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**HISTORY**

**Salus: STUG 20 Years Ago**

USENIX
The Advanced Computing Systems Association

# STUG 20 Years Ago

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The Software Tools User Group published its 12th newsletter ("Software Tools Communications") in July 1984. Among other things, it announced the availability of two implementations of the "Basic Tape" for IBM CMS and for IBM VMS. (I still have my copies of "CMS Notes" by Marc Donner: 1981, revised 1984.)

Also announced was a "potpourri" tape, dubbed the "Toys Tape." Nancy Travis wrote, "Despite its title, the tools included are far from trivial, including the long-awaited YACC, LEX, LISP, and TCS as well as improved versions of format and the archiver."

There was also a new version of Ratfor along with ratfix programs.

(For those unfamiliar with Software Tools, the software tools, and Ratfor (a) buy and read a copy of Kernighan and Plauger and (b) take a look at the NetBSD packages collection, devel/ratfor.)

Vern Paxson "revealed" that RTSG (Real-Time Systems Group) had developed a Lex tool. Ken Poulton wrote about his shell enhancements ("I have implemented much of csh in Ratfor").

There were contributions from Neil Groundwater and Van Jacobson, as well as a report from the EUUG by Teus Hagen.

Thanks, guys.

When I was working on my UNIX history, a decade ago, Debbie Scherrer let me borrow her STUG archive; Lou Katz gave me several issues of the Communications. I'd like to thank Chris Kantarjiev for giving me his collection, completing my set.

Finally, it's 15 years since I left USENIX. This means that the Boston meeting will see Ellie Young's 15th year as executive director. Congratulations!