

All of these relate only to the same system as the one in which the file is located. A second set of modes was introduced with networking to regulate access from users on other systems:

- *User* means only a user with the same user and group number as the owner of the file.
- *Class* means anybody with the same group number as the owner of the file.
- *Network* means anybody, anywhere.

There is no security whatsoever for devices, and user processes have to roll their own. The former is a particular disadvantage in a networked environment. At a security seminar in early 1989, I was able to demonstrate stealing the SUPER.SUPER (root) password on system \TSII, which was in the middle of the management area in Cupertino, simply by putting a fake prompt on the system console. I was in Düsseldorf (Germany) at the time.

## Folklore

Coming back into the present, early 21st century, it's easy to forget the sheer fun of working with the computer. Tandem was a fun company, and it looked after its employees. One Friday in late 1974, early in the development of the system, the founders finally got the software to work on the hardware; up to this point the software had been developed on simulators. You can imagine the excitement. The story goes that one of the VPs went out and brought in a crate of beer, and they all sat around the crate, celebrating the event and discussing the future. One thing they decided was that the crate of beer should be a weekly event, and the Tandem Beer Bust was born. It really did continue into the 1990s, during which time it became increasingly politically incorrect and was finally canceled.

Tandem gave rise to lots of slogans and word plays, of course—the name “Tandem” itself was one. In those days we had T-shirts with slogans such as “So nice, so nice, we do it twice,” “There’s no stopping us,” and “Tandem users do it with mirrors.” And, of course, the standard answer when anybody came up with an excess of just about anything: “It’s there in case one fails.”

This last slogan was more than just wordplay. It sat deep in our thought processes. In May 1977, on returning from five weeks of initial Tandem training, I was faced with the sad discovery that our cat had run away. After establishing that she wasn’t going to return, we went out and got...two new cats. It wasn’t until much later that I realized that this was the result of successful brainwashing. Even today I have a phobia of rebooting a computer unless it’s absolutely unavoidable.

## The Downside

The T/16 was a remarkably successful machine for its intended purpose—at one time over 80% of all ATMs in the U.S. were controlled by Tandem systems—but of course there were