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SUBJECT: AT&T Presents Unix Awards 03/22/93

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-- by Brad Templeton, March 22, 1993.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A., 1993 MAR 22 (NB) -- Before passing ownership of Unix off to Novell, AT&T and its subsidiary Unix System Laboratories hosted the "Unix Awards" during the 1993 Uniforum Conference last week.

The slick awards presentation, with fancy video effects and dinner for 600 Unix luminaries and members of the press, included appearances by most of the major players in the Unix marketplace. The nominees and winners were many.

One of the most respected presenters was Dennis Ritchie, who was not himself given an award because in a sense he sits in Unix world status above all those who received them. Ritchie and Ken Thompson were the authors of the original Unix system, and Ritchie was also pivotal in the development of the C programming language which is the basis of almost all major systems and application programming in the Unix and microcomputer worlds today.

Ritchie, a man nobody could fire, took a humourous swipe at his employers during his presentation of the awards for Lifetime Achievement in the Unix community. Sharing the podium with USL CEO Roel Pieper, he pretended to read the name of Federal Judge Dickinson Debevoise from the cards. The judge recently ruled strongly against an attempted injunction sought by USL against the University of California at Berkeley and small software firm BSDI to halt the sale of a new operating system based on the software developed at UCB. USL alleged the violations includes copyrighted code and trade secrets from an old version of Unix.

Some laughed. Some didn't.

Mike Azzara, editor of Open Systems Today magazine, led off the awards and also won one for himself later in the evening. His opening address called Unix the "promiscuous" operating system in the metaphorical sense. Azzara expressed well a theme that would be heard from others at the conference. Unix, by being open, promiscuous, and breeding with all comers, has become the product of "superior evolution" according to Azzara. He likened it to a life form that has been free to grow and improve, in contrast to operating systems that are controlled by one company.

Winners in the "Academic Drivers" category of awards included:
Robert Fabry, CSRG at UCB; Deborah Scherrer, LBL;
Bob Schiefler, X Consortium.

For Unix Evangelism:
Bob Marsh, Uniforum; Armando Stettner, DEC.

Technology:

Steve Bourne, Vinton Cerf, Jon Mashey, Eric Schmidt

Standards:

Jim Bell, Walter De Backer, Heinz Lycklama

Applications:

Frame Technology, Informix, Oracle, Sybase

Global Market Builders:

Larry Crume of Lotus, Geoff Morris of X/Open;

Yoshiro Yoshioka of Fujitsu

Special Distinction:

Mike Azzara, Open Systems Today; Maureen O'Gara, Unigram/X;

Ed Taylor, Pencom

Lifetime Achievement:

Pamela Gray, Uniforum; Bill Joy, Sun; Doug Michaels, SCO

Honored for business commitment among vendors was HP, SCO, Sun,
among users was Burlington Coat Factory, DHL, Federal Express,
Hyatt, Wal-Mart.

After the presentation, Open Systems Today hosted a party featuring a
"musical comedy" which was, to put it kindly, embarassingly bad, however
it did feature some pleasant moments when special guests such as Scott
McNeally of Sun made a little fun of their own companies.