

## Forth Standards

Attendees: Jerry Shifrin, MCI (secretary)  
Martin Tracy, Forth Inc.  
Tom Almy, Tektronix Inc.  
Jesse W. Hartley, University of Missouri  
Bob Luke  
Dave Hooley  
J. Brooks Breeden, Ohio State University  
Garry Roseman  
Bill Sebok, University of Maryland  
Dave Lindbergh  
Loren Bodi, ALLEN Testproducts, Kalamazoo, MI

1. Elizabeth described recent history, technical committee operation, and membership requirements.
2. Jerry described the planned MCI Mail bulletin board for use in communications of proposals, etc.
3. Questions on goals of the standard; consensus is to blur some of the Forth-83 constraints—minimal wordset.
4. Need for floating point was discussed.
5. Martin discussed the plan for Forth extensions to be discussed or GENIE by Guy Kelly.
6. Tom Almy questioned the value of having a weak, minimal standard. Discussion followed on benefits of standard (credibility, problems in Forth-83, stake-in-the-ground)—not including transportability!
7. Discussion of importance of consistency for new users—particularly with respect to books.
8. Reiteration of criticality of NOT “improving” the language. Should be language documenters, not language designers.
9. Martin commented that with only a couple of screens he has been able to port the FIG model library —Forth-83 is a good start.