

# Minutes for SCC meeting of October 18, 2006

## by Paul McJones

### Attending

Jonathan Cheyer  
Henry Gladney  
Kathe Gust  
Phil Gust  
Rebekah Kim  
Al Kossow

Paul McJones  
Randy Neff  
Bernard Peuto  
Eric Petrich  
Mike Powell  
Dave Redell,

Paula Newman  
Fritz Schneider  
Len Shustek  
Dick Toepfer

### Wiki Wednesday

Bernard Peuto and Mike Powell made a presentation at the October [Wiki Wednesday](#) hosted by [Socialtext](#) in Palo Alto. There were 20-30 people attending, many of whom were not very aware of CHM.

Wikis such as Wikipedia are typically described as very loosely constituted and very bottoms-up. But in practice, a small number of people do a tremendous amount of work (and are essential to overall effort), but there is a "long tail" of people who do participate at some level -- e.g., editing.

Wikipedia has ~100 core contributors (up from about a dozen who iterated to get structure, basic rules). They find it takes about 5000 articles in a new language edition of Wikipedia before it gets critical mass and really takes off.

Differences between Wikipedia model and what we might do for source preservation: while in principle any person can change any entry of Wikipedia, in practice because of their large scale, they have a "court process" for dispute resolution; records of previous decisions. Mike conjectures we may want a more structured process.

Bernard noted that [Peter Kaminski](#), the Socialtext CTO provided a lot of insight into the process of bootstrapping a new wiki. A typical starting point is having a few deep "silos" written by some individuals, which then leads to others stepping up to look at the silos, suggesting new structures for them, and starting to add additional information.

Al mentioned the Citizendium project (<http://www.citizendium.org/>), which plans to build an alternative to the Wikiepedia but with a smaller number of expert authors and editors.

Bernard notes that the content of the Wikipedia itself is licensed under the [GNU Documentation License](#) and we are free to make use of Wikipedia articles if we believe it would help us bootstrap. Phil asked whether it would be better to embed our articles and content within the Wikipedia.

### Renaming the SCC

As of the time of this meeting, Bernard had been "off the net" and unable to read the

responses to his message "Re-Naming the SCC" of October 17. Issues: better recognition for what we actually do (collect vs. preserve), our relationship to the Museum, and our desire to work with other individuals and groups outside of the Museum. There seems to be reasonable consensus about switching from "Software Collection" to "Software Preservation", but there's a lot of controversy about the final aspect: Committee, etc. Al expressed a strong preference for using the same terminology as the other groups within CHM, namely "Special Interest Group" (SIG). Bernard agreed it would be worthwhile having consistent terminology, but expressed a strong distaste for "SIG" in particular. Dave suggested "... Initiative". Some people liked "... Alliance", but that perhaps doesn't put enough emphasis on the role of this museum and its volunteers, relative to outside groups.

Regarding visibility, Len Shustek emphasized he would like to stick with a single domain name for the Museum and all its activities: computerhistory.org. He suggested, though, dedicating top-level subdirectories such as computerhistory.org/software/ for groups like the Software Preservation <group>.

### **Al Kossow: CHM activities**

Last month a large activity involved the SDS 900 machines: taking inventory software and documents.

Early next month a huge collection will arrive from Germany: a 40-foot cargo container of unsorted documentation and software in various media. There will also be six containers filled with hardware. These will probably remain sealed for a year (in offsite storage).

### **Henry Gladney: SNOBOL**

Henry presented a DVD with ~65000 files from University of Arizona to Al: Snobol and Icon, plus many papers from Ralph Griswold, who passed away about three weeks ago. Henry found two volunteers: Greg Townsend (worked in U. of Arizona Computer Science Department with Griswold) and Mark Emmer (who has a small consulting company in Colorado) has [www.snobol4.com](http://www.snobol4.com). Griswold gave his personal papers to a museum in Wisconsin.

### **Dick Toepfer: Convergent Technologies**

Starting to work with Allison Akbay; located an Engine; Nadia Ilyin is contacting Convergent software people but hasn't found volunteers yet. Their quarterly meeting of alumni is coming up in a few weeks, and will canvass members with respect to things people may still have.

### **Bernard: System R**

As soon as we get the licences that [Roy Levin](#) has championed at Microsoft, we'll present them to the IBM lawyers. Len has seen drafts of the Microsoft documents, and is very impressed at how non-restrictive they are.

### **Jonathen Cheyer: NLS**

They recently determined which pinout type (A) the NLS keyset at the Museum was; they also checked out the Alto keysets at CHM. Three of these turned out to be in perfect

working condition; the fourth had some dead keys (probably fixable). They are donating the cable adaptors to CHM. A version of the terminal emulator has been ported to a version of Smalltalk for which there is a freely-available cross-platform runtime. They'll work with the CHM executive committee to get the final approval for distributing the NLS software.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Conf Room</b>
<b>2006</b>			
No November or December meetings			
<b>2007</b>			
Wednesday	January 17	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Hopper.
Wednesday	February 21	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Hopper
Wednesday	March 21	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Hopper.
Wednesday	April 25	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Hopper
Wednesday	May 16	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Hopper.
Wednesday	June 20	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Hopper
Wednesday	July 18	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Hopper
Wednesday	August 15	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Hopper
Wednesday	September 26	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Hopper
Wednesday	October 17	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm,	Hopper
Wednesday	November 14	5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Hopper.
(no December Meeting)			