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USENIX NEWS

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Twenty-five Years Ago in ;login:

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Yes. It was *;login:* 25 years ago.

In October 1977 the big problems were: being late with *;login:*; back orders on the third distribution tape; lack of contributions for a fourth distribution.

The news was: the new Toronto software release; "You are reminded that a new Toronto release must be submitted even if you had a previous release"; a one-day West Coast meeting in January; and "The membership in the Users' Group now exceeds 250."

In November 1977 there were three major announcements. The first was of the death of Joseph F. Ossanna, the author of NROFF/TROFF. (Joe had given a paper at the May 1977 meeting in Champaign-Urbana.) This was a major loss to the field as a whole and to Bell Labs in particular. (Ten years later, in the October 1987 issue of *;login:*, Jaap Akkerhuis reviewed Emerson & Paulsell, *troff Typesetting for UNIX Systems.* I still use groff/troff.)

The second (also relating to Bell Labs) was that *The C Programming Language* by Ritchie and Kernighan was to be published by Prentice-Hall – at $9.95. Dennis and Brian , if I've not said it often enough, thank you very much.

Third, there was to be a meeting (in May) in New York at Columbia University.

It's worth noting that the May 1978 meeting at Columbia, chaired by Lou Katz, was attended by 350 folks, by far the largest meeting of UNIX users up to then.

Oh, yes. The October 1987 issue of *;login:* also carried an article by Charlie Sauer et al. on "RT PC Distributed Services: File System." It really seems long ago!

Finally, in October 1987, USENIX ran two workshops: the Fourth Computer Graphics Workshop in the Cambridge (MA) Marriott (thanks, Tom Duff and, again, Lou Katz); and the POSIX Portability Workshop in the Berkeley (CA) Marina Marriott (thanks, Jim McGinness and, especially, John Quarterman).

I was at both workshops. They were exciting.