Minutes of X3J14 Meeting #4

ANS Forth Technical Committee
May 25-28, 1988, Rochester, New York
Doc No X3J14/88-040

Call to Order

Ms. Rather welcomed the X3J14 TC and explained that she has been designated the official chair for the next three years. She reminded the committee that the acting secretary, Martin Tracy, is a member of her company. While she finds this an efficient working arrangement, she urged anyone with an objection to let her know as soon as possible. In the absence of any objections, he will be appointed secretary by the next meeting.

Ms. Rather introduced Mr. Tom Zimmer (Maxtor) as an alternate for Bob Smith, who was unable to attend. There were 15 voting members at this meeting. The attendance list for this meeting is document X3J14/88-014.

The amended draft minutes of X3J14 Meeting #3 (X3J14/87-007) were unanimously approved. Mr. Keane asked that locating committee member speakers for local Forth Interest Group meetings be added to the agenda. An action item review from the previous meeting was added to the agenda. The proposed agenda for this meeting (X3J14/88-012) was unanimously approved. A working group was created to establish an audit trail for the BASIS document.

Action Item Review of Meeting #3

Mr. Bailey reported that Kinko's Xerox is not suited for distributing the BASIS. The FVG tracked duplication and mailing expenses and billed each committee member. Mr. Shaw generated a letter for his mailing list, but it is not known whether he sent it or not. An updated version of the BASIS was delivered, and a dramatically re-formatted one, called "Brave New Basis" (BNB), should be ready in a few weeks. Mr. Bailey received several proposals from committee members per his request, and Mr. Kobziar received several completed Mass Storage surveys.

Documentation Subcommittee Report

Mr. Dickens reported on the changes to the BASIS. Mr. Keane expressed his concern that a great many changes had been made, some with technical content, that had not been voted on by the committee. He pointed out that misunderstandings such as these had delayed the acceptance of the PL/1 standard by a year. Others countered that a complete audit trail of all changes would render the document unreadable. The matter was deferred to the audit trail working group.

A motion to renumber BASIS by the TC meeting number, for example, BASIS 3, was approved 14/0/1. The new BASIS, now numbered BASIS 3A, was adopted 15/0/0. A motion to express extreme gratitude to Ron Braithwaite and Ted Dickens of the documentation committee for their work in producing the BASIS was passed 14/1/0 (the negative vote was Ted Dickens).

Mr. Keane suggested that we assign "external comment" numbers to comments rather than give them a document or proposal number. Mr. Dickens requested that proposals from committee members be given to him in non-proportional fonts.

Research Subcommittee Report

It was the impression of the TC that Mr. Kelly had resigned from the committee and that the research subcommittee was therefore inactive. Mr. Nemeth volunteered to be the new chair. Mr. Kobziar's report on Mass Storage was postponed for a few days to gather additional questionnaires.

Technical Subcommittee Report

Mr. Bailey had collected 6 new comments, 5 magnet reports, and 38 new technical proposals. He commented that TC members have showed up on GENIE, but that there has not been much activity lately.

Speakers for FIG

Mr. Keane volunteered to organize a speakers bureau for the Forth Interest Group local meetings. He will contact Forth Dimensions and let them know.

<Recess for TSC meeting>

Technical Proposals

Ms. Rather received several technical proposals from the TSC.

TP-026	Innovate ANS Standard	reclassified as a comment.	
TP-035	**ABORT"**	Failed	0/14/2
TP-036	**LOAD** and **VECT**	Failed	0/15/1

<Recess for TSC meeting>

TP-040	Host OS File Access	Failed*	0/15/0
TP-041	Host OS Multiple File	Failed*	0/15/0
TP-042	Host OS File Error	Failed*	0/15/0
TP-055	Define Implementation options	No technical impact; referred to Doc Comm.	
TP-069	Affirmative action plus	No technical impact; referred to Doc Comm.	
TP-045	Delete FORTH-83	Withdrawn by author.	
TP-057	Compile-time stack diagrams	Withdrawn by author.	
TP-047	Double Number words	Failed	1/14/0
TP-053	Move Double words	Failed	1/14/0
TP-061	Alternate names for return stack...	Failed	0/15/0
TP-062	Eliminate contractions from...	Failed	0/15/0
TP-066	Move return stack ops to...	Failed	1/13/0
TP-065	Typos in BASIS	Passed	14/0/0
TP-070A	What is Forth?	Passed	14/0/0
TP-048A	A matter of identity	Passed	15/0/0
TP-049A	Pictured numeric output	Passed	15/0/0
TP-054A	Move convenience words	Passed	14/0/1
TP-063A	Delete 2's complement	Passed†	9/2/4
TP-064A	Host OS sequential access	Passed**	15/0/0
TP-071A	ROMable variables	Passed	14/0/1
TP-072A	**UPDATE** has multiprogramming...	Passed	15/0/0
TP-003	Cell operators	Withdrawn by author.	
TP-031	Cell operators	Withdrawn by author.	
TP-032A	Clarify interpretation	Passed‡	9/0/1
TP-079A	**EMIT**	Passed	10/0/0
TP-081A	Definition of "receive."	Passed	10/0/0
TP-082A	Move text output words	Passed	10/0/0

TP-083	"Sharp" is an unmnemonic ...	Passed	8/0/2
TP-084A	Add "M" to...	Passed	10/0/0
TP-085A	Remove irrelevant "M" ...	Passed	10/0/0
TP-086A	Address units	Passed	10/0/0
TP-087	Cell addressing	Passed	10/0/0
TP-088	Byte addressing	Passed	10/0/0
TP-089A	Technical considerations	Passed	10/0/0
TP-090A	UNDO	Passed	9/0/1
TP-092A	DU<	Passed	10/0/0

Other Business

There were 11 voting members present at the Saturday meeting, which was determined to be a quorum. It was noted that Forth users present outnumbered Forth vendors present at the meeting.

It was pointed at that the latest issue of Forth Dimensions carried a letter critical of the ANS FORTH process and that the editor had not contacted the committee for a response. In fact, the secretary had answered the letter and his response was included in the last mailing. Mr. Rash volunteered to write Forth Dimensions regarding this incident, and Mr. Tracy will send them a copy of the reply.

Logistics Subcommittee Report

TC Meeting #5 will be held August 11-14, 1988, in the Portland, Oregon area. Mr. Betts suggested that the secretary reconcile dates, days, and location. It was also suggested that the logistics committee develop a checklist to be passed to the next host.

Action Item Review

New action items are listed below:

1. The secretary will invent a numbering scheme for external comments.
2. The secretary will reconcile dates, days, and locations of each meeting.
3. The logistics committee will develop a checklist to be passed to the next host.
4. Ms. Rather will write and distribute a press release on the progress of this meeting.
5. Ms. Rather will write to members who failed to attend the last few meetings.
6. Ms. Rather will check with CBEMA on George Shaw's status.
7. BASIS 4, reflecting only proposals adopted at this meeting, will be sent in the next mailing. BASIS 4N (BNB) will be sent for a 30-day letter ballot. The concepts section will be separate and not subject to the ballot. The BASIS will include an up-to-date list of members and their status.
8. Passed and amended proposals will be sent to all TC members.

Adjournment

The fourth meeting of the X3J14 ANS Forth Technical Committee was adjourned at 4:00 P.M., on Saturday, May 28, 1988.

Submitted by: Martin Tracy, Secretary for X3J14 Meeting #4.

*Partially replaced by TP-064A.

†Mr. Ragsdale and Mr. Colburne expressed their concern that widening the standard to include one's complement machines was a major change and would require time to determine its impact.

**Ms. Rather noted that while several Forths support this interface, no one supports it exactly as proposed.

‡It was agreed that this proposal needs language clarification.