
Draft Minutes of X3J14 Meeting #11

*ANS Forth Technical Committee
January 24-27, 1990, San Diego, California
Doc. no: X3J14/90-002*

Call to Order

The chair extended thanks to John Wavrik for hosting this meeting.

The following guests and observers were introduced: John Wavrik, Matthew Costello (observing), Leonard Zettel (observer), John Latham. Guy Kelly returned after an absence.

The attendance list is document 90-003.

Tom Hand is on probation. The Chair noted that at the last meeting we accepted representation from two people who were not there, and who had designated alternates who were already TC members. In fact, their votes were not acceptable. For someone who is already a member to represent another organization requires direct approval from SMC. Charles Keane is therefore on probation, and Ray Duncan has lost his vote. Organizational members are strenuously urged to select an alternate. It is appropriate to have yourself represented at "odd coast" meetings.

The minutes of meeting 10 were approved by voice vote.

The X3J14 annual report was distributed, and was pretty much boiler-plate.

The annual report of the FVG was given. The income statement was distributed in the mailing. FVG continued to operate at break-even last year. Sales of BASIS went from \$300 to more than \$1700.

Action Item Review from Meeting #10

1. See the Logistics Committee report, below.
2. Done.
3. Done.
4. Mr. Shaw needs to know more about meeting attendance requirements before he can agree to be International Representative.
5. Not done yet. Mr Kelly has not submitted his proposed Forth binding words.
6. Only Mr. Tracy has implemented locals.
7. Done.
8. Done.

Logistics Committee Report

Mr. Betts is working with Mr. Hand on the May 23-26 meeting, which will be in Florida. We will meet for 5 days to finish the technical phase of our meetings. Mr. Betts is still looking for a host for the Fall meeting. Mr Hayes is looking at the Johns Hopkins Advanced Physics Lab., but it's in a remote area. Other possibilities are CBEMA, U of Md, or a rustic retreat.

The Chair, after careful reading of SD-2 and other documents, concluded that there would be no problem holding a meeting in Canada.

Documentation Committee Report

BASIS 10 was approved by voice vote. Mr. Braithwaite has indexed the document, which will add about 10 pages. It was moved to add it to BASIS 11, and approved by voice vote. Mr. Bailey's concordance has a short list of "buzz phrases," and anyone is welcome to add to them.

Mr. Braithwaite will be leaving for Africa, so we need a document editor, who will commit to approximately 8-10 hours at the end of each meeting. Mr. Betts volunteered.

Research Committee Report

Mr. Shaw is working on another survey based on controversial proposals to be included with the next SIGForth newsletter. Additional questions to be included are welcome. The Chair commented that the small number of participants on the last GENIE forum seemed uncomfortable with locals.

Technical Committee Report

Mr. Bailey reported that at the end of the last meeting we had 68 actionable proposals. Since then, we received 70 more that cannot be two-weeked, so about 140 are now actionable. The TC has 3 proposals in limbo: two are tabled, TP-166 and TP-453, and TP-210 (Globals and Locals) was postponed until this meeting. TP-210 was returned to the TSC by a vote of 12/3.

Mr. Bradley commented that "common practice" has been applied in this committee with emotion and inconsistency. He moved to remove it as a requirement. Mr. Bailey asked whether any of our measures can be applied metrically. There was some discussion. Mr. Bailey noted that according to resolution 87-002, modifications are unacceptable if they deviate from what producers of more than 200 systems do. The motion to drop "common practice" failed from 87-002 failed 0/14/1.

Other Business

J. Wavrik addressed the committee expressing his concerns that we leave enough "hooks" for extensions so that extensions are not de facto required.

L. Zettel also addressed the meeting. He stressed that we must consider the system as a whole. He explained that the Forth scene is a system of problems, i.e., a "mess." For example, the language described by *Starting Forth* does not match systems available from implementors. The domination of the committee by any faction will be bad for Forth as a whole.

S. Pelc wrote requesting that lower-case "e" be acceptable in floating-point numbers, and wants **COMPILE** and [**COMPILE**] instead of **POSTPONE**. He also wants to make **CONVERT** obsolete and to add **NUMBER**, which converts a number of any form. He likes **ALSO ONLY** and would require it if he were to implement a standard.

Mr. Dickens resigned his positions as Chair of the Documentation Committee and as Vocabulary Representative.

TC overwhelmingly passed a resolution thanking Mr. Dickens for his outstanding work on the Documentation Committee.

Action on Technical Proposals

TP#	Name	Status	Action
TP-289a	Eliminate problems with Expect II	passed 9/3	
TP-367	Erase should use address units	passed 12/0	
TP-433a	Expand Reserved Word Set...	passed 12/0	
TP-435a	MOVE	passed 13/0	
TP-436a	MOVE	passed 12/1	
TP-441a	Floating point numeric formats	passed 12/0	
TP-442	FP Exceptions and error handling	withdrawn	

TP-453a	Memory Allocation	passed 16/0	
TP-455	TOKEN! TOKEN@	withdrawn	
TP-472a	/STRING	passed 13/0	
TP-491	Recursive is better than recurse	failed 3/12	
TP-500a	Separate Data Space from Dict...	passed 15/1	
TP-513a	Alignment Exceptions	passed 16/0	
TP-533a	Signed numbers are unclear	passed 14/0	
TP-540	Numbers	passed 14/0	
TP-547a	Current input stream	passed 13/0	
TP-548a	Clean up language	passed 13/0	
TP-557	Recognize mass storage levels	failed 0/15	
TP-558a	Allow loading from files	passed 14/0	
TP-559	Move J to the CORE EXT	failed 1/13	
TP-560a	Character set cleanup	passed 11/2	
TP-561	Fix : and specify compilation	withdrawn	
TP-562a	Fix ... "current block buffer"	passed 15/0	
TP-563	Destroy equality	withdrawn	
TP-564	Remove file access word set defn	passed 15/0	
TP-565	Fix CLOSE - FILE definition	withdrawn	
TP-566	ALLOT works with CREATE	withdrawn	
TP-567a	BLOCKS and files may coexist	passed 14/0	
TP-571a	Execution tokens are not comp...	passed 13/0	
TP-573	Definitions of true and false	passed 15/0	
TP-574a	Delete definition of format	passed 15/0	
TP-575a	VOCABULARY synthesis	passed 16/0	
TP-576a	Standard parameter ranges	passed 14/1	
TP-577a	FAR memory	passed 16/0	
TP-578	Extended memory extension ...	withdrawn	
TP-579a	Definition of a cell pair	passed 14/0	
TP-580	Delete definitions of condition	passed 15/0	
TP-586a	Expand dictionary definition	passed 15/0	
TP-587a	Code space definition	passed 16/0	
TP-588a	Dictionary data space	commit TSC	
TP-589	Add data space to FORGET	failed 2/13	
TP-590	The DO LOOP	failed 1/14	MB letter
TP-591	Fetching sign extension problem	failed 0/14	MB letter
TP-592	NOT and 0= problem	failed 0/13	MB letter
TP-593	Definitions for "carry" ...	failed 1/14	JRa letter
TP-594	Definitions of SETC and CLRC	failed 1/14	JRa letter
TP-595	Definitions of +C and -C	failed 1/14	JRa letter
TP-596	Shift operators	failed 1/14	JRa letter
TP-597a	Logical shift U2 /	passed 14/0	JRa letter

TP-598	Boolean operators	failed 0/15	JRa letter
TP-599	R!	failed 0/15	JRa letter
TP-603	Specifying data space	failed 0/15	GS letter
TP-606a	Clean up types	post-proposal	
TP-607	Move >COLROW and PAGE to EXT CORE	passed 15/0	MT letter
TP-608	Delete Locals Word Set	failed 0/15	MT letter
TP-609	Delete R/O R/W W/O	failed 0/16	MT letter
TP-610	Rename REALIGN to ALIGNED	passed 13/2	MT letter
TP-611	Prefix to Identify Standard Words	failed 0/16	GBa letter
TP-615	Fix ups for BASIS 10	post-proposal	
TP-616	Fix ups for BASIS 10 (part 2)	passed 15/0	
TP-617	DOES> CREATE	recons 15/0 in the TSC	
TP-618a	Fix "interpretation semantics"	passed 16/0	
TP-621a	Appendix D Modifications	passed 16/0	
TP-626	Compiling words	failed 0/16	BR letter
TP-627a	Add FILE to the File Access...	passed 12/1	
TP-629a	Clarification ... R. Green	passed 13/0	
TP-630a	ALLOT CREATE	passed 15/1	
TP-631a	RAM and ROM	passed 15/1	
TP-633a	Extended memory: handles	passed 16/0	MB letter
TP-636a	Remove BYTE and BYTES	passed 14/1	
TP-641a	Text file ... - Line Model	passed 12/2	

It was proposed that when we define a "conventional" (default) system, which would mean:

- 2's complement
- address unit = 8 bits
- a character occupies one address unit
- character alignment is not required
- no statement is made on cell alignment

This is being taken under advisement.

Words That Byte

Following is a list of words that use "byte" arguments:

**" # -TRAILING /STRING NUMBER BLANK CMOVE CMOVE
COMPARE CONVERT COUNT CREATE-FILE D.R DELETE-
FILE EVALUATE EXPECT FILL OPEN-FILE READ-FILE
READ-LINE RENAME-FILE SCAN SPACES TYPE U.R
WRITE-FILE**

Words that use arguments in address units:

IN ALLOT BYTES CELLS ERASE MOVE REALS

Words that **BYTE** and use counted strings:

" # -TRAILING /STRING NUMBER CONVERT COUNT
 CREATE-FILE DELETE-FILE EVALUATE OPEN-FILE
 RENAME-FILE SCAN TYPE

Action Items

Action:

1. All implementors will implement locals.
2. The Chair will find an acting secretary for Meeting 12.
3. Mr. Braithwaite will research MOSI.
4. Mr. Betts will find a host for the Fall meeting.
5. Mr. Braithwaite will write the Forth-83 comparison rationale; Mr. Forsley will do Forth 79.
6. Mr. Shaw will let us know whether he will be the International Representative.

Burning Issues

Count	Issue	Magnet(s)
9	Inconsistencies of definitions	DS ER
5	File input stream	PE
5	Byte character address units issues	DS JRi
5	Division	BB JB
3	Bit mask literals	
2	Error handling	PE
1	Environmental interrogation	JRa
1	Completeness of word sets	TH
1	What KEY returns	MB
1	Multiprogramming	AK
1	" in interpretation state	PE
1	Floating point input and output	JB
1	Rationale	LC

Next Meeting

The next meeting is May 22-26, 1990, in Florida. Mr. Hand is the host.

Adjournment

The eleventh meeting of the X3J14 ANS Forth Technical Committee was adjourned at 6:00 P.M. on Saturday, January 27, 1990.