

NTS BoF Session notes, BachoT_EX2001

Part 1, Monday, April 30, (after paper given by Karel Skoupy), led by Jerzy B. Ludwichowski

Issue: *Implementation language. What features [are needed from the language]?*

Karel Skoupy: Speed doesn't matter; features: real extendibility support [is what matters].

[Languages different from Java to be considered:]

C++

ml

Eiffel

Haskell

Common Lisp

[In Java] portability is not really supported: bugs in Sun [Java] compiler.

Krzysztof Leszczyński, Adam Twardoch: API for 3rd party extensions [should be provided].

Issue: *Licensing.*

1. [The license should be such as] not to allow the code to be commercially missused,
2. [Only] stable versions [should be released] to users,
3. Protecting features [is important],
4. Protecting integrity [is important],
5. [Provide] canonical versions [of the system].

Adam Twardoch:

portability is not necessary because NTS servers are possible [to be set-up]
interfacing with other programs [is important]

Issue: *Timing of progress*

[Nobody had anything to say].

Issue: *Priorities.*

Berndt Reichle:

- documentation for developers
- start experimenting now

Janusz Bień: tracing, debugging

Adam Twardoch: Keep Java, it is supported.

Taco Hoekwater: JavaCC—might address the speed problem for the time being; writing extensions is not funny if the original code is "toooo slooow"

Issue: *[Back] to timing and priorities.*

1. speed
2. extensions: [enable] different [extension] languages through APIs

Part 2, Tuesday, May 1, led by Jerzy B. Ludwichowski

Issue: *Extensions.*

Bogusław Jackowski:

- extend TFM, cf. „Fonts of tomorrow, edifying thoughts of tobacco smokers” presentation [at BachoT_EX'2001]
- be open for all font formats
- use the pl [?] formats

Krzysztof Leszczyński, Taco Hoekwater: no fonts [should be hardwired into NTS formats] at all
Krzysztof Leszczyński: [Treat] characters as objects
several people: Use all available [font] info
Taco Hoekwater: Use a central database [for font information]
Taco Hoekwater: a native XML parser [?]
Berndt Reichle: XML [for] font metrics
Jerzy B. Ludwichowski: [The needs] of four potential user bases [should be catered for]:
 BLUsers,
 macro writers,
 "extenders",
 package administrators.

Issue: *Finish NTS.*

NTS β or NTS ver. 0.(9) to be released on CTAN with documentation and license
 Deadline [for final release] is EuroTeX in Kerkrade: 23rd-27th September 2001
Jerzy B. Ludwichowski: [Make] good publicity, use the experience and results from the NTS project

Issue: *[How to] start <ExTeX>?*

Bogusław Jackowski: strive to get input and ideas from theory, try to get support from certain people
Karel Skoupy: will have a research position at ETH

Issue: *[<ExTeX> supporters]*

Bogusław Jackowski: John Hobby, Bogusław Jackowski
Taco Hoekwater:
 Han the Thanh
 somebody who did [some] pagination work (*Taco Hoekwater* will provide the name)
 Petr Sojka
 Gabriele Kodydek, TU Vienna, The SISISI Project,
 (<http://www.tuwien.ac.at/histu/inst/as/0001860100.html>)

Issue: *How do we start the new project?*

Hans Hagen: not too formal, separate user support from development
Jerzy B. Ludwichowski: never again only one programmer
Hans Hagen: [keep] continuity
Fabrice Poppineau: model this [the work for the new project] after the XEMACS team
Taco Hoekwater: [the project should be] "open" information-wise and people-wise
Krzysztof Leszczyński: [Use the] **sourceforge.net**
Hans Hagen, Fabrice Poppineau: et al. Dante or both [?] *Taco Hoekwater*: set up an online forum

Issue: *Do we need financing?*

Volker R. W. Schaa: Yes, for meetings
Karel Skoupy: Not for me [i.e., not for programming work]
Jerzy B. Ludwichowski: Where do we find additional programmers?
Hans Hagen(?)
 – John Plaice with his team
 – the L^AT_EX team

Issue: *[What should be the] model of financing?*

See DANTE, NTG decisions on project funding (get the [DANTE decision] from *Volker R. W. Schaa*).

Issue: *Programmers [continued]*.

Volunteers: *Berndt Reichle, Taco Hoekwater, Fabrice Poppineau.*

Start asap

1. We need an announcement: to be done by *Jerzy B. Ludwichowski* [will need help]
2. Register ExTEX.org [who?]