples of how LuaT_EX can work. For me this was a little like looking into the future with two knowledgeable guides pointing out the interesting features.

For me, there were several special highlights of the conference itself. In my daily work I am almost alone in my IATEX endeavors and often find myself in correspondence (asking for help!) with people around the globe. The contingent of participants from Europe was a delight as I got to meet people face-to-face who have been of great help to me. Their enthusiasm for LuaTEX was quite contagious and I am looking forward to experimenting with their results so far. Another delight was Peter Wilson, the author of the memoir class. I have based all my publishing work on this class and it was quite a treat to meet the man behind the code. His keynote address covered the history of writing, from cuneiform to medieval script to documents of today. He brought several writing artifacts that he encouraged us to inspect while he talked. Afterwards I thanked him for his trust in us to respect the items from his collection. He responded confidently, "I know my audience."

Perhaps the best thing about these yearly conferences, aside from the knowledge shared from the podiums, is the indescribable feeling of community when listening to others describe their struggles and achievements, their concerns and excitement about the future. We often toil alone during the year, perhaps fending off arguments about why T_EX is on the wane, that Word or some other format is going to make T_EX obsolete, etc. Sharing time with others involved in the same work and challenges gives me a sense of "Well, I'm not crazy after all. This typesetting system really is amazing."

(A few photos from the conference follow, courtesy of Jennifer Claudio, Volker RW Schaa, and Hartmut Henkel. Many more are at http://tug.org/tug2007/photos. *Ed.*)



Roberto Ierusalimschy, Taco Hoekwater (Mirko Janc in background)



Jonathan Kew, Jon Breitenbucher, Paulo Ney de Souza



Front: William Hammond, Leonard Rosenthol, Tim Arnold, Frances Felluca, Jenny Levine, Heidi Sestrich, Cheryl Ponchin, Larry Thomas.

Behind: Eitan Gurari, Paulo Ney de Souza, Mirko Janc, Paul Topping, Herb Schulz, Jon Breitenbucher, Steve Grathwohl, Richard Leigh, August Gering, Morten Høgholm, Kaveh Bazargan, Karl Berry, Ron Fehd, Barbara Beeton, Dave Bailey, Jim Hefferon, Steve Brenton.



Dennis Claudio



Robin Laakso (Philip Brown in background)



Front: Martha Kummerer, Jennifer Claudio, Wendy McKay, Shannon Jones, Jonathan Kew, Hans Hagen, Roberto Ierusalimschy, Taco Hoekwater, Lowell Smith.

Behind: Robert Burgess, Don DeLand, Martin Schröder, Alan Wetmore, Walter Reddall, Nelson Beebe, Dick Koch, William Slough, Brian Papa, Andrew Mertz, Jon Stenerson, Stephen Moye, Peter Wilson, Peter Flynn, Chris Rowley, Barry MacKichan, Klaus Höppner, David Allen, Hartmut Henkel, Philip Brown.



Oren Patashnik, Nelson Beebe



Idris Hamid



Barbara Beeton

TUG 2007: A few words



Jenny Levine, Peter Flynn



Volker RW Schaa, Hartmut Henkel, Martin Schröder, Klaus Höppner, Steve Grathwohl



Wendy McKay, Stephen Moye, Dick Koch, Jon Breitenbucher, Robin Laakso



Taco Hoekwater, Morten Høgholm



Ron Fehd, Caleb Ashley



Nelson Beebe