Core War: March 1984 - March 1994

THE CORE WAR *NEWSLETTER*

The Official Newsletter of the International Core War Society
Celebrating Ten Years of Core War

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Annual State of the Society Address

by Jon Newman

I am now searching for someone to take my place as Director of the ICWS. I expect the search and election to take place over the next two to three Newsletters. If you are interested, please contact me by mail or email.

I have been Director of the ICWS for about two years, and this is the seventh Newsletter to appear in that time. I have enjoyed working with you all, but I have been less and less involved with actual Core War activity over the past months, and I feel that I will not be able to devote the time and energy which this organization deserves. I will continue as Director until a new Director is elected.

The duties of the Director include:

- Editing and distributing the Core War Newsletter and other ICWS publications
- Answering ICWS mail
- Maintaining the membership database
- Holding the annual Tournament

and other creative activities to promote Core War.

The strongest trend I have observed over the past few years is the shift of Core War enthusiasts from the ICWS to "the Net." The Society's membership is down from over 100 to around 20 paying members, largely because many people who would otherwise join the ICWS to get the Newsletter, can get the same information from the international computer networks, faster and (nearly) for free.

I do not oppose this trend, but I do believe that it is important to maintain a healthy ICWS for those who do not yet have access to this network. The ICWS does not need money to provide these Core Warriors with paper copies of our documents, and this eliminates the need for official "membership." I believe that we have an opportunity to streamline the ICWS, to concentrate our efforts on the important tasks ahead and reduce the overhead of dues, membership and the chores connected with paper mailings.

This seems like a good time to go over the promises I made in Spring of 1992, and see how well I have honored them:

• Current ICWS Memberships:
I have honored all ICWS memberships carried over from Mr. Buckley's administration, as promised.

• Regular publication:
I promised to send out four issues of TCWN per year, and have more or less succeeded. This would not have been possible without the efforts of Mark Durham and of the contributors to TCWN.

Each Newsletter has been a little bit more late than the last, but still, this is the seventh Newsletter in two years, as many as appeared in the previous four years. The cumulative slippage cost a total of one issue; this is the Winter 1994 issue, there will be no Fall 1993 issue. Of course, memberships are extended to cover four issues regardless of the publication delay.

• Tournament:
The Tournament has been held every winter, as promised.

• Branch Sections:
The ICWS's relationship with its Branch Sections is technically unchanged, although most of the Branch Sections have withered away, with the exception of the thriving Electronic Branch Section.

• Membership Fee:
The membership fee of US$15 has proved sufficient to cover costs, and even to allow a slight surplus.

• ICWS '88 Standard:
The Standard has been delivered to all members, as promised.

While these promises have been honored, the projects I mentioned have not gone so well:

• Simulator Certification:
We have a few tests but still no official procedure.

• Electronic Data Transfer:
The Big Disk of Core War is out, thanks to Stefan Strack.

• Core War Standards:
Activity on the '94 Standard has fallen off sharply, and it

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The 1993 Annual ICWS Tournament

by Jon Newman

This year's Tournament was a close race between three past contenders, Anders Ivner, Paul Kline, and Stefan Strack. It is interesting to note that the winning fighter, Cannonade, is more than 60 instructions long, clearly showing that sophistication can win out over small footprints.

As a special inducement, I allowed non-ICWS members to participate this year, and offered prizes to the winners: US$35 for first place, US$15 for second, plus one year of ICWS membership for the top three.

```
;name Cannonade
;author Paul Kline
;strategy stone completes a
;near-mod-5 bombing run and
;does a core-clear
;gate-busting imp-
;spiral is backup in case
;stone is busted
impsize2 equ 2731
impsize1 equ 2732
offset1  equ 1833-impsize2
offset2  equ offset1+15
offset3  equ offset1+15+2
decst    equ 400-(start*57)
stinc    equ 161
start    mov imp1,imp1+
                  offset2+5
         mov imp1,<start
         mov imp1,<start
         mov imp1,<start
         mov imp1,<start
         mov imp2,imp1+
                  offset1+
                  impsize2
         mov <copystf,
                  copystf
                  -751
         mov <copystf,
                  <copystt
         mov <copystf,
                  <copystt
         mov <copystf,
                  <copystt
         spl @copystt,<decst
         mov <copystf,
                  <copystt
         spl lnch1,<decst
         spl lnch3,<decst

lnch2    spl lnch2b,<decst
lnch2a   spl lnch2ab,<decst
lnch2aa  spl 2,<decst
         jmp
imp1+offset2+(impsize1*0),
                  <decst
         jmp
imp1+offset2+(impsize1*1),
                  <decst
lnch2ab  spl 2,<decst
         jmp
imp1+offset2+(impsize1*2),
                  <decst
         jmp
imp1+offset2+(impsize1*3),
                  <decst
lnch2b   spl lnch2bb,<decst
lnch2ba  spl 2,<decst
         jmp
imp1+offset2+(impsize1*4),
                  <decst
         jmp
imp1+offset2+(impsize1*5),
                  <decst
lnch2bb  spl 2,<decst
         jmp
imp1+offset2+(impsize1*6),
                  <decst
         jmp
imp1+offset2+(impsize1*7),
                  <decst
```

```
lnch3    spl lnch3b,<decst
lnch3a   spl lnch3ab,<decst
lnch3aa  spl 2,<decst
         jmp
imp1+offset3+(impsize1*0),
                  <decst
         jmp
imp1+offset3+(impsize1*1),
                  <decst
lnch3ab  spl 2,<decst
         jmp
imp1+offset3+(impsize1*2),
                  <decst
         jmp
imp1+offset3+(impsize1*3),
                  <decst
lnch3b   spl lnch3bb,<decst
lnch3ba  spl 2,<decst
         jmp
imp1+offset3+(impsize1*4),
                  <decst
         jmp
imp1+offset3+(impsize1*5),
                  <decst
lnch3bb  spl 2,<decst
         jmp
imp1+offset3+(impsize1*6),
                  <decst
         jmp
imp1+offset3+(impsize1*7),
                  <decst

lnch1    spl lnch1b,<decst
lnch1a   spl lnch1ab,<decst
lnch1aa  spl 2,<decst
         jmp
imp1+offset1+(impsize2*1),
                  <decst
         jmp
imp1+offset1+(impsize2*2),
                  <decst
lnch1ab  spl 2,<decst
         jmp
imp1+offset1+(impsize2*3),
                  <decst
         jmp
imp1+offset1+(impsize2*4),
                  <decst
lnch1b   spl lnch1bb,<decst
lnch1ba  spl 2,<decst
         jmp
imp1+offset1+(impsize2*5),
                  <decst
         jmp
imp1+offset1+(impsize2*6),
                  <decst
lnch1bb  spl 2,<decst
         jmp
imp1+offset1+(impsize2*7),
                  <decst
         jmp
imp1+offset1+(impsize2*8),
                  <decst

imp2     mov 0,impsize2
imp1     mov 0,impsize1

stone    mov <stspl+5-
                    (stinc*610),
            stspl+(stinc*610)
stspl    spl -1,<5143+1
stadd    add 3,stone
         djn -2,<stspl+
                     5143+1
inc      mov stinc,<-stinc
copystf  dat #0
copystt  dat #copystf-752
         mov 0,2731
         mov 0,2731
         mov 0,2731
```

```
        mov 0,2731
        mov 0,2731
        mov 0,2731
        mov 0,2731
        mov 0,2731
        mov 0,2731
        mov 0,2731
        mov 0,2731
        mov 0,2731
        end start
```

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

```
;name Agony T
;author Stefan Strack
;strategy Small-interval CMP
;scanner that bombs with a
;SPL 0 carpet.
;strategy 2.0: smaller
;strategy 2.1: larger, but
;should tie less; changed
;scan constants
;strategy 2.2a: smaller
;strategy 2.3a: mutagenizes
;core
;strategy 2.4: smaller CMP
;interval, spends less time
;bombing
;strategy 2.4b: mutagenize
;constant optimized
;strategy 3.0: long scan
;with anti-imp constants (a
;la Charon v8.0+)
;strategy 3.1: zero bfield
;bombs again: more robust
;strategy T: version 8192
;core (ICWST'94)
;strategy Submitted: @date@

CDIST   equ 12
IVAL    equ 25
FIRST   equ scan+OFFSET+IVAL
OFFSET  equ (12*IVAL)
DJNOFF  equ 7437

scan    sub incr,comp
comp    cmp FIRST-
                CDIST,FIRST
        slt #incr-comp+CDIST
         +(bptr-comp)+1,comp
        djn scan,
              <FIRST+DJNOFF
        mov #CDIST+(bptr-
              comp)+1, count
        mov comp,bptr
bptr    dat #0
split   mov bomb,<bptr
count   djn split,#0
        jmz scan,scan-1
bomb    spl 0,<0-IVAL+1
        mov incr,<count
incr    dat <0-IVAL,<0-IVAL
        end comp
```

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State of the Society Address (cont.)

may in fact not be ready in 1994. *[Editor's Note: This situation has recently changed. See* Electronic Update *in this issue.]*

• Other Programming Games: The Big Disk of Core War contains a copy of PC-Robots, but other than that no real ties have been established.

I hope that the new Director will be able to build on our successes.

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This Space Reserved!

Reserved for your contribution, that is. Of course, if you have more to say we will give you as much room as you need to say it in. Until then, consider this space your very own!
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Electronic Update

by Mark A. Durham

The Electronic Branch Section is as active as ever. The draft standard continues to be revised and refined. And now, it is even being tested!

Yes, Draft '94 versions of Core War are now available off of the Core War archive on soda.berkeley.edu. There is also a "King of the Hill"-type tournament using the draft rules on koth@stormking.com.

The biggest news for those of you with electronic mail but no access to USENET is the new Core War mailing list on stormking.com. To subscribe, send a message of:

`SUB COREWAR-L` *first lastname*

to listpro@stormking.com. The mailing list will send you all of the postings from rec.games.corewar and you can even post to rec.games.corewar through the same address.

The CoreWar mailing list, King of the Hill tournaments, and other activities on stormking are all administered by Scott J. Ellentuch. Write to him at tuc@stormking.com.

The MADgic Corner

Welcome back to my little corner of the newsletter. Actually, I was the one who was away. I am very pleased to be able to return as Editor for this issue.

Mostly, this is just an opportunity to beg for submission(s). The newsletter needs your input to fill out its pages. If you do not have material, but you do know what you would like to see in the newsletter, please let us know. We want to hear from you.

If your address label has a (0) on it, this will be the last you hear from us however. Please renew your ICWS membership now and preserve your chance to vote on the upcoming draft standard and the new Director, as well as keep your supply of newsletters replenished!

As you may have noticed, this issue marks the Tenth Anniversary of the original Core War Guidelines by Jones and Dewdney. This May will be the Tenth Anniversary of Core War's first appearance in *Scientific American*. If you have any special memories of the past decade or have an idea about how to celebrate this milestone, please let us know.

The Core War Newsletter

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AMRAN
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William R. Buckley
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International Core War Society

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