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# Minutes of X3J14 Meeting #2

*ANS Forth Technical Committee*

*November 11-12, 1987, San Jose, California*

*Doc. no. X3J14/87-020*

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## **Call to Order**

Ms. Rather welcomed the X3J14 TC and explained that because the SMC had not chosen permanent officers, she would continue as the acting chair for this meeting. She explained that some candidates for chair and vice-chair were unable to obtain support letters from their organizations, leaving only one candidate for each position, and that SMC was uncomfortable with a single candidate. She suggested that additional candidates identify themselves during the meeting or soon thereafter. Mr. Dorband volunteered for position of chair. Ms. Rather introduced four new attendees: Mr. Kobziar (NCR), Mr. Gotwals (Purdue University), Mr. Stevenson (Nomadic Software), and Mr. Ruffer (Allen Testproducts). She reminded them that new members are observers at the first meeting. There were 15 voting members at this meeting. Mr. Keene and Mr. Kurihara were unable to attend. The attendance list for this meeting is document X3J14/87-017.

The proposed agenda for this meeting (X3J14/87-013) was unanimously approved. With two minor corrections, the draft minutes of X3J14 Meeting #1 (X3J14/87-010) were unanimously approved.

## **Logistics Subcommittee Report**

Ms. Rather thanked the Logistics Subcommittee and the local hosts for making arrangements for meeting #2. She explained that the next meeting would normally be held on the East Coast, but that since the first meeting had been there, the next would be held in Southern California. Mr. Forsley cautioned that meeting #4 should not conflict with the Rochester Forth Conference, whose date has not yet been set. It was noted that exact dates and locations for meetings are announced in the Call for Meeting which precedes each meeting by at least four weeks. The 1988 meeting schedule (X3J14/87-016) was unanimously approved.

## **Documentation Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Dickens presented a restructured BASIS document (X3J14/87-015) for approval. A new preface had been added and the remainder of the document reformatted to conform with ANSI requirements.

Mr. Bailey moved that the new document be accepted as the BASIS document and that any later corrections to typographical errors or inadvertent deviations from ANSI requirements be accepted automatically. The motion was passed unanimously. Ms. Rather asked that the new BASIS be made available to the TC in machine-readable form. Mr. Shifrin will post it to the private area of the MCI ANS Forth Bulletin Board.

Mr. Dickens then presented the new Technical Proposal Form (X3J14/87-014). He explained that since this form is offered for public comment, it must be approved by the X3 Secretariat.

There was much discussion on the detail of this form. Not all of the fields on the form could be known to the proposer. An explanatory cover sheet should be provided with an example of an acceptable proposal. Mr. Shifrin pointed out that proposals are requests for changes to the

BASIS, but that the BASIS is not a public document. Ms. Rather suggested that as time goes by, proposals would be championed by members of the TC, who could help bring them into conformance with the BASIS. The membership of the TC could be published in a press release. For now, proposals could be submitted as changes to the Forth-83 Standard (X3J14/87-006).

Mr. Moore suggested that all proposals be submitted electronically, but there were no supporting motions. Most TC members had signed up for MCI Mail since the previous meeting. It was generally agreed, however, that proposals must be submitted in typed and printed form, or as an ASCII text file. Proposals would be accepted in any format which was easily translatable to the approved Technical Proposal Form. It was suggested that Forth Dimensions would be delighted to publish this form.

Mr Bailey moved that the following items be deleted from the Proposal Form: item number, action, section number, and keywords. Approved 11 in favor, 2 against.

Mr. Duncan moved that keywords be restored to the Proposal Form. He explained that we could allow the proposer to select keywords, and could modify them to our own set of keywords. Approved 10 in favor, 4 against.

Ms. Rather moved that the Documentation Subcommittee be directed to prepare a corrected Technical Proposal Form with an explanatory cover sheet for presentation the next day. Passed unanimously.

**Research Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Kelly submitted the Producer Questionnaire Summary (X3J14/87-018) based on 24 responses from 274 mailings. Of these, only 14 producers indicated they had more than 200 customers. The summary showed a good distribution of CPUs, operating systems, and dialects. No producer attempted the suggested validation suite.

There was a general feeling of surprise and disappointment at the lack of responses. Several major producers had not responded to the questionnaire. It was felt that more responses were necessary to determine common usage. Mr. Braithwaite suggested we make this an ongoing effort. Mr. Duncan suggested we call the major producers who had not responded. The mailing list could be made available during the lunch break to help identify missing producers. Ms. Rather and Mr. Kelly volunteered the services of the Forth Vendors Group and the Forth Standards Team, respectively.

Mr. Dickens moved that the Research Committee be charged with identifying major producers and to contact unresponsive producers by phone. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Bailey moved that the results of the survey be published and that responsive producers be thanked. He suggested that this would pressure unresponsive producers into responding. Passed 14 in favor, 0 against.

**Technical Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Bailey distributed the results of the TC informal survey, document X3J14 87/019. He commented that a few TC members had not completed the survey and that he will wait for their response before publishing a final summary of the results. A rough summary of the current results is reproduced below:

	IN/OUT	REQ/OPT	OK/CHG
Unanimous	58	83	52
Minority	178	167	155
Controversial	83	69	112
Majority Reverse	32	6	36

Mr. Bailey explained that the grid shows the status of the 900 numbered categories in the survey. An item was considered minority if fewer than four members objected to it. Eighteen items were uncontroversial in every way:

DUP	DROP	OVER	SWAP	>R	R>
AND	OR	XOR	0=	0<	=
U<	@	!	+	-	ABS

Mr. Bailey commented that the major problem areas seemed to be:

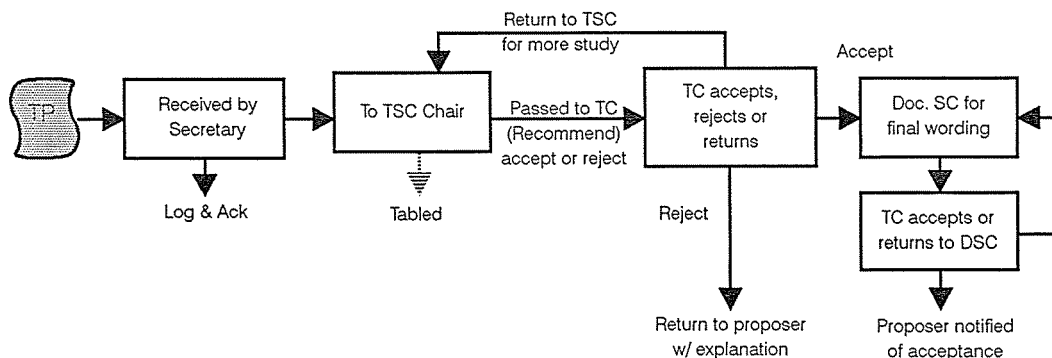
- definition of terms
- documentation and testing requirements
- error conditions
- double-precision and controlled reference wordsets
- assemblers as a whole
- including system extensions

### IEEE Status Report

Ms. Rather read a letter from Mr. Forsley reporting that a resolution to withdraw the IEEE Forth Standard effort would be presented at the September 1987 meeting. He reported that an agreement was reached with CBEMA that IEEE members could waive the ANS TC membership fee. Those interested in this waiver should contact the X3 Secretariat. Mr. Forsley has not received the results of the IEEE meeting at this time. Mr. Kelly reported that the IEEE effort has lost momentum as the ANSI effort has advanced.

### Rules of Procedure for Technical Proposals

Mr. Dickens and Ms. Rather recommended the following procedure for the acceptance of Technical Proposals (TPs):



The TP is received by the TC secretary, who maintains a log and acknowledges the receipt of each proposal. The proposal is passed to the Technical Subcommittee (TSC) chair. The TSC considers the proposal and either returns it to the TC with the recommendation to accept or reject it, or else tables it. The TC either accepts or rejects the proposal, or else returns it to the TSC for further deliberation. Accepted TPs go to the Documentation Subcommittee for final wording and reformatting to ANSI requirements, and are returned to the TC. At this point, the TC can adopt the proposal or return it to the Documentation Subcommittee for further work. Rejected TPs are given to the Documentation Subcommittee to be returned with explanation to the proposer.

Mr. Dickens commented that reasons for returning the proposal might include:

- The proposal had already been accepted or rejected.
- The proposal is beyond the scope of the Standard.
- The proposal needs further refinement or clarification.
- There is no standard practice to support the proposal.

This procedure was voted on and accepted with 14 for approval and 0 against.

This was followed with a general discussion on how long a tabled TP could remain tabled. Mr. Forsley moved that a technical proposal should not have a lifetime, but that we establish a separate category for tabled proposals. Mr. Colburn moved to amend the proposal to add that proposals and their status should be maintained publicly on MCI. A move to table this discussion failed with 2 for approval, 13 against. The amendment passed 12 for, 3 against. The amended motion passed 14 for, 0 against.

Mr. Dickens moved that we post an abstract of TPs on MCI. Mr. Shifrin objected that he was unable to type in that much information. Mr. Bailey amended the motion to add that if a proposer wants his abstract published, he submit it in machine-readable form. The amendment passed with 13 for approval, 2 against. The amended motion passed with 13 for, 2 against.

Mr. Dickens moved that the secretary be directed to establish a data base for tracking TPs. The motion passed with 8 for approval, 0 against.

A motion to recess until 2:00 P.M. on the following day passed by voice vote. The TC was reconvened by Ms. Rather at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 12, 1987. Mr. Baden (Micro-Motion) was welcomed to the TC.

### **Technical Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Bailey summarized the meeting of the Technical Subcommittee on November 11-12. The TSC has formed working groups and formulated a procedure for the evaluation of Technical Proposals.

The TSC had several requests for the TC:

- Ask the Logistics Subcommittee to provide a copier at all future meetings.
- Delegate someone to publicize future meetings.
- Delegate the TC secretary to filter and return to proposers all TPs which were not phrased as a proposal or were otherwise massively inadequate.
- Provide ready access to the current BASIS document.
- Direct the Vocabulary Representative to reconcile our definition of terms with ANSI usage.

The TSC submitted Technical Proposal TP-001 with a recommendation of approval. Mr. Ragsdale, who had not yet received a written copy of TP-001, invoked the 2-week rule. Ms. Rather agreed that the proposal would be sent out for mail ballot.

There was much discussion on the relationship of the TSC to the TC. It was generally agreed that proposals submitted by the TSC to the TC should be submitted at the following meeting. It was suggested that the TSC meeting might immediately follow the TC meeting in preparation for the next TC meeting.

Mr. Colburn commented that all members of the TC should also be members of the TSC.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Dickens continued the Documentation Subcommittee report, tabled from the previous day. He presented a modified Technical Proposal Form with an appropriate cover letter. Several refinements to the form were suggested. The final Technical Proposal Form will be sent out for mail ballot.

There was much discussion on how to involve the Forth community with the X3J14 effort, other than soliciting proposals and new members for the TC. Mr. Tracy requested a sense of the committee on whether we wanted to invite expert witnesses or guests. Six were in favor, 6 against. Ms. Rather volunteered to ask X3 for its policy on expert witnesses and guests.

Mr. Colburn moved that the TSC be dissolved and that all TC members participate in technical evaluation of proposals. The motion failed with 2 in approval and 11 against. It was generally agreed that the division of TSC and TC be re-examined at the next meeting.

Ms. Rather repeated the call for volunteers for officer positions. She explained that she did not feel that a major producer should be chair and thus had not felt comfortable volunteering for the position, but would consider doing so on the basis of feedback from the Forth community.

### Action Item Review

Ms. Rather reviewed each action item decided at the previous meeting and its disposition. New action items are listed below:

1. The Research Subcommittee will thank all respondents to the Producer Survey and will solicit additional responses by phone. It will post mailing lists of producers on MCI.
2. The Technical Committee working groups will evaluate 15 categories of proposals. Each TC member will prepare a short position on each issue. Positions will be sent to the head of the appropriate working group, who will synthesize them into position papers which identify the issues in question. Discussions for each category will be maintained on GENIE. The fifteen categories are listed below:

Category	Working Group Magnet
Vocabularies	Mr. Stevenson
Mass Storage	Mr. Kobziar
DO . . . LOOPs	Mr. Duncan
Division	Mr. Smith
Documentation requirements	Mr. Betts
Testing requirements	Mr. Moore
Assemblers	Mr. Bailey
System extension word set	Mr. Nemeth
Controlled reference word set	Unassigned
ROMability	Mr. Tracy
Operating system interface	Mr. Colburn
Text interpreter	Mr. Sanderson
' >BODY and EXECUTE	Mr. Keene
Numbers and conversion	Mr. Gotwals
Flow of Control	Mr. Baden

3. The Logistics committee will ensure access to a copier, computer, and printer at the next meeting.
4. The Secretary will filter Technical Proposals and will maintain a data base showing the status of each proposal received.
5. The Vocabulary Representative will examine our definition of terms and reconcile them with ANSI usage.
6. The Chair will ask the X3 Secretariat for clarification of the status of expert witnesses and guests.
7. Mail ballots will be sent out for voting on the Technical Proposal Form, and on TP-001.
8. Mr. Tracy, Mr. Forsley, and Mr. Stevenson will represent the TC at the Forth Convention which follows this meeting. Mr. Moore, Mr. Kelly, and Mr. Smith will represent us at FORML 1987.

**Adjournment**

The second meeting of the X3J14 ANS Forth Technical Committee was adjourned at 5:00 P.M., on Thursday, November 12, 1987.

Submitted by: Martin Tracy, Acting Secretary for X3J14 Meeting #2.