Editorial

It is hard to believe that it is only four months since the EP94 and RIDT94 conferences were held in Darmstadt, Germany. So much seems to have happened in the meantime — not the least of which has been the level of interest in the EP-odd CD-ROM as shown by a steady stream of comments, congratulations, criticisms and requests for further information. For those who could not come to Darmstadt we should explain that the CD-ROM was 'bundled in' with the conference proceedings which, in turn, constitute issues 6.3 and 6.4 of this journal.

However, the CD-ROM is far more than an electronic record of the Darmstadt conferences. It contains the entirety of the first six volumes of this journal, in Adobe Acrobat format, together with Acrobat Reader software. This CD-ROM is the first product from the CAJUN project at the University of Nottingham. Early in 1995 we plan to issue a revised version of the CD-ROM, containing a new version (release 2.0) of the Adobe Acrobat Reader. This Reader will be available in Macintosh and PC/Windows versions. A valuable feature for us, over and above those in release 1.0, is the ability to home in on phrases within the journal corpus via an inverted index linked to search-engine software. In addition, release 2.0 supports inter-document links, which should be a great relief to those of you who were struggling with poor response from your CD-ROM drives when attempting to access the six large files which make up the volumes of material already published. The CAJUN project team is now busily engaged in reprocessing these 'volume files', from the initial LaTeX and *troff* sources, into a corpus which has each paper in a separate file. New software that we have developed enables us to detect when an author has cited a paper which appears elsewhere in the EP-odd corpus. For citations of this sort the first hyperlink will be from the reference callout, within the paper, to the reference listing at the end. If that reference itself appears as a coloured item then a further mouse click will result in that paper being opened up for inspection and further browsing. In due course we would like to extend this idea to complete the full directed graph of cross-references, spanning as many journals as possible. Clearly, there are copyright implications here and the obvious next step would be to bring in cited papers in other journals where the Wiley organization holds the copyright (e.g. from *Software Practice and Experience*).

Turning to the specific papers in this issue the first one is by Wonneberger and it relates some 'practice and experience' issues of using TeX in commercial and industrial environments. We should gently warn potential EP-odd authors that we are not anxious to encourage any further papers which use such large numbers of footnotes. Nevertheless, the final footnote count of 55 in this paper represents a considerable technical challenge for the following reason: part of our automated hyperlinking, for the Acrobat versions of papers, links footnote callouts via superscripts to the footnotes themselves. Moreover, some of the footnotes in this paper actually contain reference citations, which will be a suitably severe test of whether our enhanced LaTeX style can pick up this feature and ensure that the cited reference is picked out in blue as a 'hot item' and linked to the appropriate entry in the References section.

Although we have adopted Adobe Acrobat as our electronic format, it has to be remembered that, in many respects, it is just a first step towards the electronic representation we are seeking. Its appearance as a likely *de facto* industry standard, alongside HTML and World Wide Web, is only to be welcomed but it does not in any way reduce the need for continuing research into electronic documents and hypertextual structures. For example, the paper by Hélène Richy concerns the preparation and use of electronic indexes for hypertext documents. It shows very clearly the advantages of having an index scheme which is fully integrated with a powerful and abstract representation of the underlying document structures.

The final paper, by Hatzimanikatis *et al.*, describes a distributed documents architecture. This paper underlines the importance of object-oriented views of document components. Increasingly, we are moving to a situation where an electronic document will be confected, dynamically, from various objects, which will reside at different locations on a local-area or wide-area network. The management of these objects, in abstract form, and their linkages to the final presentational form pose an interesting challenge, particularly in the distributed context. The research described in this paper helps to delineate some of the features we should be seeking in future generations of object-oriented and document-friendly operating systems.

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