

USENIX notes

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20 YEARS AGO IN ;LOGIN:

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peter@usenix.org

The August 1985 issue of *;login:* contained an article on "Using fsck," by Michael S. Saxon (Singapore), and a very long (30-page) report on the EUUG meeting (Peter Collinson, secretary). It also contained the 1984-fiscal-year account statements and the contents of the 85.1 Distribution Tape, prepared by Peter Gross of the High Altitude Observatory.

Perhaps the most interesting thing about the 85.1 tape was that it came in two different forms: one without restrictions, one requiring both AT&T and UC licenses.

That was because Rick Macklem's support for 2.9BSD on the DEC PRO 350 required a UC 2.9 license.

The other contributions had no license restrictions. Those contributions were:

- Ingres Rdb distribution ("with many bug fixes"), submitted by Joe Kalash (UCB).
- *fps*, a fast version of *ps* for "4.?BSD," submitted by Andrew Royappa (Purdue).
- *nu*, "a program to help a UNIX system manager create, modify, delete, and destroy user accounts," from Brian Reid (Stanford).

Finally, Peter Langston (Bellcore) submitted his legendary games tape. It contained (mostly) binaries for both VAX and Sun, including *Beasts*, *Bog*, *Bolo*, *Convoy*, *Dune*, *Empire*, *Fast Food*, *Grid*, *Oracle*, *Race*, *StarDrek*, *Wander*, and *War*.
Wow!

A LANDMARK

In August 1955 the RAND Corporation sponsored a meeting in Los Angeles for the operators of all 17 IBM 704s. It gave rise to an organization called SHARE, the first computer user group—and (as the name reflected) the first to freely

distribute software. In fact, some of those programs are still available.

Fifty years! Happy golden anniversary.