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M Computing is published by MUMPS Users' Group trading as M Technology Association, Suite 205, 1738 Elton Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20903. Phone: 301-431-4070, Fax: 301-431-0017.

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FROM THE EDITOR

by Valerie J. Harvey

Of Lists, Wishes, Risks, and Other Things



Valerie J. Harvey

As I gathered ideas and materials in planning this first 1997 issue of *M Computing*, I sent out the following invitation to the M newsgroup (comp.lang.mumps): "I am looking for quotes and brief statements, from leaders, thinkers, doers, (that's right, all levels!) in and of interest to the M community for a section on brief statements of ideas and for possible use in editorials." I am determined to see a productive symbiosis between *M Computing* and the various online resources (comp.lang.mumps, web sites, online journals). Thanks to Alan Frank, James Self, Ellis Bauman, Ben Bishop, Marc Alan Asher, Art Smith and others for their contributions.

My wishes for *M* Computing include an interchange of ideas with online resources to assure that the journal responds quickly to ideas, questions, and topics. Some of our colleagues are willing to share their remarks in the interactive forum but do not find it feasible to generate a formal article. I am exploring various ways of including the vitality of what goes on in cyberspace. One approach is to create an article for and with the newsgroup participants beginning with a collage of post excerpts on interesting, technical topics and working toward an integrated article. Proceeding this way should (1) give people with valuable ideas and insights a chance for publication and (2) give all of us the benefit of building on their initiatives as they gain wider and more formal circulation.

We should recall that our journal is itself an interface to the rest of information technology, computer science, and other fields. If we want to see the value of M Technology recognized in the mainstream, we should also realize that indexing of technical articles published in this journal is a vital route to that recognition.

During the past few months, I have sought advice on *M Computing* at the Toronto MDC meeting, from M vendors, from MTA Board members, from newsgroup subscribers, and others. The following advice will serve as a guideline:

1. Maintain the journal's role as a unique source of technical information about M Technology and for users of the technology, subject to peer review.

2. Assure that the symbiosis of M and other information technologies receives adequate attention among the mix of topics for technical articles; this can be done both by including technical articles on M and another technology being used together and by featuring articles on the "other" technologies of greatest interest to M system vendors and users.

3. Meet the needs of management in M user organizations by including articles and editorials that deal with the use of M Technology from a management standpoint; some encouraged me to imagine the kind of publication they would like to take with them to a new company or agency that was considering adopting this technology.

4. Respond to international needs; realize that many M system vendors and M user organizations operate in an international market.

5. Consider what the journal needs to present in order to be read, consulted, and subscribed to.

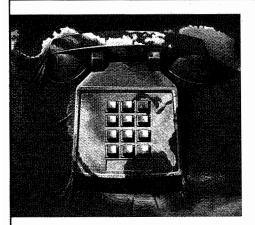
If we follow these guidelines carefully and make an effort to include input from all of the M community, then we should see *M Computing* become an even more useful, well-balanced technical publication that truly promotes M Technology and serves the M community worldwide.

Valerie J. Harvey, Ph.D., is a professor at Robert Morris College in Pennsylvania and the executive editor of M Computing. Write to her in care of MTA's managing editor or email to: harvey@rmcnet.robert.morris.edu SENIOR MARKETING We have an immediate opening for a Senior Marketing Writer in our Corporate Marketing Department. In this highly visible position, the selected candidate technical marketing collateral, including brochures, product information sheets, and PowerPoint and CD-ROM presentations. Applicants must possess several years of technical/ marketing writing experience. Knowledge of M, client/server, transaction-processing database technology and the Internet are required. Please send writing samples that demonstrate technical marketing writing ability. Job Code: SMW Join a Leader in Client/Server Database Technology InterSystems is a leading provider of database management systems and related software, specializing in high-performance, transaction-processing solutions for client/server applications. Open M, our rapid application development environment and highperformance database, enables our customer base to develop and deploy complex client/server applications that function at extremely high levels of performance. InterSystems is rariked among the 100 leading software vendors in the U.S. and has sales operations in more than 20 countries. For more information about InterSystems, browse our web site at www.intersys.com InterSystems offers competitive salaries and excellent benefits. Please send resume, referencing Job Code: SMW to: InterSystems Corporation, Attn: Human Resources One Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02142, Fax: (617) 494-1631, Email: hr@intersys.com. An equal opportunity employer. All trademarks are property of their respective companies

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