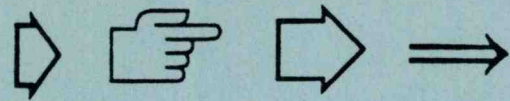


LISP Pointers



LISP Pointers



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From Editor, Van Deusen	1
Communications To Editor, Daly, Parker	2
Annotation-Based Program Stepping, Parker	3
Sponsorship of Lisp Pointers	12
Windows to the Future, Kimbrough	13
The Scheme of Things: Streams versus Generators, Clinger	23
Query-io, Dussud	27
Programming Environments, Foderaro	30
((lambda (discussions) (report on X3J13)) (work on an international standard)), Mathis	32
Implementation Summaries, van Roggen	33
Call for Papers, Automata Languages and Programming	38

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Dear Colleague,

Summer seems to have hit us with scorching results. One column, "The Key of Lisp", has faded away into charred embers. Others are merely recovering from summer sunburn. This is our smallest issue so far. There are two possibilities: either we're coming out too often to correctly serve the community, or this is a temporary lull which all of you out there are about to solve by sending us articles, letters, contributions to departments, or just plain zanies. Opinions are solicited. Of course, testimonials are not exactly unloved either.

We are still in need of sponsors for future issues. If you think that your company would be interested, please contact me as soon as possible. This is the last issue for which we have sponsors.

My apologies to JonL. I forgot to put his name on the cover after his article "Address/Memory Management For a Gigantic LISP Environment or, GC Considered Harmful." It was noted by David Wise that there is a question about the rightness of adding the copyright to the bottom of his article. That's me, too. What I'm always trying to do is make sure there's no question of copyright coming to Lisp Pointers. In the case of JonL's paper, it previously appeared in the Proceedings of the 1980 Lisp Conference. The copyright on that article was given to a standalone conference which has no existence today. When the proceedings was reprinted by ACM, they didn't claim copyright. My assumption was that copyright was still with JonL so I told him to put it on the article. There have not been many sales of the Lisp Conference Proceeding reprints. If you're interested, you can contact ACM. We'll put an order form for them in the next issue to make it easier for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary S. Van Deusen".

Mary S. Van Deusen, Editor

Dear Mary,

EXPORTING TYPE DECLARATION INFORMATION

I have ported a fair amount of Common Lisp code across machines of differing architectures and differing implementations. Most of the code originates on a Symbolics. One of my early 'discoveries' was that type declarations, which were somewhat useless on a special purpose architecture, were vital on general purpose RISC and CISC architecture machines. In retrospect, this is an obvious insight.

What isn't so obvious is WHAT to declare. I have engaged in 'experimental computer science' when porting code. That is, I have spent a lot of time disassembling code to decide what effect, if any, particular declarations have had on my code. I have found apparently strong declarations, like `INLINE`, ignored and apparently simple declarations, like `FIXNUM`, to have massive effects. Again, all of this is obvious.

What isn't obvious is why implementations do not include a section on 'EFFECTS OF TYPE DECLARATIONS'. This would explain what declarations the compiler is looking for and will use in optimizations. Why must I engage in experimental computer science?

Tim Daly
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Regards, Tim Daly

From: Randy Parker <Randy@JASPER.Palladian.COM >
Subject: Letter to the Editor: kudos to your technical editor
To: maida@ibm.com

Mary,

Just wanted to let you know what a pleasure it was to work with you and JonL on the Lisp Pointers article. I'd especially like to commend JonL on his efforts in working with an unexperienced author like myself. If I had known things would go so smoothly, it probably wouldn't have taken so long for me to get around to writing it.

Besides providing me with sufficient motivation to write the paper, he was willing to work closely with me, reviewing several drafts and even going so far as to hack LaTeX to get the final copy looking just right on his printer. His comments showed not only careful examination of the paper's construction, but also the breadth and depth of his expertise in this domain. In addition he was able to connect me with other researchers working on similar systems.

I have thanked JonL personally but I think he deserves more public recognition for his efforts in making Lisp Pointers a high-quality technical forum.

--Randy

SPONSORSHIP OF LISP POINTERS

Lisp Pointers is a non-profit publication created by the Lisp community for the Lisp community. Currently, Lisp Pointers is not affiliated with any organization. For this reason, it is dependent upon the sponsorship of companies interested in Lisp for its publication.

The following companies have in the past, or are currently, sponsoring Lisp Pointers:

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Lisp Pointers is a newsletter, that is, it contains technical articles which are not refereed and which, therefore, may be republished in other technically refereed journals later. Lisp Pointers is a forum for preliminary papers, as well as for the fast interchange of ideas. As well as technical articles, Lisp Pointers contains columns and departments, such as the following:

Query IO - The Scheme of Things - International News - Programming Environments
Book Reviews - Lisp Implementations ((lambda (discussions) (report on X3J13)))

Sponsors are permanently listed on the back cover of Lisp Pointers. We do this to thank those companies who have joined us in producing a publication which we think is both needed and wanted by this important research and production community.

Because no organization is involved, the board running Lisp Pointers tends to be very conservative both legally and financially. A disclaimer for a sponsor company appears on the inside front cover. The disclaimer for the first issue reads as follows:

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Sponsorship involves the commitment to cover cost and work involved in the printing and distribution of a single issue of Lisp Pointers. The editor creates a camera-ready copy which is sent to the sponsoring company. The sponsor arranges for the duplication and mailing of the issue. Cost to the sponsoring company is dependent upon the size of the mailing list, which will increase over time, the access to inhouse duplication facilities, the size of the issue, and the cost of mailing to subscribers within the US. **INRIA has accepted permanent sponsorship of all non-US subscribers.** The number of US subscribers was approximately 500 for the first issue, 600 for the second issue, 700 for the third issue, and is estimated to be about 800 for the fourth issue. In addition to the number printed and mailed, the sponsor is asked to print an additional 150-200 copies which are used to satisfy requests for backorders. The first issue was 60 pages long. The size of the second issue was 48 pages. The size of the third issue was 56 pages. Your mailroom should be able to estimate the cost of mailing out each issue.

At the time this letter is being sent to you, we are looking for sponsors for issues 5 and beyond. Lisp Pointers is published six times per year on a regular schedule.