

ROB KOLSTAD

## USENIX Haiku Contest

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I WAS PRIVILEGED TO JUDGE THE HAIKU contest at the recent USENIX Annual Technical Conference (see p. 41 for the conference summaries). Attendees were asked to build haiku from any form of the words participating attendees wrote on a ribbon attached to their badge, plus articles, pronouns, and conjunctions.

Here are the best (according to me) of the dozens submitted. Thanks to all the entrants, and congratulations to these published poets.

David R. Linn wrote of the Joy of Programming:

Even an old tool,  
in the hands of a hacker,  
can do cool new things

Presumably, he meant the good kind of hacker.

Larry Snider played on some advertising:

Life in the cold room  
Maintaining and defending  
“We” are the network

Kenneth Geisshirt was among several who advocated a favorite technology:

All those penguins  
Drinking free beers with Beastie  
Making a better world

Likewise Carla Austin-Silvani:

A cynic is more  
likely to panic than the  
Andrew File System

Peter Mager wrote of grimmer technology happenings, though with a happy ending:

SCO sells out  
Lawyers threaten all progress  
But truth wins at last

Two entrants wrote of the bleak world of spam. Miranda Mowbray's entry echoed Monty Python's sentiments with some extremely colorful imagery:

All your email drowns  
in a bright pink foaming sea  
spam spam spam spam spam

while Justin Ferguson's entry was a bit more frustrated:

Junk email rise brings  
The eternal September—  
The Internet's dead.

Charles Peterman summed up the cultural Zeitgeist of some aspects of system administration in just seventeen syllables:

Raid driver crashes  
Filenames transform yet again  
Device Driver Dead

Finally, Ming Chow's joyous ode to the USENIX conference itself:

USENIX in Boston  
Hackers and experts unite  
Technology rules!