
Preface

The computing language Forth has been in existence and in use since 1968. While heavily used in a number of areas, such as astronomy, machine and process control, and the development of arcade and video games, Forth has not been widely known or understood as a software tool. Recently, several excellent introductory texts have been published, as well as articles in popular and trade magazines. However, there is still a scarcity of more advanced technical material on the application and uses of Forth.

In 1982, the Institute for Applied Forth Research, Inc. was chartered to answer this need. The Institute's chartered purposes are:

- a) To promote the application of current Forth research to scientific and industrial problems through publications, seminars, conferences, and other means for the exchange of ideas, techniques, and information.
- b) To promote and facilitate the exchange of information about new work in Forth among the academic, industrial, and commercial sectors.
- c) To foster communication among various groups and individuals using Forth.
- d) To publish on a periodic basis a scholarly journal containing articles and commentary on Forth and its application.

As an independent non-profit organization the Institute provides information about the work being done with Forth without being tied to specific implementations, products, or proprietary materials. Among its programs are the annual Rochester Forth Conferences, the Forth Citation Index, student research and exchanges, and the publication of the *Journal of Forth Application and Research*.

The Institute is proud to present the first issue of the *Journal*, a refereed technical periodical devoted to presenting applications of Forth, new developments and techniques in the use of Forth, and surveys of specific areas of Forth.

The *Journal* has been in the works for nearly two years, and is the result of a great deal of work on the part of many people in the Forth community. The editors, referees, and authors have made the *Journal* possible. Many other people also encouraged, made suggestions, and helped to put the first issue together.

Specifically, I would like to thank Kim Harris, the *Journal's* first and unflagging supporter; Glen Haydon, Larry Forsley, and Hans Nieuwenhuijzen, the directors and officers of the Institute; Roy Martens, who dispensed advice and guidance on publishing matters; Nick Solntseff, whose familiarity with similar publications provided insights; Peter Helmers, who is always available to opine on technical matters; Larry Forsley again, who undertook the difficult task of guest-editing the first issue; the authors, who were very patient with requests for revisions, figures, and more revisions; and the reviewers, who had to figure out just how to critique papers on Forth applications.

On the production side, the *Journal* would not have been possible without the effort and expertise of Jonathan Ross, the managing editor, who has been working on this project since February, and is responsible for its production. In addition, the design is the work of Ginna Hopkins; the drawings were done by Rebecca Sizer, the typesetting by Rochester General Graphics. The production was arranged by Jay Marathe, of Riverside Book Bindery and the Rochester FIG group.

We are very grateful to the sponsors whose contributions kept the project alive in its early stages. The Forth Interest Group was the first sponsor, and we especially appreciate the support of the FIG board in this endeavor. The other sponsors are the Eastman Kodak Company, Miller Microcomputer Services, Mountain View Press, Gregory Louis, and Robbie Spruitt. We thank them.

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