## Contributors to this Issue

*Luis-Felipe Cabrera* received the B.S. and M.S. (Mathematics) from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Santiago in 1974 and 1975 respectively, and the M.S. (Computer Science) and Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1979 and 1981 respectively.

From 1981–1983 he was a faculty member in the Departamento de Ciencia de la Computacion of the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, and its Chairman during 1982–1983. In January 1984 he joined the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley. While at Berkeley his research focused on Performance Evaluation and Distributed Systems. During the summers of 1984 and 1985 he was the Research Supervisor of the CSRG, the makers of Berkeley Unix. He was also a consultant for Xerox PARC and Hewlett Packard.

In late 1985 he joined the Computer Science Department of IBM Almaden Research Center. At Almaden he was the co-designer and co-builder of a transactional file service, QuickSilver DFS. He then helped start the research effort Melampus. His current research interests include distributed computing systems, object-oriented systems, high-performance storage repositories, performance evaluation, and software performance. Dr. Cabrera has published some 40 research articles.

He may be reached at cabrera@ibm.com.

*Fred Douglis* is a scientist at the Matsushita Information Technology Laboratory. His interests include distributed computing, file systems, and user interfaces. Prior to joining MITL in October 1991, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, working on Amoeba and teaching a course in distributed systems. He worked on the Sprite network operating system from its inception in 1984 until the fall of 1990, and built its process migration facility as part of his doctoral research. He received a B.S. in Computer Science from Yale University in 1984, an M.S. in Computer Science from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1987, and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from U.C. Berkeley in 1990.

He may be reached at douglis@mitl.com.

*Frans Kaashoek* is a doctoral student at the Vrije Universiteit. His research interests include communication protocols, distributed operating systems, parallel and distributed programming, and compiler construction.

He may be reached at kaashoek@cs.vu.nl.

*Darrell D. E. Long* received his B.S. degree in Computer Science from San Diego State University in 1984. He received his M.S. degree in 1986 and his Ph.D. degree in 1988, both in Computer Science from the University of California, San Diego. He is now Assistant Professor of Computer and Information Sciences at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Dr. Long has published research articles on protocols for data replication, reliability and high-speed I/O systems. He is also the author (with John Carroll) of a text on automata theory and formal languages published by Prentice-Hall. His current research interests include distributed computing systems, high-speed I/O systems, reliability, performance evaluation and computer system security.

Dr. Long is a member of the IEEE Computer Society, the Association for Computing Machinery and Sigma Xi. He is an associate editor of the International Journal in Computer Simulation, and editor of the IEEE Technical Commitee on Operating Systems and Application Environments news letter.

He may be reached at darrell@cse.ucsc.edu.

John K. Ousterhout is a Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at the University of California at Berkeley. His interests include operating systems, distributed systems, user interfaces, and computer-aided design. He is currently leading the development of Sprite, a network operating system for highperformance workstations, and Tcl/Tk, a programming system for graphical user interfaces. In the past, he and his students developed several widely-used programs for computer-aided design, including Magic, Caesar, and Crystal. Ousterhout is a recipient of the ACM Grace Murray Hopper Award, the National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award, the National Academy of Sciences Award for Initiatives in Research, the IEEE Browder J. Thompson Award, and the UCB Distinguished Teaching Award. He received a

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B.S. degree in Physics from Yale University in 1975 and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University in 1980.

He may be reached at ouster@sprite.berkeley.edu.

Jonathan M. Smith is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer and Information Science at the University of Pennsylvania. Jonathan is a member of the Distributed Systems Laboratory at Penn. His current research interests are High-Speed Networks, Operating Systems, Parallel Processing, Network Security and Cryptology.

Jonathan did his graduate work at Columbia University in New York, receiving his Ph.D in Computer Science in 1989. He was a Summer Engineer at Boeing Aerospace in 1980, a Member of Technical Staff at Bell Telephone Laboratories from 1981 to 1984, and in 1984 became a Member of Technical Staff at Bell Communications Research (Bellcore), which was formed at the AT&T divestiture. He assumed his present post at the University of Pennsylvania in September 1989. He is a member of ACM, IEEE, ASEE, and Sigma Xi.

He may be reached at jms@central.cis.upenn.edu.

Andrew S. Tanenbaum has an S.B.from M.I.T. and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. He is currently a Professor of Computer Science at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, where he teaches and does research in the areas of computer architecture, operating systems, networks, and distributed systems.

Prof. Tanenbaum is the principal designer of three operating systems: TSS-11 (PDP-11), MINIX (IBM PC and other machines), and Amoeba (Sun, VAX, 386).

Tanenbaum is also the chief designer of the Amsterdam Compiler Kit, a system that has been used to produce compilers for a half dozen languages on about a dozen machines.

He is the author of three books as well as more than 60 published papers on a variety of subjects. He has also lectured in a dozen countries. Tanenbaum is a member of ACM, IEEE Computer Society and Sigma Xi.

He may be reached at ast@cs.vu.nl