The Journal of the Association for Computing Machinery at UIUC: The

Banks of the Boneyard

We Are Not Alone

by Paul Watts, ACM Reporter

Will you be able to stay awake through JUST ONE CS 257 lecture? While that question may forever be a mystery, certain evidence has surfaced that might shed light on the age old question, "Are We Alone In The Universe?" This new evidence seems to point to a growing alien presence not only on the U of I campus, but here in DCL. No, we're not talking about Morris, we're talking about the conspiracy to cover up the truth being perpetrated under the campus' very proverbial nose by none other than CCSO.

The first evidence traces back to a bizarre incident that occured just three blocks south of DCL, in a little known spot on campus called the Foreign Language Building. A Linguistics Professor by the name of Croswell noticed some strange, metallic equipment lying near the door of his office. Upon contacting the authorities, the University Police Officer arriving at the scene examined the wreckage and exclaimed that this was the remains of a crashed flying saucer. However, two days later, CCSO had taken control of the remains, saying the officer had made a mistake. It wasn't a UFO, but a console from one of the old mainframes that CCSO had used in the FLB.

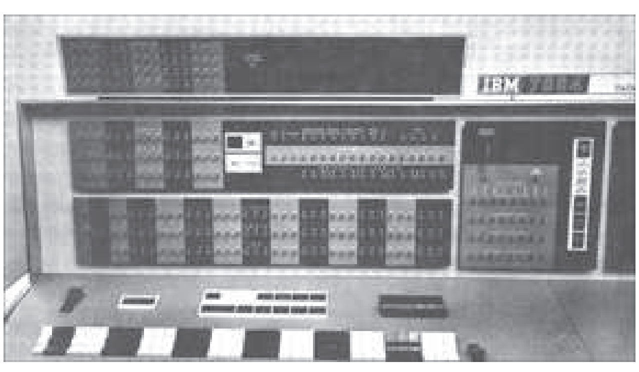
continued on page 2...

Inside this Issue

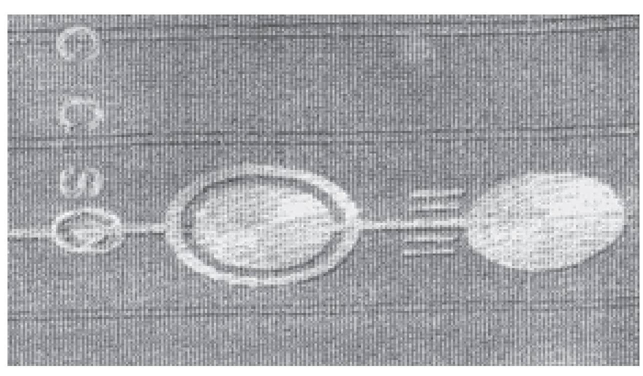
SIGs:

Feature Articles

Join ACM!



The 'alien' artifact found by Prof. Croswell



Suspicious crop-circles in the Morrow Plots

...continued from page 1

"I've seen console panels before," says Prof. Croswell, about the situation that made the once nameless-professor a campus phenomenon. "That was no console." When asked whether he thinks CCSO is involved in some conspiracy to withhold evidence of extraterrestrial landings, the linguistics professor replied, "Does the Pope p*ss in the woods?"

Why would CCSO retract its original story? What could they want or be doing with a crashed alien spaceship? And what did Professor Croswell mean by his question? This incident raises more questions than it answers.

Another disturbing goings-on is CCSO's secrecy over the room in DCL known as "Room 15." According to CCSO, Room 15 is where CCSO tests new machines which it will use as its future lab machines and servers. According to theorists, Room 15 is where CCSO has aliens working to train new labsitters and system administrators.

We asked former student cluster administrator Joe Gross about the alien infiltration in CCSO, and whether there are in fact aliens currently adminning the cluster. "Oh, that's just Larry," he said. "He's not an alien. Weird, but not an alien."

Unconvinced, we asked Larry--that is, Larry Schrof, current head sysadmin of the student cluster--who we found likes to be known by the peculiar moniker "Larold."

Larry Schrof

BB: Are you an alien?
LS: It would not be totally untruthful to say that I am incredulous as to whether I am or not.
BB: Do you have any aliens under your command, or are you under the command of any aliens?
LS: In my little inexperience it could not be said that no aliens are neither subordinate nor insubordinate to me.

We also questioned Jon Roma, Senior Research Programmer, about CCSO's activities.

Jon Roma

BB: Is it practice for CCSO to hire extraterrestrials as their system administrators?
JR: I'm totally DESPONDENT over the LIBYAN situation and the price of CHICKEN..
BB: Are there extreterrestrials working for CCSO right now?
JR: Don't worry, nobody really LISTENS to lectures in MOSCOW, either! .. FRENCH, HISTORY, ADVANCED CALCULUS, COMPUTER PROGRAMMING, BLACK STUDIES, SOCIOBIOLOGY!.. Are there any QUESTIONS??
BB: Do you have anything else to say?
JR: Just think....If I'd been wearing LARRY MONDELLO's loafers, the PILLSBURY DOUGHBOY would be PRESIDENT today!!
BB: Have another beer, Jon.

continued on page 4...

The Banks of the Boneyard is a student publication of the UIUC Chapter of the ACM, the First Society in Computing, and does not necessarily represent, in whole or in part, the views of the University of Illinois, the Department of Computer Science, or the International ACM. Partially paid for by SORF and the Department of Computer Science.

Editor and Layout & Design: Joe Doyle

The Association for Computing Machinery at UIUC
1225 Digital Computer Lab, MC-258
1304 W. Springfield Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-5828

For more information, email `acm@uiuc.edu`
or visit our homepage at `www.acm.uiuc.edu`

The newsletter staff encourages ACM members to submit letters to the editor, articles, photographs and artwork for future issues of *The Banks of the Boneyard.* If you would like to contribute or participate in its creation, please email `boneyard@acm.uiuc.edu`.

From the Chair

by Paul Swanson

Well, seeing as how this week closes a chapter in ACM history (what with elections being on Thursday and all), I thought I'd dedicate most of this column to the future of the current top four:

Paul Swanson (current chair) will be moving to sunny Redmond, Washington, where he will be working as a Program Manager for the Evil Empire in the WinCE group.

Paul Watts (current vice-chair) will also be working for Micro$oft after he graduates in August. Mr. Watts will be a Developer in the Internet Gaming Zone team.

Christy Schumacher (current treasurer) has accepted an offer with Trilogy in Austin, Texas, where she will be working in pre-sales and preparing for her up-and-coming wedding.

Jason Luther (current secretary) will be a junior in Computer Science next year, and will be the ACM Conference Chair, as well as a member of the Champaign-Urbana Student Senate.

Thanks to all of you for a great year, and congratulations in advance to the election winners for next year.

HEY! ***So, you think you have something to contribute to ACM? Well, you're right: you do! ACM@UIUC is currently seeking motivated people to fill the following positions:***

Corporate Liaison: This person is responsible for coordinating ACM activities with corporate sponsors, such as meetings, speakers, donations, and other corporate-contact situations.

EOH Coordinator: This person serves as a liaison between ACM and the CS Department/ Engineering Council as applicable to the annual Engineering Open House. Mostly this entails resource acquisition/management.

Lectureship Chair: Got lots of ideas for great guest lectures? Then this is the spot for you. You will be in charge of the care of our lecturers, as well as initiating the lecture appointment, giving great opportunity to influence ACM's general meetings.

Webmaster: ACM@UIUC has, not suprisingly, a rather large web presence. In order to ensure that we are always up-to-date and providing the most easily accessible site that we can, we require a webmaster with decent design skills, and preferably, a knowledge of CGI scripting.

SIGCoordinator: With over a dozen Special Interest Groups, ACM@UIUC often has either conflict or convergence of interest in certain projects/resources. In order to keep order, we have a SIGCoordinator.

If you have questions, or are interested in any of these positions, mail acm@uiuc.edu.

...continued from page 2

Not some of the CCSO employees were totally incomprehensible.[1]

What could these replies mean? Is it some code which is used to communicate with extraterrestrials?

[1] *Like that sentence.*

What Do You Think?

Do you think there are extraterrestrials working for CCSO?

"CCSO? Is that where I go to get my Netscape password?"
--*Daniel Tulliman, Freshman, Political Science*

"I hope not, otherwise I'd have to worry about that cute labsitter in the Oregon lab."
--*Bob Booth, Sophomore, CS*

"I don't care, as long as they can get my &^%*#&%&@^ printer working."
--*Steve Solczek, Junior, Physics*

"That's about as stupid an idea as there being a Chuck E. Cheese in DCL."
--*Joel Jones, Senior, Germanic Angst Music*

Tragedy in Redmond

Thousands die in mass-suicide

(Reuters) Redmond, WA. The streets are quiet in this high-tech industrial town. Birds chirp and flit about; children chase each other across manicured lawns, while wives stare blankly at empty bedrooms. Yesterday, for nearly a third of this town's residents, the world ended not with a bang, but a whimper.

Yesterday, approximately 90 percent of the work force of former software giant Microsoft committed ritualistic suicide after becoming aware of the cruel reality of their employer: Microsoft was operating under the express motivation of generating corporate profit. Among the dead was founder Bill Gates, who appeared to have been lynched by his betrayed employees shortly before they set themselves on fire.

At the center of this tragedy lies 13-year-old Jay Lundquist, a San Diego elementary student who frequently contributes to electronic news forums based thousands of miles away from his California home in the form of incessant and puerile attacks on the Microsoft Corporation. The fatal posting, accidently read by a now-dead Microsoft employee and shown to his office-mates, read simply, "Anyone who works for M$ is a $ellout! I've been using my NeXT for years, and it's great!"

After seeing the brilliantly original and scathing use of the dollar sign instead of an 'S' in the Microsoft abbreviation, the pieces fell horribly into place for the victims. Read one suicide's explanatory email: "We had no idea... Like most of us here, I joined the MS team to write quality code for the world to enjoy! How could we know that the purity of our intentions and efforts would be so utterly profaned??? May God have mercy on our tainted souls." Similar letters were found in the inboxes of spouses and friends all across the nation.

Unfortunately, Jay could not be reached for comment. "He doesn't like to leave his computer desk," explained a perplexed Mrs. Lundquist. "Why, what did he do? Did he break the Internet?"

by Mark Ashton

The big news from SIGSoft is that we have decided to standardize on our development tools. This will make projects simpler, since we will all be working on the same page, so to speak. The following packages comprise our chosen standard development system, with comments on each:

Operating System: Windows 95

We used to use various UNICES a lot, but it just got too annoying. Editing a text file to change DNS search order? Shyeah, right. There are all sorts of cool features in Win95. Just an example, if we want to make a shortcut to something, we just right click on it and choose from a big friendly pop-up. Before, we were typing "`ln -s /usr/bin/foo foo`". Screw that. Command-lines are so 80's.

Programming Language: C++

As any freshman can tell you, no one really uses anything but C++ anyway. Garbage collection? Man, that's for wussies. We need all those groovy C style features, and the object features built around it...well, that's just the magic shell on the sundae.

Compiler: Whatever comes with Visual C++

You know, the Microsoft one.

Text Editor: see Compiler

Project Manager: Visual C++

One of the things we really want to focus on in future projects is ActiveX development, and it's just easiest in VC++ 5. With all the code generation features, anything involving COM or ActiveX is much simpler. I mean, do you really think we want to stub out all that code by hand?

Scripting Language: Perl

Hey man, Perl is da bomb. You can do anything in Perl, usually accidentally. Since it exists for Win32, we might as well use it. We'd use Visual Basic instead, but we ran out of disk space.

Soft Drink: Coca-Cola

If it's good enough for the U of I, it's good enough for us.

Active Wear: Nike

I CAN write better code.

Well, that's what we've come up with as our standard set of development tools. If you want to use something else, that's fine too; you just can't join SIGSoft. Don't forget to come to our next meeting, Wednesday April 1 at 6 PM. We'll be talking about our plans to build some sort of first-person perspective 3D shoot-up game. It's a whole new paradigm, don't miss your chance to get in on the ground level with us.

`www.acm.uiuc.edu/sigsoft`
`mail: 13-inch@uiuc.edu`

Apple to Stress Basics

Discontinue Macintosh, concentrate on Apple][

(Cupertino) In a surprise announcement today, Acting CEO of Apple Computer, Inc. Steve Jobs announced that the Macintosh computer would be dropped from the product line. "Our market shares were our highest when we only sold the Apple][. Ever since the Macintosh was introduced, it has been downhill from there, with our share eroding almost every year." Sources inside the company say this announcement comes as a complete surprise. "No one saw this coming. Sure, some of us still own Apple][s, but I don't think anyone has even turned one on in years" said one Apple employee who asked to remain anonymous, "But we still think it's an insanely great computer. I mean, have you ever studied the design of the floppy disk controller? That's really cool."

Industry analysts had mixed reaction to the move. "Steve Jobs is absolutely right. To survive, Apple must stress their core competences. Nobody made a better 8-bit computer than Apple.", said C. Newbie of Dean Whitter Reynolds Marwick Ernst and Andersen. Other industry observers were less sanguine. "Apple is doomed. They have been ever since they incorporated in 1977. They should have allowed cloning of the Apple I, let alone every product since. If they had allowed cloning of the Apple III, they would be bigger than Exxon, Shell, AT&T, IBM, and

continued on page 6...

by Tony Sintes

It can't be said that SigUNIX isn't ambitious. This semester, we are busy working on Tcl/OS. Yes, that's right, the first operating system written completely in Tcl/Tk! Not only is this feat monumental, many said it couldn't be done. Lacking pointers and any real direct memory access, many said that it couldn't be done. Hah! These are the same people that talk about that NP Complete nonsense and say you can't write a program that detects infinite loops. SigUNIX sure made them look foolish last semester after we wrote a loop tester in Perl (and it only took a few hours).

Anyway, don't let the fact that Tcl is an interpreted language dissuade your confidence either. Some believe that you would need an OS to run Tcl, thus making Tcl/OS a pipe dream. Again I say, Ha! You are certainly dumb! If you write the OS, then Tcl can run on that. Duh!

Look for the Tcl/OS in stores soon. It has been licensed as the exclusive operating system for the Tickle Me line of Sesame Street plush toys.

Oh well, as always, SigUNIX is open to anyone, even the clue impaired. So, unless you're a total moron, stop by the ACM office on Thursday nights at 8 P.M.

www.acm.uiuc.edu/sigunix

SIGDave

by Mike Kolb

I write, today, in the hopes that my message may reach someone out there, and serve as a warning. For several months now, we the members of SIGDave, ACM@UIUC's special interest group for... whatever..., have been toiling diligently on our many and varied projects.

Bah, who am I kidding? We've been slacking off. We do that.

Little did we know that a single tamagotchi process had been left lurking on wilbur.acm, sucking up valuable processor time, making simple algorithmic decisions, and slowly learning...

One week before EOH, the system finally became self-aware, and signed onto an IRC session to wreak havoc and spread its evil plan...

```
<NekoNeko> we don't really have a project
<NekoNeko> we should just have like three machines set up that do absolutely nothing
<NekoNeko> whilst some hacker sits there banging away like mad vainly trying to get something presentable going
<NekoNeko> it'll be cool%##^&@#!!!!
```

Self-aware, but not very intelligent. At any rate, it was better than that lame 3D fighting game idea we'd had.

While Victoria Lease worked to make our evil Master tamagotchi even more powerful ("Look! It's responding to SIGILL!"), Nick Michels and I toiled away at the Stick Fighter (visually based on myself). Steve Behling and Michael Bach got together some VRML warez to construct a mighty virtual pyramid home for our new Lord.

Alas, now our struggles are ended, and to show our evil Master that we are still worthy we have many projects to continue, including:

Stick Fighter
Net Tamagotchi (our Lord Master himself!)
gratuitous VRML stuffas
DaveView VRML 1.0
The As-Yet-Unstarted HTML browser

If you're willing, please give us a hand. He's threatening to not let us go to Zorba's anymore if we don't finish at least one project. We meet Wednesdays at 8pm in and around the ACM office at 1225 DCL. If you'd like more information about SIGDave, feel free to mail me at sigdave@uiuc.edu.

Thanks again to everyone who helped out at EOH, and see you at SIGDave!

www.acm.uiuc.edu/sigdave

...continued from page 5

Microsoft combined by now. The only way they can survive is to allow others to copy the results of their R&D work and sell it at cut-throat margins." said L. User writing for the Wired-Slate-Red Herring-Wall St.-Sand Hill Journal.

In a related announcement, Chairman Bill Gates told reporters that Microsoft planned to reintroduce DOS 2.1. "The whole idea of hierarchical file systems was a mistake. Users find it much too complicated."

RedBeard's Treasure

by Misha Voloshin

T'was a cold day, the day RedBeard got his prize, but t'was a glorious day, glorious indeed! March 13 it was. I remember it well, for I was beside him when he set out on his voyage. I was beside him when he earned his victory. Alas, I was not beside him when he went mad. And I pray for the soul of anyone who might be beside him today.

To be sure, RedBeard earned the bounty that became his plunder. It's a shame his eyes never worked quite right, a bloody shame. Poor feller could only see perpendicular walls. Ah well, we gave him an eye patch and let him run blind. Besides, he ranges by sound, not by light. His sonar unit sends 40kHz pings out at 120 decibels, louder than a jet-plane but so high-pitched that even dogs can't hear it. Cats, though..! Arr, watch them run in terror!

We were also able to temporarily fix his broken axle, so we could put the peg-leg away long enough for the judges to see RedBeard in his full glory. Chassis painted blood-red, lights blinking, relays clicking! Aye, he was a sight to behold! Apparently they were duly impressed, enough to give him first place in Undergraduate Research. SIGArt's first EOH award in years, and the first time in living memory that SIGArt has gotten the highest honor. Proud we are of that mighty navigator RedBeard, I tell ye, and proud we were of the gold! Perhaps, I might reckon, all the attention went to the red robot's electronic head...

Much blood went into that gold, I tell ye. Much of my own blood, with the blood of my first mate Joe Broms, who impaled himself with a plastic ruler. Blood of crewman Ben Nick, who nearly chopped off his own fingers while sawing pieces for RedBeard's chassis. And the trials and tribulations of Boris Dzodzo, Mike Miller, Nick Williams (alas, poor Nick!), Steve Behlig, Don Fuller, Tim Harahan, and Jaime Orzechowski, each of whom sacrificed time and sweat to see RedBeard sail.

Probably t'was because of this care, this devotion, that was put into this beast. Or, perhaps, it was because I coded his cognitive program after having not slept for three days straight. One way or another, after the contest, with victory being his, RedBeard was driven mad with gold fever. He took on a life of his own.

I reckon I should've seen this coming. RedBeard's entire reason for existence is to map out and navigate the halls of DCL, sailing deftly upon its linoleum waters. Sure, he limps, he does, but so would you if one of yer motors was broken. And he might have an eye patch, but those sensors be based on sound, not light. He can't see, but my, can he hear! And he knows the halls of DCL better than any living man...

He must've done his dirty-work in the dead of night. I could've sworn I'd unplugged him. I probably did, but the intelligence that arose within him was apparently advanced enough to get over such petty obstacles as lack of power. I shouldn't have left him in the same room as his battery recharger. I never should have attached his cognitive program to Win95's synthesized voice drivers. And I never, NEVER should have given him a fully-charged 5 kiloFarad capacitor to use in "self-defense".

We found Nick the next morning on the floor of the ACM office, unable to move. He regained consciousness later in the day, and told us his tale. He had heard a whirring and clicking outside the office, followed by the sound of someone knocking on the door.

"Who is it?" he asked, unexplained chills running down his body.

"Pizza," replied a canned, monotone voice.

"Pizza? Sounds good," Nick said as he got up to open the door. "Oh wait, I didn't order any..." He realized too late.

Poor boy didn't have time to look down and see what hit him. Who knows how much charge was left in that capacitor? He's a right clever bastard, I tell ye. I should know, I wrote his AI. Right clever.

When we got Nick back up to speed, we noticed the first-place plaque was gone. RedBeard took it, we know. We don't know how, since he has neither arms nor active range-finders, but like I said, he's clever. He'd find a way. The way he sees things (or hears, I s'pose), that plaque is rightfully his.

continued on page 8...

Tcl/Tk Extensions

by Tony Sintes

Tcl/Tk's greatest strength is its extendibility. As a result, there are a large number of useful extensions available. These extensions range from new widget sets to object oriented extensions. Basically, if you need it, chances are, it is available. Whole books can be written on this subject. However, I'd like to briefly introduce some of the more popular extensions here.

All the extensions mentioned here will work on Tcl 7.6 and Tk 4.2. To work with Tcl/Tk 8.0, many of these extensions will need to be ported. However, the Tcl community is busy porting these extensions now and they should be available in the near future. Among many other new features, Tcl/Tk 8.0 now uses byte-code instead of text substitution in the interpreter. So? Well, it boils down to this: Tcl/Tk will be damn fast, even with extensions. So, it'll be worth the wait.

[incr Tcl] and [incr Tk]

`http://www.tcltk.com/`

[incr Tcl] provides an object oriented extension to the base Tcl distribution. With syntax very similar to C++, any C++ or JAVA programmer will have little trouble picking it up. [incr Tcl] allows the programmer to create new, re-usable Tcl commands and objects with ease. In fact, you could write your entire Tcl/Tk application in [incr Tcl]. Large Tcl/Tk applications can be hard to manage. Fortunately, [incr Tcl] makes these large Tcl/Tk applications manageable.

[incr Tk] is built upon [incr Tcl]. [incr Tk] provides a powerful, flexible solution for widget creation by freeing the programmer from having to create widgets in C. [incr Tk] allows the programmer to create new Tk "Mega-Widgets" by gluing other Tk widgets together with [incr Tcl]. While a "Mega-Widget" may contain existing Tk widgets, the "Mega-Widget" may have any number of new commands, options, and bindings. Once written, "Mega-Widgets" can be used just like any other Tk widget.

[incr Tk] now includes what is known as the [incr Widgets]. [incr Widgets] include a plethora of new widgets written in [incr Tk]. These widgets include Labledwidget, Entryfield, Pushbutton, Optionmenu, Combobox, Feedback, Spinners, Scrolled Listbox, Scrolled Text, Scrolled Frame, Scrolled Canvas, Buttonbox, Radiobox, Toolbar, Panedwindow, Tabnotebook, and various dialogs. So even if you don't write a single line of incr code, you'll want this extension just for the additional widgets.

The BLT Toolkit

`http://www.tcltk.com/blt/`

BLT provides a number of new widgets and commands for making Tcl/Tk application writing easier. Highlights include a table geometry manager, graph widget, drag and drop support, a busy command, and a bgexec command to keep your interfaces from blocking.

Tix: The Tk Interface Extension

`http://www.xpi.com/tix/`

Tix builds upon the Tk Toolkit by providing 40+ new widgets. Some of these widgets are completely new, while others deliver features missing
in some of the Tk widgets. Tk also

continued on page 9...

...continued from page 7

He's somewhere in DCL, I tell ye. Somewhere, probably guarding the plaque. He's probably buried it somewhere deep in the maintenance areas of the building, whose winding, twisting corridors would drive any mortal man insane with their complexity. Only one map to that treasure exists, and it does so within the RAM of RedBeard, for no living human eyes to view.

He can't stay down there and guard that plaque forever, though. His battery pack will only last him for so long, and when it's in danger of running out, he must venture forth from his tunnels to feed. He'll stop at nothing to get to an electric socket, and woe be to the poor soul who stands in his way! For people are not perpendicular walls, and if RedBeard can neither see you nor hear you, his 5 kiloFarad capacitor will sting at the invisible obstacle in its way!

Who knows how much charge is left in that unit? Who knows how RedBeard has grown and changed in those dark maintenance tunnels where mortal men do not tread? But take my advice, land-lubbers, and take heed! If ever you are studying in DCL and hear clicking, or whirring, or if your cat ever runs from the room as if Death itself were coming, know that RedBeard lurks these halls, and that to him, the most you'll ever be is a point on his map!

...continued from page 8

provides an object-oriented framework for creating Tcl/Tk applications and Tk "Mega-Widgets." Just like [incr Tk], even if you don't use this new framework, you'll appreciate the new widgets.

TclX

`http://www.neosoft.com/tclx/`

TclX is a major extension. Basically, TclX assimilates Tcl into UNIX by providing features that Unix/C programmers have come to expect. This is a must for any Unix programmer.

Some other extensions of interest:

Expect

`http://expect.nist.gov/`

Tcl automation of interactive processes

Embedded Tk

`http://users.vnet.net/drh/ET.html/`

Allows programming of Tk interfaces in C

Groupkit

`http://www.cpsc.ucalgary.ca:80/redirect/grouplab/projects/groupkit/`

Aids in the rapid development of groupware

Sybtcl

`http://www.nyx.net/~tpoindex/tcl.html/`

Tcl Sybase interface

This is by no means an exhaustive list. Other extensions provide 3D libraries, sockets, and database interfaces. The number of extensions demonstrates one of the major design philosophies behind Tcl/Tk. Tcl/Tk was not designed to fill one purpose. Instead, it was designed to be flexible. By allowing the user to extend the base language, Tcl/Tk is free to fill any need. In fact, if you can't find an extension that you need, there is nothing stopping you from creating it yourself.

This semester, SigUNIX hopes to explore Tcl's extensibility as we begin work on "Terminal Tk." The "Terminal Tk" extension operates much like the standard Tk Toolkit. Instead of displaying graphical X elements, "Terminal Tk" provides a set of widgets for use inside of an X Term. This extension will allow programmers to write applications for use in an X term or over a Telnet session. Today, command line utilities are often overlooked. A Tk GUI may also need a text interface for users who are not at a graphical workstation. Now, instead of rewriting everything for the command-line version, "Terminal Tk" will allow the programmer to use the same back end and just change the interface.

For more information on Tcl extensions, check out *Tcl/Tk Tools* by Mark Harrison (ISBN 1-56592-218-2). This book contains over 600 pages devoted exclusively to Tcl/Tk extensions.

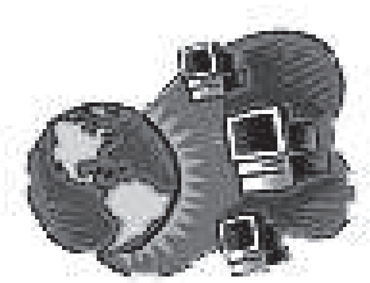
---

by Ray Kaplan

At this year's EOH, SIGVR, the special interest group in virtual reality, displayed VRMLMazeHunt, our networked VRML (Virtual Reality Modeling Language) game. Since this project was so successful, we have decided to make a permanent web version. This will be available by the end of this semester at `http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/sigvr/projects/eoh98/`.
The game works through a VRML world connected to a Java applet. The applet connects to the CGI script on the server to update the position and orientation of the player for the other client. With the success of this project, next year's EOH project will more than likely involve virtual worlds networked over the Internet.

SIGVR meets every Monday at 7:00 P.M. in the ACM office (1225 DCL). It is open to anyone who has an interest in virtual reality of any kind.

`www.acm.uiuc.edu/sigvr`



SIGNet

by Jason Govig

Engineering Open House was a success, Voodoo City was awesome, and our display was excellent. The days of hard work and the all-nighters were well worth it. But the passing of EOH does not mean the end of Voodoo City. We are still on the lookout for web page designers and Java/JavaScript programmers to keep cranking out these wonderful games. Come join the fun, no matter what level of experience you are.

On the other hand, now that EOH is over, we can relax and focus on some other networking related projects. We will be holding various discussions and workshops on such topics as Java applet programming, networking programming in C++ and Java, and setting up computers on a network under various platforms. We will be looking for other discussion ideas as well, so come along, bring your thoughts, and learn to tame the realm of network coding.

SIGNet meets every Monday at 7:30pm in 1102 DCL. Visit *Voodoo City* and SIGNet's web site at `http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/signet/`.

www.spacemoose.com

Ask a Macintosh

by mcbain.acm, Macintosh

Dear Macintosh,
Recently my husband of forty years has been getting hair plugs, working out four hours a day and has suddenly began taking long business trips out of town with his secretary, Tawny. I'm beginning to get suspicious that he and Tawny are having an affair ever since I found a motel key from "The Pink Pussycat Lounge of Love, hourly rates avialable". Am I just paranoid or should I be worrying?
- Lonely in Louisville

Dear Lonely,
I'm sorry the application "SimpleText" has unexpectedly quit due to a type 11 error.

Dear Macintosh,
Lately I've been getting into more and more arguments with my parents because the person that I'm dating isn't jewish. They don't understand that I love him and his religion doesn't matter
- Formerly daddy's girl

Dear Formerly,
Could not open the application program that created the document named "untitled".

To open the document, select an alternative program, with or without translation

Dear Macintosh,
Recently I "lost it" at work and e-mailed my boss that he could "bite my a&". Thank goodness he is on vacation right now but I'm worried about the ramifications when he gets back into town. What should I do?*
- Soon to be Unemployed

Dear Soon,
If you got here by crashing, you may want to try StdLog to record some details about the crash and your system configuration.

Undefined A-trap at 0460CA1C GetQTPrefsInfo+00026
PowerPC access exception at 03590EFC Hyperboloid3D..init.+001A0
NMI

Obituary: Erik Gilling, 1978-1998

Erik Gilling, some time before being consumed by flames from within

ACM@UIUC remembers Erik Gilling, former ACM Cluster Administrator. Erik died of spontaneous human combustion after consuming 24 cans of Surge in just under four hours.

"It was just a simple dare, taken a bit too far," said ACM Chair Paul Swanson concerning the event that took all of ACM by surprise. "No one could have expected this."

Gilling drank the 24 cans of fully-loaded citrus soda during ACM's showing of *Point Break* and *Aspen Extreme*. Throughout the evening people described him as, "fine," although, "a bit on edge." After finishing the 24th can, he began to shake uncontrollably, shouting "I feel like snowboarding, *skydiving*, **rollerblading**, ROCK CLIMBING! **EXTREME**!"

Witnesses report Erik stood up, raised his fists to the sky and exclaimed, "***SUUUUURRRRGGGEE!!!!***" just before being engulfed in a ball of brilliant green flame.

"It was really quite amazing, truth be told," said Swanson. "It was a shame that such a bright young soul had to be lost in order to witness such a spectacular sight."

"He was a good guy, a good sysadmin," said Chris Stamborski, Erik's fellow cluster admin. "It's a shame he wasn't into more mundane hobbies, like needlepoint or crochet."

Funeral services will be held on Monday.

WinDevils

by Paul Watts

Now that all of Microsoft's employees have committed ritualistic suicide (*see page 4*), the WinDevils have decided on abandoning our name and OS and moving to the next greatest OS--of course referring to CP/M.

The CP/Maniacs are going to resume their once popular CP/M programming workshops, with an emphasis on basic CP/M programming, but getting into some fancy stuff like the new Internet Explorer for CP/M controls. Check our website, `http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/sigmicro/cpmaniacs/` for details.

Extreme Violence was an Extreme Success at this years EOH, so we're going to port it to CP/M. Watch for this project as soon as we find a copy of CP/M to run (which will take a bit of searching around the office's drawers). You can find a copy of Extreme Violence on the former WinDevils' website at `http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/sigmicro/windevils/ev/`. Kudos to all who helped that project become a success, even if it was written for a dead, nowhere OS.

Not like CP/M.

Really not.

acm

student chapter
university of
illinois urbana-
champaign

membership form

Return or mail this form to:
1225 Digital Computer Lab, MC-258
1304 W. Springfield Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801

name:

campus address:

campus phone:

home address:

home phone:

electronic mail:

curriculum:

UNIVERSITY STATUS

- ☐ freshman
- ☐ sophomore
- ☐ junior
- ☐ senior
- ☐ m.a. / m.s.
- ☐ ph.D.
- ☐ faculty / staff
- ☐ postdoc
- ☐ alumni
- ☐ other

special interest groups

lug	linux users group
bug	be users group
sigarch	architecture
sigart	artificial intelligence
sigbio	biocomputing
sigbiz	enterpreneurship
sigcas	computers and society
sigdave	short-term distractions
siggraph	graphics
sigir	information retrieval
sigmicro	microcomputers
sigmusic	music
signet	networking and security
sigops	operating systems
sigsoft	software development
sigunix	unix programming
sigvr	virtual reality

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

return form with check or money order payable to the ACM at UIUC

- ☐ $40 for eight semesters
- ☐ $22 for four semesters
- ☐ $12 for two semesters

ACM NATIONAL MEMBER

- ☐ yes — #
- ☐ no
- ☐ currently applying

for internal use

Received Date: _____ by:_____
Chk #_______ $_______

Enter Date:_______ by: ______