

Site Reports

Macintosh Site Report (*Textures*)

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Editor's note: Owing to an unfortunate error, this report was omitted from the last issue of TUGboat. The news, though no longer new, is still important to users of *Textures*. And a later development has found Kellerman & Smith ending their joint venture and forming two separate companies. Barry Smith is now associated with Blue Sky Research, and David Kellerman, with Northlake Software. The text below has not been edited, so it should be read with these changes, and the delay, in mind.

We have two major pieces of news this month.

First, Addison-Wesley has decided to withdraw from the T_EX software business. Effective immediately, we at Kellerman and Smith will be assuming an active role as the publisher of *Textures*. We believe this will result in better, faster service to *Textures* users. We have installed a direct-access *Textures* telephone line, 800-622-8398—please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns we can help resolve.

Second, we have released a new version of *Textures*, version 1.01. This includes hundreds of small improvements, and fixes a printing problem introduced by Apple in the new System 5.0 release. *Textures* 1.01 is faster at typesetting, twice as fast at screen preview, and now can run T_EX in the background under the new MultiFinder system.

To the best of our ability, we have directly notified all registered *Textures* users of the availability of *Textures* 1.01. If you are a *Textures* user and have not heard from us already, please give us a call. In particular, if you have never returned a registration card, you should let us know that you exist and would like to be kept informed of updates. We apologize for any confusion caused by the transfer of publishers.

T_EX on the Cray

Bart Childs

T_EX is now available on the Cray. I have done this implementation under the CTSS operating system using the old straightforward method of creating a WEB change file. The Cray Pascal is pretty good, even though it has a few restrictions. I assume that it will be easiest to install it on other Cray operating systems with another link step. It seems that many Cray systems never bothered purchasing Pascal.

There were two big problems:

1. finding the right system calls to enable avoiding the Cray record structure (absolute I/O had to be used), and
2. coding our way around the flat file structure that has case sensitive variable names with a maximum of eight characters.

The Cray implementation is working at Los Alamos and has been sent to Lawrence Livermore. By the time this is in print, we should have a stable package ready for public distribution.

A more detailed paper will be available soon that explains the design decisions that were made.

Many people probably wonder, why bother implementing T_EX on a Cray? There is a simple, logical answer. Institutions that have a large number of professionals whose primary computing facility is a Cray, don't need these professionals learning another system interface. I found the CTSS interface to be about as oppressive as those in *unix* and MS-DOS. The flat file structure is much worse.

I will serve as the Cray site coordinator unless someone else wants the job and informs us before the next meeting of the steering committee.

Data General Site Report

Bart Childs

We have updated to T_EX 2.9 and our standard distribution now uses the 64 bit T_EX discussed in another article (see page 122). This is faster on systems that are not starved for memory. The output driver table has now been corrected; my apologies to Don Hosek for being so slow in keeping him posted.