DISPATCH DISK

Southern Districts Commodore Users Club Inc.

September 1989
COMMITTEE - 1988/89

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Librarian   :   John Hancock - see above.
                   Library open 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm each general meeting.

Newsletter   :   John Hancock - see above.

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Next meeting :   Wednesday 18th October at 7:30 pm.

Location :   Salvation Army Hall, Elizabeth Rd. Morphett vale.

Subject :

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A Gazeteer Of Programming Languages

The following appeared in thew November 2nd, 1984 edition of the University of Waterloo's maths NEWS. Author unknown.

SIMPLE

'Simple' in an acronym for Sheer Idiots Programming Linguistic Environment. This Language, developed at Hanove College for Technolicical Misfits, was designed to make it impossible to write code with errors in it. The statements are therefore confined to 'begin', 'end', and 'stop'. No matter how you arrange the statements, you can not make a syntax error.

Programmes written in simple do nothing usefull. Thus they achieve the results of programmes written in other languages without the tedious, frustrating process of testing and debugging.

SLOBOL

Slobol is best known for the speed, or lack of it, of its compiler. Although many compilers allow you to take a coffee break while they compile, Slobol compilers allow you to travell to Bolivia to pick the coffee. Fourtee-three programmers have been known to have died of boredom sitting at their terminals while waiting for a Slobol programme to compile.

VALGOL

From its modest beginnings in Southern California's San Fernando Valley, Valgol is enjoying a dramatic surge of popularity across the industry.

Valgol commands include 'realy', 'like', 'well', and 'y*know'. Variables are assigned with the '= like' and '= totaly' operators. Other operators include the California Booleans, 'fesure' and 'noway'. Repetitions of code are handled in 'for/sure' loops. Here is a sample Valgol programme:

```
like y*know (I mean) start
if piza =like anchovies and
        b =like tubular and
        c =like grodyax
        then
        for I =like 1 to oh maybe 100
                do wah - (ditty)
                barf(1) = totally gross (out)
        sure
like bag this problem
really
like totally (y*know)
```

Valgol is characterised by its unfriendly error messages. For example, when the user makes a syntax error, the interpreter displays the message,

gag me with a spoon.

LITHP

This otherwise unremarkable language is distinguished by the absence of an 's' in the character set. Programmers must substitute 'th'. Lithp is said to be usefull in prothething lithtth.

LAIDBACK

Historically, Valgol is a derivative of Laidback, which was developed at the (now defunct) Marian County Center for Tai Chi, Mellowness, and Computer Programming, as an alternative to the intense atmosphere in nearby Silicon Valley.

The centre was ideal for programmers who liked to soak in hot tubs while they worked. Unfortunately, few programmers could survive there for long, since the centre outlawed pizza and Coca Cola in favour of bean curd and Perrier.

Many mourn the demise of Laidback because of its reputation as a gentle and non-threatning language. For example, Laidback responded to syntax errors with the message:

> Sorry, man, I can't deal behind that.

C-

This Language was named for the grade received by its creator when he submitted it as a project in a university graduate programming class. C- is best described as a 'low-level' programming language. In general, the language requires more C- statements than machine-code instructions to execute a given task. In this respect it is very similat to COBOL.

SARTE

Named after the late existential philosopher, Sarte is an extremely unstructured language. Statements in Sarte have no purpose; they just are. Thus Sarte programmes are left to define their own functions. Sarte programmers tend to be boring and depressed and are no fun at parties.

DOGO

Developed at the Massachusetts Instute of Obedience Training, Dogo heralds a new era of computer-literate pets. Dogo commands include 'sit', 'stay', 'heel', and 'roll over'. An innovative feature of Dogo is 'puppy graphics', a small cocker spaniel that occasionally leaves deposits as he travels across the screen.

ANSWERS FOR AUGUST CROSSWORD

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M I C R O P R O C E S S O R ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
U ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
S A V E ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
I ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ P ■ S ■ S ■ W ■ ■ ■ ■
C ■ ■ C A R T R I D G E ■ R ■ ■ ■
S ■ M ■ ■ ■ I ■ C ■ R ■ I B M ■ ■
T H O M P S O N ■ U ■ I ■ T ■ ■ ■
U ■ U ■ ■ ■ T ■ C ■ A ■ E ■ ■ ■ ■
D ■ S P R I T E ■ ■ F L O P P Y D I S K
I ■ E ■ ■ ■ ■ R ■ ■ ■ R ■ ■ ■ ■
O ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ D I S K B O X ■ ■ ■
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ T ■ ■ ■ ■
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ F O R M F E E D ■ ■ ■ ■
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ C ■ ■ ■ ■
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ T ■ ■ ■ ■
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