

Minutes for SCC meeting of October 25, 2004

by Mike Powell

Attending

Bob Fraley
Dick Gabriel
Kathe Gust
Philip Gust
Dave Gustavson
Gardner Hendrie

Sellam Ismail
Paula Jabloner
Paul McJones
Bernard Peuto
Michael Powell

Dave Rosetti
Len Shustek
Dag Spicer
Kirsten Tashev
John Toole

New Members:

Archivist: Paula Jabloner was introduced as the new CHM archivist. She was most recently Project Director for Silicon Valley History Online (www.siliconvalleyhistory.org).

Software Curator: Sellam Ismail was introduced as the CHM Software Curator. Sellam is founder of the Vintage Computer Festival <http://www.vintage.org>, which is having an event November 6-7 at the CHM.

Progress reports on Collection Test Cases:

FORTRAN: Paul McJones continues to move forward in working with listings on microfiche, but also discovered a source for FAP, FMS, and FORTRAN II on some tapes that Paul Pierce had put online.

You can track Paul's progress on his blog <http://www.mcjones.org/dustydecks/>

Algol-W: Len Shustek reported on a test-case-of-opportunity. With Niklaus Wirth in town being honored as a Computer History Museum Fellow, Len asked him about Algol-W, which Wirth developed at Stanford. Len discovered a source for it on a Michigan Timerssharing System tape. The source is in another language Wirth developed, PL/360.

MULTICS: Dag Spicer reported on discussions he had with with some MIT people who are archiving MULTICS. Apparently, they have a lot of material, but the CHM has some things they don't, so there will be some sharing. Since they are focusing on digital information, they seem willing to give the CHM their paper artifacts.

NLS/Augment: Philip Gust made a presentation of plans and progress for NLS/Augment. He is looking for participants who are familiar with the technology or who have other interest in it. He is working with the Unfinished Revolution seminar at Stanford, both as a source of people to help and the targets of oral history and other information collection. A goal is to have the software in hand by January, and participate in the Unfinished Revolution seminar in September 2005.

CDC alumni: Paul McJones reported for Dave Redell regarding a group of CDC alumni who have obtained access to CDC software including a version of the PLATO System. Although they have some intellectual property rights to the software, there is some question about whether or not they can share it with the CHM.

A group called Cyber1.org <http://cyber1.org> is running PLATO over the internet, via a PLATO terminal emulator. Because the PLATO keyboard had a number of keys not on today's keyboards, it's necessary to use control sequences.

Magic: Mike Powell reported that he had located several versions of the Magic VLSI design software, later versions of which are still in use. Since it was developed and continues to be evolved at universities, there is a trail that leads back to earlier versions online. He's still trying to see how far back it can be tracked.

Next steps

The issue was raised about expanding the list of software we are trying to collect. There is a concern because of the length of time it seems to be taking to develop sources.

Some people felt that we need to get further in the process for some of the current candidates. For example, before getting more people involved, it would be good to have some sample forms or documents for them to see to understand what to do.

Someone suggested looking at SourceForge <http://sourceforge.net/>, a project management tool, as a way to collect and manage information. Alternatives such as CollabNet <http://www.collab.net/> were also mentioned.

The discussion went between a desire to do more things, and a feeling that we need to make more progress on the things we are doing. So far, there is no completed test case, and no repository. The hope is that as the candidates we are currently pursuing begin to take shape that it will be easier to see how to get more going.

Next meetings:

2004

Wednesday November 17 from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, Hopper Conference Room. [Note different time].

Wednesday December 8 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Noyce Conference Room.

2005

Wednesday January 19 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Noyce Conference Room.

Wednesday February 16 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Noyce Conference Room.

Wednesday March 16 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Noyce Conference Room.

Wednesday April 27 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Noyce Conference Room.

Wednesday May 25 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Noyce Conference Room.

Wednesday June 22 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Noyce Conference Room.

No July Meeting.

Wednesday August 24 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Noyce Conference Room.

Wednesday September 21 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Noyce Conference Room.

Wednesday October 19 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Noyce Conference Room.

Wednesday November 16 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Noyce Conference Room.

No December Meeting.