

VM AND THE VM COMMUNITY: Past, Present, and Future

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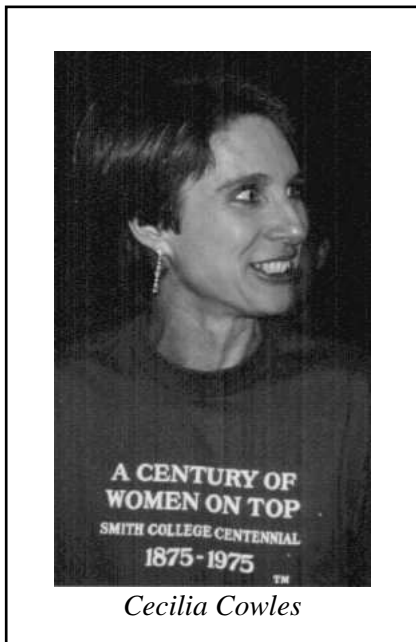
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I. INTRODUCTION

I will be talking today about the past, present, and future of VM, with an emphasis on the influence of the VM community on the growth of the VM product.

This paper was originally presented at Australasian SHARE/GUIDE in Melbourne in 1989. My husband Lee and I had a delightful time at ASG and are most grateful to ASG for being our host in Australia and to SHARE for giving us the opportunity to represent it there.



Cecilia Cowles

When I spoke at ASG, I began by conveying greetings from the President of SHARE, Cecilia Cowles. I will do that again today, because the pictures are too good not to use again.

In the past, when I've spoken at SHARE and SEAS, my talks have been strictly technical. This talk was the first time I'd been asked to give my opinions, so you may find that you get more opinion than you wanted. Certainly, I should make sure you understand that my views are not necessarily those of my management (and are sometimes not those of SHARE management either).

I must also ask you in advance to forgive me my ethnocentricity. Though I speak of "*the* VM community", I realize that there are actually several overlapping communities of VM people, located in different parts of the world, both inside and outside of IBM. For the most part, I will be speaking of the community of which I'm a long-time member, whose center is the VM SHARE

electronic conference. This community overlaps heavily with SHARE and SEAS, with the annual VM Workshops in North America, and with various regional VM user groups. It includes many participants from IBM as well.

I'll be showing you pictures of some members of this community, but because there's not nearly enough time to show all the people who have made outstanding contributions to VM and to the VM community, my choice of who to show was semi-random, depending a lot on which pictures I was able to get. I owe thanks to many photographers who lent me their pictures, but especially to Joe Morris of SHARE and Stuart McRae of SEAS.¹ I am also indebted to Sandra Hassenplug and John Hartmann for their assistance in preparing slides, as well as to several of my colleagues at Princeton.



Joe Morris



Stuart McRae



Sandra Hassenplug

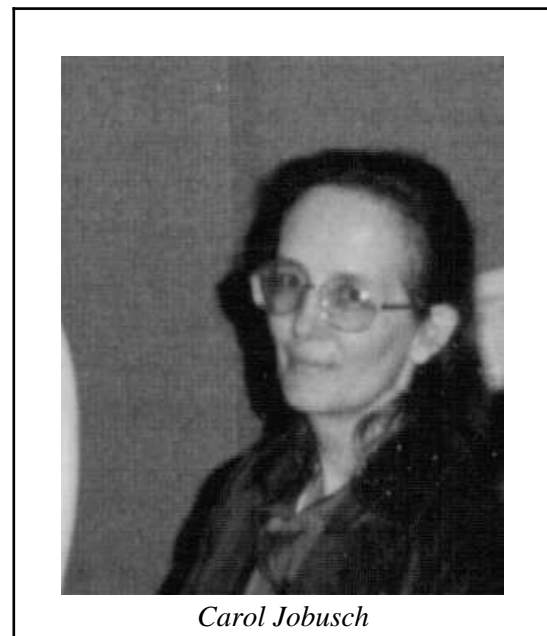
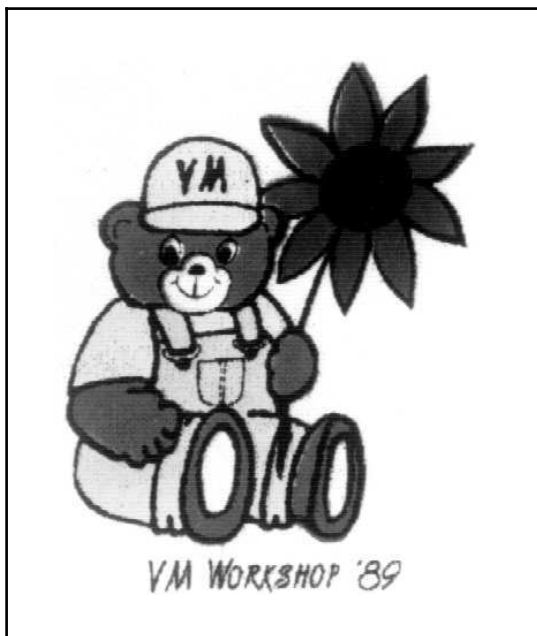
¹ I am grateful to the many people who succumbed good-naturedly when I badgered them for photographs. I wish particularly to thank Bob Creasy, Adenah DeAngelis, Jerry DePass, Walt Doherty, Lyn Hadley, Ed Hendricks, Peter and Carol Jobusch, Ted Johnston, Ken Holt, John Shaw, Dave Tuttle, Lee Varian, John Wagner, Lynn Wheeler, Rich Wiggins, and Joan Winters.



I should probably also explain the iconography I'll be using. For many years, the SHARE VM Group lamented the fact that VM had no symbol, no totem. A couple of attempts were made to select one, but they fell flat, because, of course, such things can't be mandated. Meanwhile, the MVS Group had the turkey (which they chose of their own volition), and they went around wearing turkey hats and putting turkey stickers on elevator doors, and so on. The legend is that the MVS Performance Project began using the turkey as a symbol in the early days when MVS performance was definitely a turkey, and the symbol soon got extrapolated to the whole MVS Group.



With VM's amazing growth, the VM Group in SHARE has always had a problem making newcomers feel at home, simply because they always outnumber the oldtimers. In 1983, the Group was going through yet another attempt to overcome this problem, and it was decided that at SHARE 60 we would hand out little square yellow stickers to newcomers to the VM Group and little square blue stickers to oldtimers, with the idea that if they all put the stickers on their badges, the oldtimers could identify the newcomers and help make them feel at home. The problem with that, of course, was that nobody could remember which sticker was which, so it didn't work out at all. A couple of days into that week, however, Carol Jobusch bought a few hundred teddy bear stickers, with the idea of affixing them to the cuddler of the oldtimers so that the newcomers would know that here was a warm cuddly person who ran *the* warm cuddly system and who could be counted on to be friendly if approached. Within hours, the teddy bear had become the *de facto* symbol for VM, and everybody in the VM Group, old or new, cuddly or prickly, was wearing a teddy bear on his badge. (The Jobusches subsequently got a 50-KB roll of stickers, to keep SHARE well supplied.)

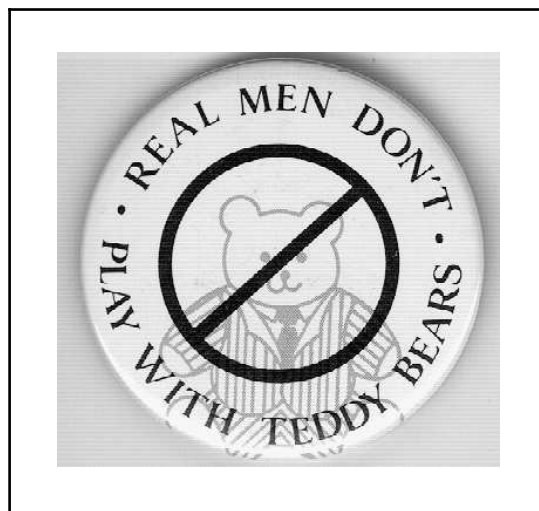


Carol Jobusch

One rather strange result of all this has been that the offices of many hard-bitten system programmers are now full of teddy bears.



However, even without being reminded of it by the MVS Group, we would have been careful not to let our arctophilia degenerate into icky sweetness.



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