

# USENIX notes

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## Years and Years Ago

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2005!

Think about it!

Fifty years ago, 1955, IBM encouraged the first meeting of "users"—operators of the new 704—I guess, the first LISA. Also in 1955, AT&T/Western Electric submitted to the consent decree that, among other things, barred them from entering any business other than telephony or telegraphy (when was the last time you sent or received a telegram?).

A decade later, 1965. The Multics project has gotten underway. CTSS and DTS on the DEC-10 are the big thing. IBM is just coming out with the 360.

1975! Big time. The Labs have come out with V6. The "UNIX Users' Group" (linear parent of USENIX) has met (nearly two dozen in attendance!) and is bracing itself for another—publicized—meeting to be held 18 June. (Attendance bounded to 40.) It was the beginning of multiple meetings, too.

In October, Mel Ferentz chaired a meeting at CUNY, and Belton Allen chaired one four days later at the NPG in Monterey.

The year 1976 saw three meetings, too: one in Berkeley in February chaired by Bob Fabry; two at Harvard—April and October—both chaired by Lew Law.

The second of these was the first meeting to top 100 attendees, but the next May, Steve Holmgren chaired the first Midwest meeting at UIUC and eclipsed that with 250 in attendance.

In September, Oliver Whitby and John Bass ran a West Coast meeting at SRI with about 100 attendees.

The organization was about to become USENIX. The publication was about to become *;login*.

An informal gathering of under two dozen people in May 1974 had turned into a semiannual event of major proportions.

[Blatant advertisement: Tom Limoncelli and I have edited an anthology of all the April Fool's Day RFCs. No Starch Press, out in July.]