

Greetings

Michael D. O'Dell Editor in Chief

Welcome to Volume 4!

Counting the one year gestation period before Volume 1 Number 1 appeared, the *Computing Systems* effort is now 4 years old—and going strong. Sometimes it seems like yesterday; then again, sometimes it seems rather longer.

This inaugural issue of Volume 4 is as eclectic as ever. Our first offering is “A System for Algorithm Animation” by Jon Bentley and Brian Kernighan. Bentley’s “Programming Pearls” column in *Communications of the ACM* mentioned this system in passing several times, but this time, you get the details.

Our second offering is “Architecture and Implementation of Guide, an Object-Oriented Distributed System” by R. Balter, J. Bernadat, D. Douchant, and company. This chronicles an ambitious project to build a system to support the development and operation of large object-oriented distributed applications in a heterogeneous network environment. Object-oriented programming “in the large” is an area of intense activity, and the results of this effort should be of considerable interest.

Our third offering is a *Controversy* piece of the first rank sure to provoke a lively discussion (in fact replies are already rumored to be in progress!) Tom Cargill offers a passionate and cogent presentation of “The Case Against Multiple Inheritance in C++.” It is particularly fitting that this appear in this forum since you may recall that this journal published a large paper by Bjarne Stroustrup presenting the design of this facility. Regardless of which view initially attracts you, or what you finally embrace, the activities of sceptical evaluation and critical thought are good exercise for the brain muscle.

With 12 issues under our belts, we'd like to ask you, our readers, for your opinions and suggestions. While we have received both fan mail and flak, we'd like more. Send us your comments to journal@usenix.org.

Finally, we have one important error to correct. The masthead of issue 3.4 omitted the name of Sharon Murrel from the typesetting credits (in addition to Jaap Akkerhuis). This is an egregious mistake for which we extend our deepest apologies and our heartfelt thanks for all the hours she put in helping in a real pinch. Kudos to both of them for an extraordinary job.