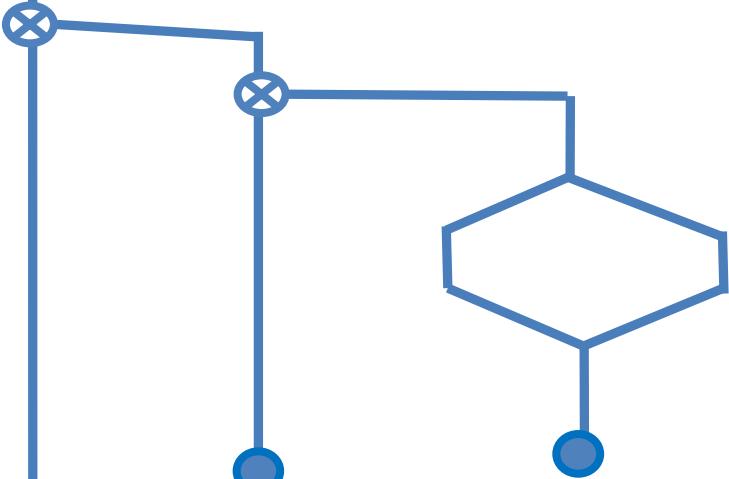




The Forth Archives



Forth2020
April 13, 2024
Bill Ragsdale

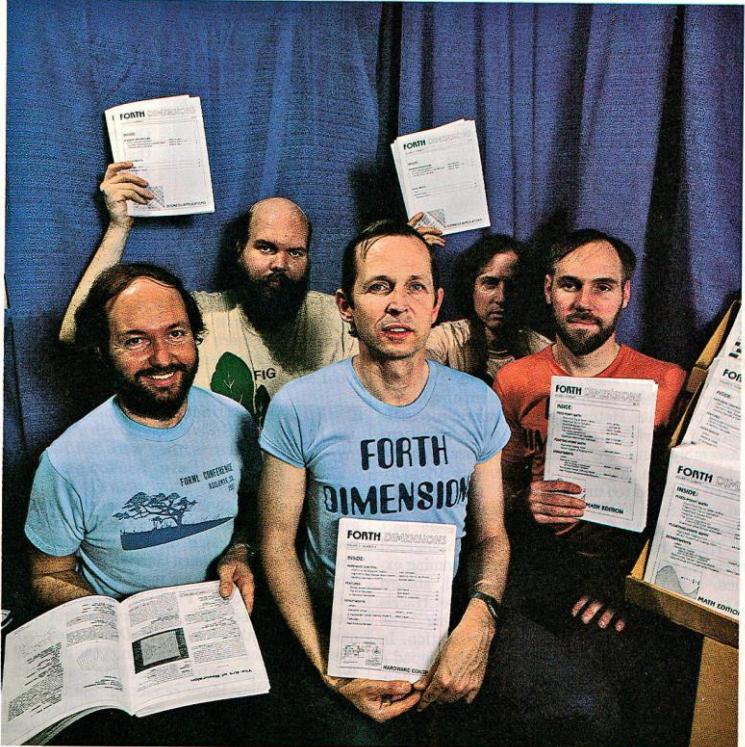
A Bold Statement

No other computer language has
the breadth and depth of
information and history archive as
does Forth.

You Will Gain

- Access to $5 * 6 * 21 = 620$ examples and lessons on Forth from Forth Dimensions.
- Retrieval by subject and author.
- The sides and notes of every SVFIG meeting for the last 22 years.
- Video of every SVFIG meeting over the last 16 years.
- JFAR, FORML, Rochester Conf. and EuroForth linkages.

The Background



The original FIG Five (l. to r.): Kim Harris, Dave Boulton, Bill Ragsdale, John James, and Dave Kilbridge.

We organized the Forth Interest Group in 1978 as a self-help group for hobby computerists.

Dave Boulton
John James
Kim Harris
Bill Ragsdale
Dave Kilbridge

The Background

- In June/July 1978 we published the first edition of Forth Dimensions.
- Continued to 1999, 23 years, 21 volumes.
- This opened the door to a flood of Forth based publications and records over 46 years.

The Archive

- *Forth Dimensions, 1978 to 1999.*
- *Vierte Dimension, German, 1984 to the present.*
- *Journal of Forth Application and Research.*
- FORML Conference Proceedings, 1980 - 1992
- EuroForth Conference, 1985 to present.
- SVFIG Meeting Videos, 2008 to present.
- SVFIG Meeting slides/PDF, 1999 to present.

Resource Material, Forth.org

Keyword and Author index of Volumes 1 -15. [pdf](#) – [Word](#)

Author index of Volumes 1 -15. [pdf](#)

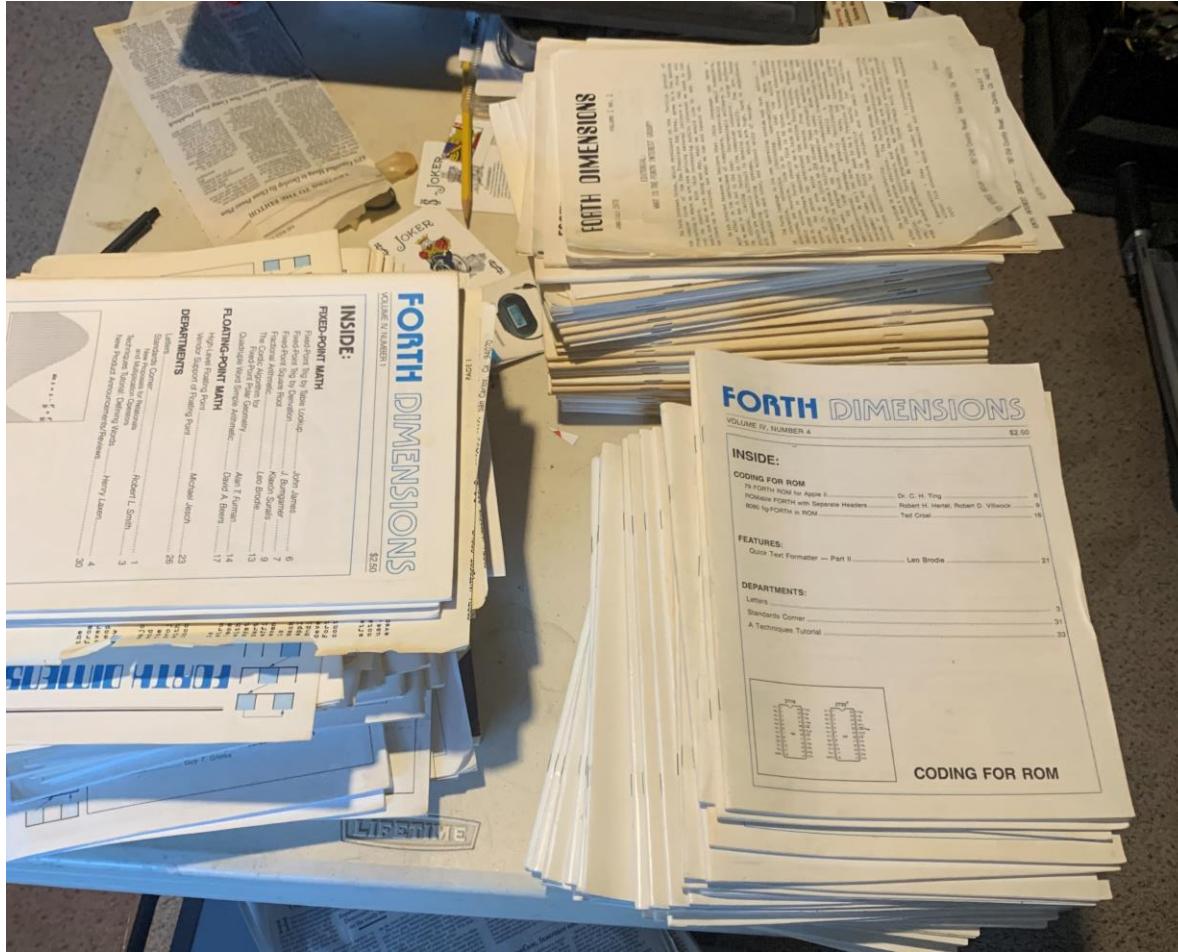
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Last unpublished issue of *Forth Dimensions* - [here](#)

<http://www.archive.org> search Forth Dimensions

My Forth Dimensions Library



FORTH DIMENSIONS

JUNE/JULY 1978

VOLUME 1 NO. 1

EDITORIAL:

WHAT IS THE FORTH INTEREST GROUP?

The Forth Interest Group, which developed in the fertile ground of the computer clubs of the San Francisco Bay Area, grew in a few months from nothing to where we are now getting several letters a day from all over the country. With this increasing public interest we need to let people know what we are doing and why, what we would like to see happen, how others can be involved, and what we can and cannot do.

We are involved because we believe that this language can have a major effect on the usefulness of computers, especially small computers, and we want to see it put to the test. Increasingly software is becoming the critical, limiting factor in the computer industry. Large software projects are especially difficult to develop and modify. Few are happy with prevailing operating systems, which are huge, hard to understand, incompatible with each other, and without unity of design.

The Forth language is its own operating system and text editor. It is interactive, extensible (including user-defined data types), structured, and recursive. Code is so compact that the entire system (mostly written in Forth) usually fits in 6K bytes, running stand-alone with no other software required, or as a task in a conventional operating system. One person can understand the entire Forth system, change any part of it, or even write a new version from scratch. Run-time efficiencies are as little as 30% slower than straight machine code, and even less if the system's built-in assembler is used. When the assembler is not used, programs can be almost completely transportable between machines. Any large Forth program is really a special-purpose, application-oriented language, greatly facilitating maintenance and modification. We don't yet have conclusive data, but typical program development times and costs seem to be a fraction of those required by Fortran or assembly. Forth is especially useful for real-time, control-type applications, for large projects, and for small machines.

The problem is availability. Users have shown an ease of learning after they have a system available. The Forth characteristics of postfix notation, structured conditionals, and data stacks are best understood by use. To encourage Forth programmers, we need readily available systems even of modest performance. We hope that three levels will be available:

1. Demonstration -- free (or under \$20.) introductory version without file structure which compiles and executes from keyboard input.

Volume 1
No. 1
Jun/Jul 1978

Anne Ragsdale,
Editor

FORTH DIMENSIONS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1978

VOLUME 1 NO. 2

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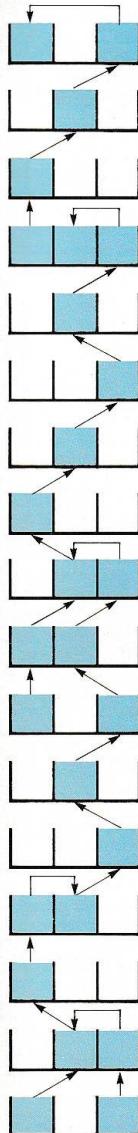
Last Free Issue!

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FORTH INTEREST GROUP 787 Old County Road, San Carlos, Ca. 94070

Volume 1
No. 2
Aug/Sep 1978

Anne Ragsdale,
Editor



FORTH DIMENSIONS

FORTH INTEREST GROUP
P.O. Box 1105
San Carlos, CA 94070

Volume 1
Number 5
Price \$2.00

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Roy Martens,
Editor

FORTH DIMENSIONS

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\$2.50

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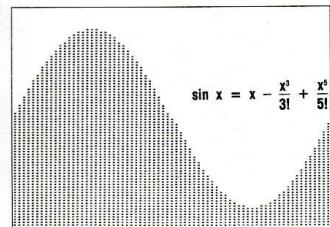
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May/Jun 1982

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May/June 1984
\$2.50

**fig-Forth
Interpreters**

New Control Structure

Anonymous Variables

Interactive Editing

Using Apple IIe's Extra RAM

Volume 6

No. 1

May/Jun 1984

**Marlon Ouverson,
Editor**

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 4

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1990 \$6.00

F O R T H

D I M E N S I O N S

RELIABLE 8086 DIVISION

THREE NUMBER PROBLEM

FORTH ASSEMBLER & LABELS

EASY EXTENDED-PRECISION MATH

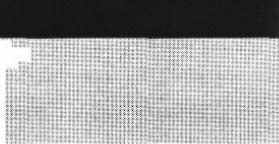
68000 NATIVE-CODE FORTH (III)

Volume 12

No. 4

Nov/Dec 1990

Marlon Ouverson,
Editor

EDITORIAL**Retrospection:**

I cannot predict Forth's future today any more than I could when I interviewed for this position back around 1983. Then, fresh from editing Dr. Dobbs journal and in an oversimplification typical of the relatively young, I told the FIG Business Group in Silicon Valley that I believed Forth had not succeeded widely because it had been mismanaged.

That was a sweeping generalization and a poor choice of words, too. I still am a bit surprised they hired me. I was trying to say that the collective energy and vitality of FIG's four or five thousand members (if memory serves) was amazing but wasn't organized or used well enough to promote the language. The energy many other people interpreted as religious-style zeal was mostly turned inward, and reinventing the wheel was a much-favored pastime. Despite perpetual complaints about the general lack of acceptance of Forth, marketing simply wasn't part of the mindset. Not even a piece in *Rolling Stone*—and how many computer languages can make that claim?—had helped Forth rise much above its grass roots. But inventing and refining a language requires different skills and temperament than marketing it and running an organization.

I see no compelling technical reason now, as I saw none then, why Forth cannot serve as well as any other language and, in enough situations to matter, be the better performer.

For a few years, I've had the opportunity to work with a company where I see evidence daily that Forth has steady work in embedded systems, some amount of general application, and enough mouthwatering projects to keep things exciting. Forth is found everywhere, once you start looking. For that reason, and because Forth embodies some important philosophical aspects of programming, the Forth Interest Group has a purpose.

In my early days at *Forth Dimensions*, after Leo Brodie's departure, the number of readers ensured there usually was more material submitted than pages to print it on. We used a typesetting service, a layout and paste-up artist, and a mailing house. It was high-tech, then, to drive diskettes into town and exchange them for galleys a week later, corrections after that, followed by page proofs and more corrections. When desktop publishing came along, I found it easy enough to design and typeset while I edited; that was good, because the group's size had begun a dwindling process which has continued, although I suspect the rate of decline has decreased. The FIG office changed similarly: a smaller staff with increased efficiency and scope of duties has been brought about by circumstance and enforced by economics.

FIG has done amazingly well, long outliving most special-interest technical groups founded in the nineteen seventies. The techno-culture evolved, and such user groups no longer serve the same purposes, or else they attempt to serve purposes that no longer exist. Perhaps it is time for the Forth Interest Group to reinvent itself.

With some sense of nostalgia, I conclude this, my last editorial for *Forth Dimensions*. I have been unable to continue creating this magazine, in its current form, with the resources and time available to me. With fewer members now, much more editorial time has been required to find material to print. I hope someone will bring fresh perspective, inventiveness, and enthusiasm to the job, and I encourage you to help the Forth Interest Group's administrative staff and its board of directors to provide ways for Forth users to share technical information in a format that is both well designed and compellingly useful.

It has been a pleasure to be associated with Forth—I wish FIG, and each of you, well!

In Memoriam

Sadly, we learned that Roy Martin died after a long battle with a brain tumor. Roy managed the business affairs of the Forth Interest Group at a time when the organization grew to around five thousand members. He also founded Mountain View Press.

In the early days of FIG, Roy participated wholeheartedly in the FIG Business Group, which directed most of FIG's activities, and he regularly conveyed an inventory of Forth books and *Forth Dimensions* to FIG chapter meetings. His influence helped shape FIG and played no small part in bringing wider attention to the Forth language. He will be missed and remembered, and we offer our sympathies to his family and friends.

Forth Dimensions
Volume XXI, Number 1,2
May 1999 August

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The Forth Interest Group

The Forth Interest Group is the association of programmers, managers, and engineers who create practical, Forth-based solutions to real-world needs. FIG provides a climate of intellectual exchange and benefits intended to assist each of its members. Publications, conferences, seminars, telecommunications, and area chapter meetings are among its activities.

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No. 1,2

Nov/Dec 1999

Last Issue

**Marlon Ouverson,
Editor**

**Skip Carter,
Manager**

Forth.org Home Page

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- ◆ [FORML Conference Article Reference: 1980 - 1992](#)



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<http://www.forth.org/fd/index.pdf> for PDF or

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6 Interactive Embedded Software Development	Garth Wilson
The author provides some interesting ideas for developing from software in an embedded system. The method requires no hardware or software changes to the host computer. He says, "In fact, the user can even write his own programs—no communication software, no interface, and the microchip will only be used to complete data structures after it is developed and tested."	
13 Quicksort and Swords Redux	W.W. Rader
After more than 20 years, C.A.R. Hoare's problem still has generated interest for sorting algorithms. In this article, the author follows up on his original work, but PURLA, an algorithmic program, is presented. It is a modified version of the quicksort algorithm that uses a stack to store data items. Both these new results in XSP-Plus. And the history avoids learning how to sort.	
21 Understanding F63 Vocabulary Usage	Sylvan Nissen
Vocabulary is a unique feature of the FORTH language. They provide a means to reduce memory of definitions so as to avoid nesting conflicts. In previous work at high application programs, vocabulary conflicts were often a source of bugs. This new approach to vocabulary usage is presented. It is a modified version of the original work, but it is now even more interesting. Below, the definition & its revision list, as revised added to the end of this issue, demonstrates how a different focus can lead to better results.	
24 Generation and Application of Random Numbers	Dr. Everett F. Carter, Jr.
The author compares generate ten billion random numbers per second. This article explores the generation of random numbers and their applications. The author explores the generation of random numbers and some important applications that can easily be done.	
37 Pytools—A Library of Reusable Utilities	L. Greg Lyle
One often finds the need to reusable libraries of Python tools. The common call also seems to be "Write once, reuse forever." An alternative is a little structure designed for use with Python, where the code is reusable and can be used in many different ways. The author demonstrates the benefits of a common-based class design. Written in Python, this technique should apply to any code that provides block access.	
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6 Zero-Overhead FORTH Interrupts	Garth Wilson
The author provides high-level FORTH interrupt code in a simple way that avoids the more typical interrupt-handling routines. The zero-overhead interrupt technique adds only about 100 bytes to the interrupt service routine. The author also provides a brief history of the interrupt. No additional code is required. It's another "revised" article. (Cover illustration required.)	
12 Generation and Application of Random Numbers	Dr. Everett F. Carter, Jr.
(Continuing from preceding issue) The author compares generate ten billion random numbers per second. This article explores the generation of random numbers and their applications. The author explores the generation of random numbers and some important applications that can easily be done.	
25 Top 10 List—Ways to Simplify Programming	Mike Roberts
In the language of modern programming strategies, why do we use FORTH? Here's one way to look at it: If you're not using FORTH, you're probably not using the best language.	
34 FORTH Macro Compilers	K. D. Voit and P.J. Walker
This article describes a fully-fledged environment for programming macros that make the FORTH language advantages in a wide variety of fields. The authors' alternative approach to FORTH macro compilers makes each function that needs to be used a highly specific "macro" which performs the function and includes code for the specific function.	
38 Some Vulgar Functions	Grady Crummey
This article continues the earlier article, "Rational Numbers, Vulgar Fractions." The author shows that much less is required for the graphical representation of data. A series of work-in-progress programs shows each function that needs to be used a highly specific "macro" which performs the function and includes code for the specific function.	
45 Convert Real Numbers to Fractions	Walter J. Ritterick-Cocher
Most folks think of real numbers, but there's more to them than just digits. So here we go and find the fraction that best describes a real number, especially if the fraction is to be reduced to its lowest terms. This program generates a lot of fractions (approximately 100) and reduces them by means of the Euclidean algorithm.	
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4 Editorial	Editor does this with IEEE488, done here in FORTH, done here in FORTH, and twice more in FORTH.
8 Letters	Willy-nilly, "unusual" in ALGOL-68K, limited lists, Data Structures, and TELC. From a letter to the editor, Data Structures problems involving a variable-length character string.
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- Download the Forth Dimensions Index in Word “.doc” format.
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- Search on keywords from the Author section or the Subject section.

Henry Laxon	19 entries
Dr. Ting	18 entries
John James	16 entries
Bill Ragsdale	15 entries
Glen Haydon	12 entries

Ideas From *Forth Dimensions*

- For your specific interests search on items such as:
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 - Extended precision math
 - Alternatives to indirect threaded code.
 - Dynamic memory allocation.
- See how Forth has evolved over 50 years.
- See the three generations of Forth Standardization.
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FORML Conference Proceedings

1980 to 1992

F O R M L

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A LISTING OF FORTH ARTICLES FROM
FORML CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS FROM 1980 THRU 1992

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Type Declaration	Lyons	George	80	72	3 Compilers
The TO Variable	McNeil	Michael	80	75	3 The TO Variable
LaFORTH	Stuart	LaFarr	80	78	6 Forths
Standard Forth to TO-Forth	Nieuwenhuijzen	Hans	80	84	2 Local Variables

Journal of Forth Applications & Research

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SVFIG Video



- YouTube videos of monthly meetings
 - 415 videos
 - 1,150 Subscribers
- Search YouTube: “Silicon Valley Forth Interest Group”

SVFIG Meeting Videos

<http://www.forth.org/svfig/>

Meeting Information

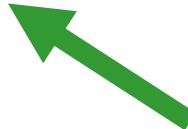
[Future meeting dates](#)

[Past meeting slides, video, and notes](#)

[Past meeting announcements](#)

[Meeting photographs](#)

[Meeting videos](#)



SVFIG Meeting Videos

[SVFIG YouTube Channel](#)

[SVFIG YouTube Channel](#)

[SVFIG on YouTube Live](#)

Videos:

- 11-2023 - Forth Day
 - Welcome - *Kevin Appert, SVFIG Program Chairman*
 - The J1 Family of Soft core Processors - *Christopher Lozinski* - [Video](#) (34:04)
 - ISO Weeks Programming Challenge - *Bill Ragsdale* - [Video](#) (28:29)
 - Lambdas in Forth - *Brad Nelson* - [Video](#) (36:38)
 - System Forth - *Samuel A. Falvo II* - [Video](#) (18:12)
 - FluidNC DIY CNC - *Mitch Bradley* - [Video](#) (23:16)
 - Forth Recognizers in SwiftForth - *Leon Wagner - President FORTH, Inc.* - [Video](#) (19:52)
 - CORE I Project Update and AI is Forth's "Killer APP" - *Don Golding* - [Video](#) (32:10)
 - 2023 State of the CoSy Report - *Bob Armstrong* - [Video](#) (28:13)
 - Fireside Chat - *Chuck Moore* - [Video](#) (54:59)

SVFIG Meeting Notes

<http://www.forth.org/svfig/>

Meeting Information

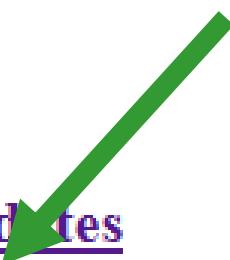
[Future meeting dates](#)

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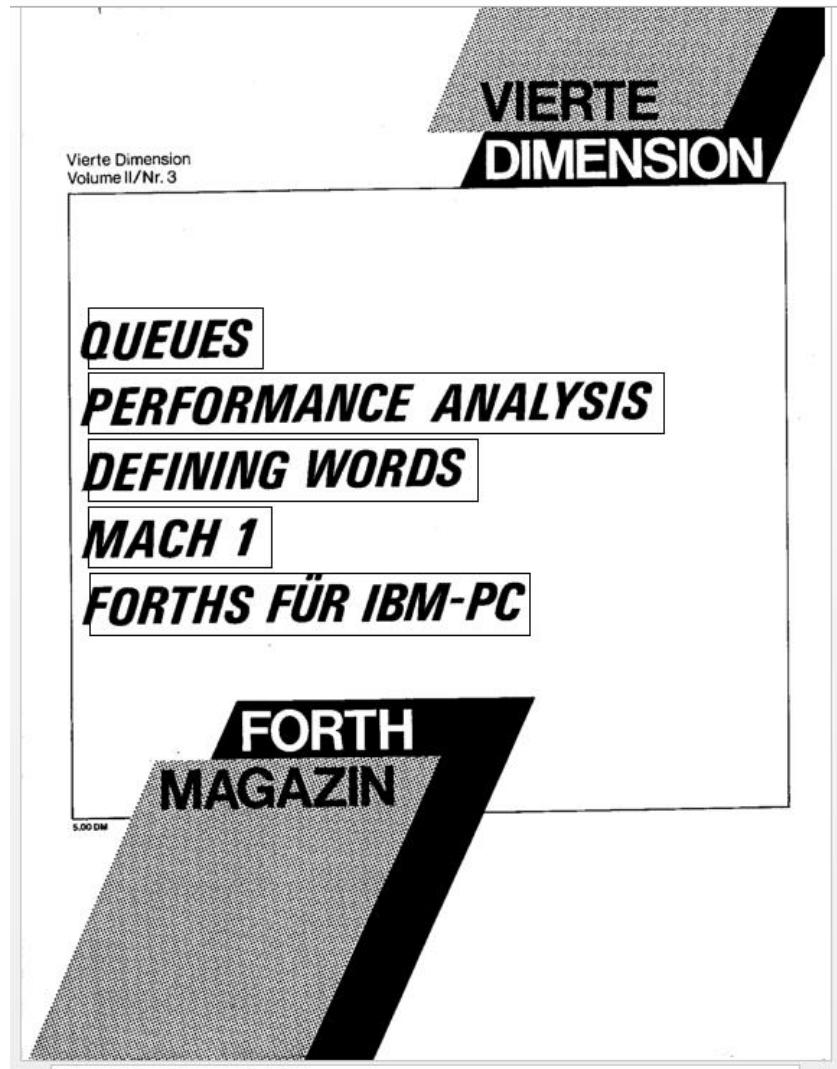
SVFIG Meeting Slides

2023

- [12-2023](#) - Notes from the December 2023 meeting
- [11-2023](#) - Notes from the Forth Day 2023 meeting
- [10-2023](#) - Notes from the October 2023 meeting
- [09-2023](#) - Notes from the September 2023 meeting
- [08-2023](#) - Notes from the August 2023 meeting
- [07-2023](#) - Notes from the July 2023 meeting
- [06-2023](#) - Notes from the June 2023 meeting
- [05-2023](#) - Notes from the May 2023 meeting
- [04-2023](#) - Notes from the April 2023 meeting
- [03-2023](#) - Notes from the March 2023 meeting
- [02-2023](#) - Notes from the February 2023 meeting
- [01-2023](#) - Notes from the January 2023 meeting

2022

- [12-2022](#) - Notes from the December 2022 meeting
- [11-2022](#) - Notes from the Forth Day 2022 meeting
- [10-2022](#) - Notes from the October 2022 meeting



Vierte Dimension
1984 to 2024

[https://forth-
ev.de/wiki/vd-archiv](https://forth-ev.de/wiki/vd-archiv)

Back Issues Vol 1 to 20, PDF

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The PDF documents are viewable with **Adobe Acrobat Reader**. A copy can be downloaded from [the Adobe website](#).

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EuroForth Conferences, 1985 onward

Conference Program

<http://www.euroforth.org/>

Year	Date	Location
<u>2023</u>	15-17 September	Rome
<u>2022</u>	16-18 September	Internet
<u>2021</u>	10-12 September	Internet
<u>2020</u>	4-6 September	Internet
<u>2019</u>	13-15 September	Hamburg, Germany
<u>2018</u>	14-17 September	DoubleTree Hilton Queensferry Hotel near Edinburgh, Scotland
<u>2017</u>	8-10 September	College Garden Hotel, Bad Vöslau, Austria.
<u>2016</u>	9-11 September	Hotel mein Inselglück, Insel Reichenau near Konstanz, Germany
<u>2015</u>	2-4 October	Pratts Hotel, Bath, England.
<u>2014</u>	26-28 September	Hotel Amic Horizonte, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

EuroForth Conferences, 1985 onward

Conference Full Proceedings

<https://lists.forth-ev.de/pipermail/euroforth/>

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June 2023:	[Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date]	[Gzip'd Text 837 bytes]
February 2023:	[Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date]	[Gzip'd Text 361 bytes]
January 2023:	[Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date]	[Gzip'd Text 538 bytes]
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June 2021:	[Thread] [Subject] [Author] [Date]	[Gzip'd Text 1 KB]

Credits, FIG & SVFIG

- *Forth Dimensions*
 - Anne Ragsdale
 - Roy Martens
 - Leo Brodie
 - Marlin Ouverson
- *JFAR*, Larry Forsley,
Thea Martin
- FORML Conferences
 - Kim Haris
 - Bob Reiling
- SVFIG Archive
 - Dave Jaffe
 - George Perry
 - Kevin Appert
 - Brad Nelson

And
Skip Carter of
Taygeta Network Security
for hosting
forth.org
(and /svfig/)

Conclusion

Forth organizations and users have left a huge archive our benefit.

The starting point, as always, is:

Forth.org

This: <https://github.com/BillRagsdale>.