IFIP Working Group 9.7

Working Group Meeting
Marmier Room
Centre des Congrès
Toulouse, France

2004 August 24

Meeting Notes

1. The Working Group (WG) 9.7 Chair called the meeting to order at 17:05 in the Marmier Room of the Centre des Congrès, Toulouse, France.

2. The following individuals attended:
   Members: WG Chair John Impagliazzo (US), Wilfried Brauer (DE), Balint Domolki (HU), Roger Johnson (GB), John A.N. Lee (US), and William Olle (GB).
   Guests: Jacques Berleur (BE), Klaus Brunnstein (DE), Wolfgang Coy (DE), Bill Davey (AU), Mary Hopper (US), Meir Komar (IL), Brian Randall (GB), and Arthur Tatnall (AU).
   Each attendee provided a brief introduction.
   The following members sent in their regrets:
   William Aspray (US), John Bennett (AU), Drude Berntsen (NO), Martin Campbell-Kelly (GB), Paul Ceruzzi (US), Gordon Davies (GB), Sandy Douglas (GB), Michael Geselowitz (US), Ulf Hashagen (DE), Calvin (Kelly) Gotleib (CA), Gyõzõ Kovács (HU), Frank Land (GB), Simon Lavington (GB), Bud Lawson (SE), Petri Paju (FI), Eiiti Wada (JP), Maurice Wilkes (GB), Michael Williams (CA), Jeffrey Yost (US)

3. Membership
   The Chair presented the current WG 9.7 membership (see Appendix A). He briefly described his strategy for including noted pioneers and computing historians with the intention of attracting new individuals to the WG. All persons interested in computing history are welcome to join.

4. Past/Current Projects

   a. Impagliazzo gave a brief report on the First Conference on the History of Nordic Computing (HiNC1) that had taken place 2003 June 15-17 in Trondheim, Norway. He noted that about seventy people attended the conference and proclaimed it a huge success. Bill Olle, who attended and presented at HiNC1, corroborated this feeling. John believes it was truly revealing to see pioneers, many of whom had worked together in the 1950s and 1960s, again meet and share their common interests. The post-conference proceedings are due to appear within a few months.

   b. The History of Computing in Education (HCE) conference, currently taking place in Toulouse, appears to be a success. HCE is a co-located IFIP conference within the 2004 IFIP World Computer Congress. Over 25 individuals have regularly attended each session in the first two days with others visiting occasionally.

5. Future Projects

   a. The Chair noted the possibility of conducting a "history track" within the 2005 IFIP World Conference on Computers in Education (WCCE) at the University of Stellenbosch in Cape Town, South Africa. Currently, the 2005 WCCE announcement lists "History of Educational Computing" as one of twenty themes for the conference. This theme name seems confusing relative to the mission of WG 9.7. The WG believes that a *track* on the *History of Computing* is more appropriate as "computer education" is the understood focus of the WCCE conference. Such a history track would attract a variety of historical contributions from diverse communities and would increase the scope of contributions. The WG authorized the Chair to request this change. The deadline for paper submissions is now December 15, a departure from the announced date. The WG suggested that the IFIP 9.7 website announce this happening with a link to the WCCE website.

   b. The Chair indicated the possibility of some 2006 conferences on the History of Computing of Germany, the History of Computing of the Netherlands (or the Low Countries), or some combination of the two. Brauer reported that he has been in communication of Gerard Alberts of the Netherlands and they will co-chair the event. Brauer and Alberts agreed to have a joint conference in Amsterdam, targeted for the spring of 2006. The details of the conference will be forthcoming. Impagliazzo indicated that the conference organization needs resolution as soon as possible to present a cogent IFIP Event Form in time for a call for participation. This requires resolution within two to three months. There was a brief discussion on the title of the combined meeting.

   c. Impagliazzo reported that his recent trip to Russia has generated enthusiastic support to hold an IFIP conference on the History of Computing of Russia. The venue would be the University of Petrozavodsk in Petrozavodsk, Karelia. The local organizers plan to hold the event in June of 2006 and once encouraged by IFIP and its WG 9.7, these organizers will seek out one or more prominent Russian computing specialists to be the conference program chair or co-chairs. The WG endorsed the concept and looks forward to the details surrounding the event.

   d. Johnson pointed out that perhaps it may be worthwhile considering a broader way to support history events. Rather than having focused events such as Nordic countries, Germany, Netherlands, and Russia, the WG might consider having events with a more global impact or appeal (e.g. European computing, etc.) The suggestion was well received and will be a topic of further discussion.

6. Aims and Scope of the Working Group

   a. Impagliazzo suggested that it may be time to reconsider the Aims and Scope of WG 9.7. (See Appendix A.) The current tenets first appeared in 1992, even before the web existed. Perhaps it is time to make the mission of the WG more relevant. This meeting was not the forum to consider such changes.

   b. Johnson indicated that some of the current aims of the WG seem outdated or incomplete and that the WG needs to be mindful of the various resources needed to implement its mission.

   c. Coy noted that the WG might act as a catalyst to document resources for software and emulation. It is difficult to locate such information to be useful for historical and educational needs.

   d. Impagliazzo appointed a sub-committee of four (Hopper, Impagliazzo, Johnson, Olle) to review the current Aims and Scope and recommend any modifications to the WG. John will initiate the preliminary changes (if any) and work with the sub-committee to formulate any changes before presenting them to the WG for its consideration.

7. The current WG Chair will conclude his first three-year term as Chair of WG 9.7 at the end of 2004. IFIP rules require a new election and WG chairs can serve at most two terms. Impagliazzo indicated his willingness to serve for a second and final term. In the meeting announcement to the WG members, the election of WG Chair was part of the prior announced agenda for this meeting. Lee moved that the WG elect Impagliazzo for a second term; there were no further nominations. Berleur (TC9 Chair) questioned whether the WG had followed the IFIP election procedures; Brunnstein (IFIP President) and Johnson (IFIP Secretary) assured everyone that it did. The WG elected Impagliazzo for a second three-year term by acclamation. His term will expire 2007 December 31.

8. Impagliazzo thanked all for attending the meeting and welcomed all observers to join WG 9.7. The following individuals indicated their willingness to become members: Wolfgang Coy, Bill Davey, Mary Hopper, Meir Komar, Arthur Tatnall. Impagliazzo will present these individuals to TC9 for its approval. See Appendix B for a listing of new and proposed members for WG 9.7.

9. The meeting adjourned at 18:05.

Respectfully submitted,

John Impagliazzo
WG 9.7 Chair

IFIP Website for WG 9.7

2004 August 5

WG 9.7 (History of Computing)

est. 1992   Aims and Scopes
URL: http://www.comphist.org

Chair
Prof. J. Impagliazzo
Dept. of Computer Science
Hofstra University
Hempstead
NY 11549-1030, U.S.A.
Tel. +1 516 463 6774
Fax +1 516 463 5790
e-mail: john.impagliazzo@
hofstra.edu

Vice-Chair
Mr. G. Verroust
86 rue du Cherche-Midi
FR-75006 Paris, France
Tel.:+33 1 45440594
e-mail: verroust@wanadoo.fr

AT	H. Zemanek	GB	R. Johnson	NO	N. Sanders
AU	J.M. Bennett	GB	F. Land	PT	J. Miguel
AU	M. Burnett	GB	S. Lavington	SE	J. Bubenko
CA	C. Gotlieb	GB	W. Olle	SE	B. Langefors
CA	M. Williams	GB	T. Sale	SE	H. Lawson
DE	W. Brauer	GB	M. Wilkes	SE	T. Ohlin
DE	U. Hashagen	HU	B. Domolki	US	D. Allison
DK	E. Bruhn	HU	G. Kovacs	US	W. Aspray
DK	L. Heide	IS	O. Benediktsson	US	T. Bergin
FI	H. Andersin	IS	M. Magnússon	US	P. Ceruzzi
FI	P. Paju	JP	E. Wada	US	M. Geselowitz
FI	M. Tienari	NL	G. Alberts	US	J.A.N. Lee
GB	M. Campbell-Kelly	NL	H. Spanjersberg	US	R.M. Price
GB	G. Davies	NL	R. van Dael	US	J. Yost
GB	A.S. Douglas	NO	D. Berntsen		

AIMS

- To provide a central vehicle for information interchange regarding the methods and techniques of historio-graphy, especially as related to the opportunities for the studies of contemporary history.
- To provide expertise for the design, implementation and operation of archives and displays related to the history of information processing.
- To encourage the development of national archives.
- To develop a program of "Pioneers' Days" which recognize the contribution of pioneers and anniversaries of major events.
- To identify pioneers worthy of an appreciation and distinction and make "IFIP Pioneer Awards".
- To develop publication plans for histories of Information Processing.
- To promote the inclusion of historical modules in appropriate curricula.

SCOPE

The history of computing and informatics with a view to providing the impetus to preserve the records and artifacts of information processing inventions, practices and activities throughout the world under the auspices of IFIP and its constituent organizations. One special focus is the socio-historical context and consequences of Information Technologies.

Appendix B

New and potential members of WG 9.7

Individuals Pre-Approved by TC9

Jean-Claud Laprie (FR)
Brian Randell (GB)

Individuals seeking WG membership

Wolfgang Coy (DE)
Bill Davey (AU)
Mary Hopper (US)
Meir Komar (IL)
Reino Kurki-Suonio (FI)
Arthur Tatnall (AU)