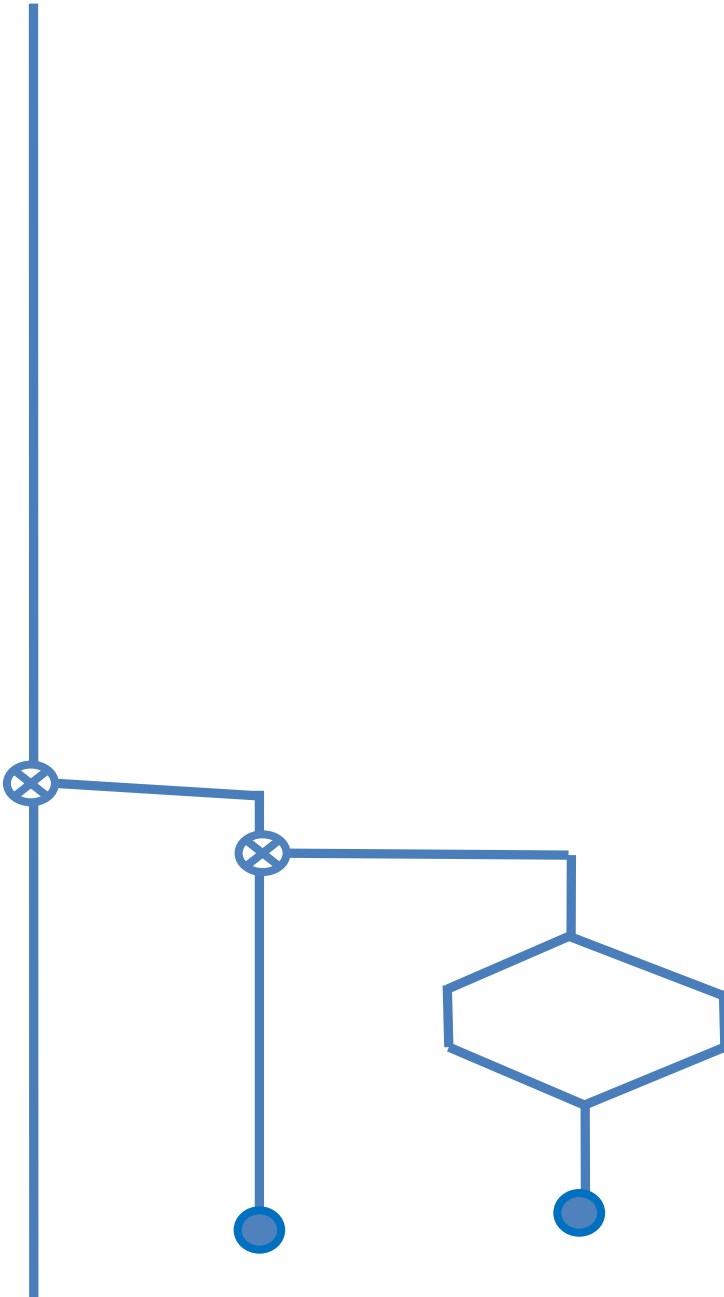


# The Forth Archives

Silicon Valley Forth  
Interest Group

Jan. 27, 2024

Bill Ragsdale



# A Bold Statement

**No other computer language has  
the breadth and depth of  
information and history archive as  
does Forth.**

# You Will Gain

- Access to  $5 * 6 * 21 = 620$  examples and lessons on Forth from Forth Dimensions.
- Retrieval by subject and author.
- The sides and notes of every SVFIG meeting for the last 22 years.
- Video of every SVFIG meeting over the last 16 years.
- JFAR, FORML, Rochester Conf. and EuroForth linkages.

# The Background

We organized the Forth Interest Group in 1978 as a self-help group for hobby computerists.

Dave Boulton

John James

Kim Harris

Bill Ragsdale

Dave Kilbridge



The original FIG Five (l. to r.): Kim Harris, Dave Boulton, Bill Ragsdale, John James, and Dave Kilbridge.

# The Background

- In June/July 1978 we published the first edition of Forth Dimensions.
- Continued to 1999, 23 years, 21 volumes.
- This opened the door to a flood of Forth based publications and records over 46 years.

# The Archive

- *Forth Dimensions*, 1978 to 1999.
- *Vierte Dimension*, German, 1984 to the present.
- *Journal of Forth Application and Research*.
- FORML Conference Proceedings, 1980 - 1992
- EuroForth Conference, 1985 to present.
- SVFIG Meeting Videos, 2008 to present.
- SVFIG Meeting slides/PDF, 1999 to present.

# Resource Material, Forth.org

Keyword and Author index of Volumes 1 -15. [pdf](#) – [Word](#)

Author index of Volumes 1 -15. [pdf](#)

Scanned Table of Contents from Volumes 16 - 20. [pdf](#)

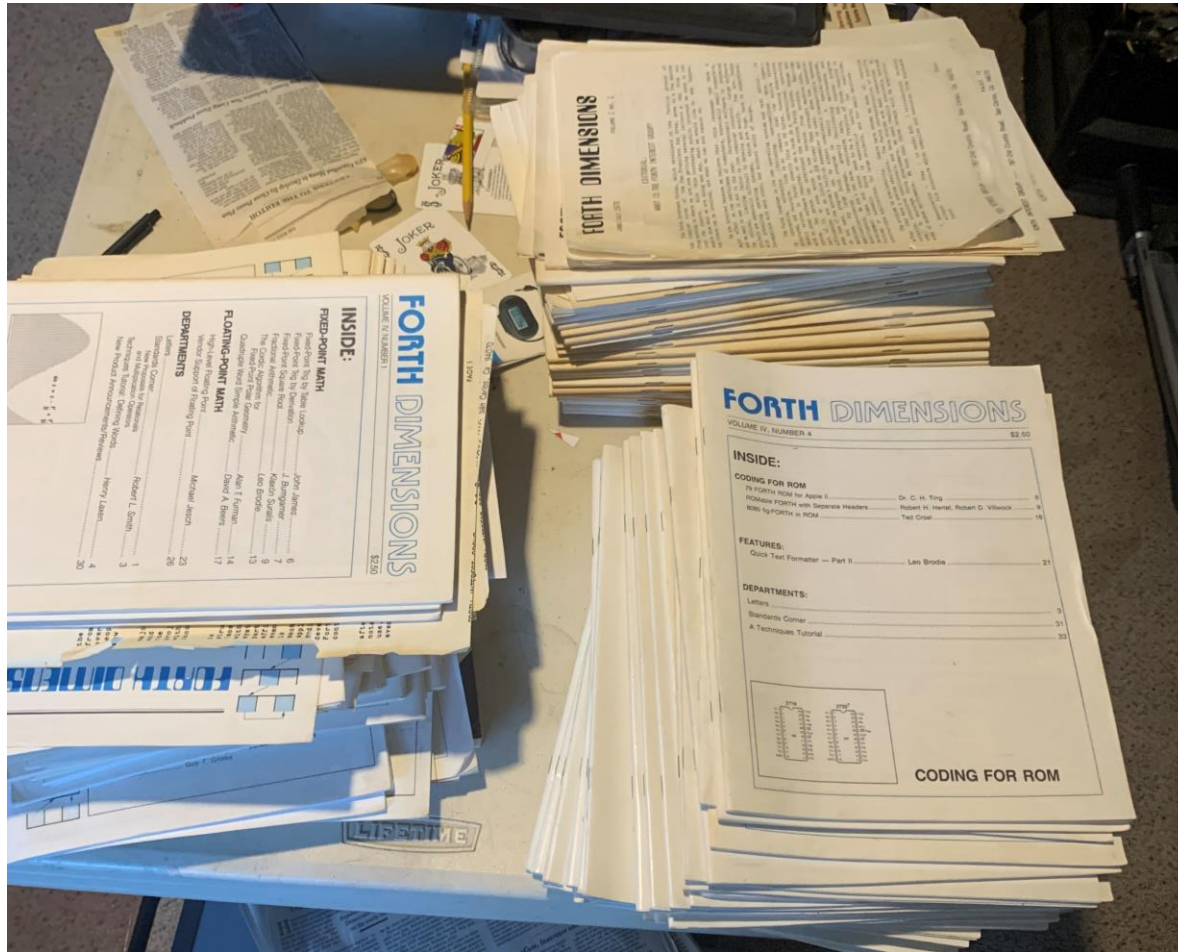
[Scanned issues of Volumes 1 - 20](#)

Last unpublished issue of *Forth Dimensions* - [here](#)

<http://www.archive.org>

search Forth Dimensions

# My Forth Dimensions Library



**FORTH DIMENSIONS**  
VOLUME II, NUMBER 1  
\$2.50

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**CODING FOR ROM**





# FORTH DIMENSIONS

JUNE/JULY 1978

VOLUME 1 NO. 1

## EDITORIAL: WHAT IS THE FORTH INTEREST GROUP?

The Forth Interest Group, which developed in the fertile ground of the computer clubs of the San Francisco Bay Area, grew in a few months from nothing to where we are now getting several letters a day from all over the country. With this increasing public interest we need to let people know what we are doing and why, what we would like to see happen, how others can be involved, and what we can and cannot do.

We are involved because we believe that this language can have a major effect on the usefulness of computers, especially small computers, and we want to see it put to the test. Increasingly software is becoming the critical, limiting factor in the computer industry. Large software projects are especially difficult to develop and modify. Few are happy with prevailing operating systems, which are huge, hard to understand, incompatible with each other, and without unity of design.

The Forth language is its own operating system and text editor. It is interactive, extensible (including user-defined data types), structured, and recursive. Code is so compact that the entire system (mostly written in Forth) usually fits in 6K bytes, running stand-alone with no other software required, or as a task in a conventional operating system. One person can understand the entire Forth system, change any part of it, or even write a new version from scratch. Run-time efficiencies are as little as 30% slower than straight machine code, and even less if the system's built-in assembler is used. When the assembler is not used, programs can be almost completely transportable between machines. Any large Forth program is really a special-purpose, application-oriented language, greatly facilitating maintenance and modification. We don't yet have conclusive data, but typical program development times and costs seem to be a fraction of those required by Fortran or assembly. Forth is especially useful for real-time, control-type applications, for large projects, and for small machines.

The problem is availability. Users have shown an ease of learning after they have a system available. The Forth characteristics of postfix notation, structured conditionals, and data stacks are best understood by use. To encourage Forth programmers, we need readily available systems even of modest performance. We hope that three levels will be available:

1. Demonstration -- free ( or under \$20. ) introductory version without file structure which compiles and executes from keyboard input.

Volume 1  
No. 1  
Jun/Jul 1978

Anne Ragsdale,  
Editor

# FORTH DIMENSIONS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1978

VOLUME 1 NO. 2

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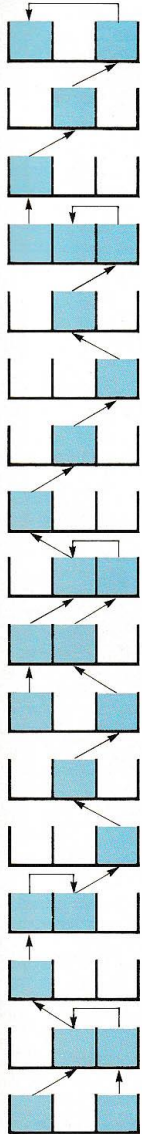
*Last Free Issue!*

SEE PAGE 22

FORTH INTEREST GROUP •••• 787 Old County Road, San Carlos, Ca. 94070

Volume 1  
No. 2  
Aug/Sep 1978

Anne Ragsdale,  
Editor



# FORTH DIMENSIONS

FORTH INTEREST GROUP  
 P.O. Box 1105  
 San Carlos, CA 94070

Volume 1  
 Number 5  
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Roy Martens,  
 Editor

# FORTH DIMENSIONS

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 1

\$2.50

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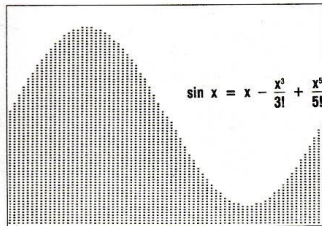
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May/June 1982

Leo Brodie,  
Editor

**FORTH**

**Dimensions**

Volume 6, Number 1

May/June 1984  
\$2.50

**fig-Forth  
Interpreters**

**New Control Structure**

**Anonymous Variables**

**Interactive Editing**

**Using Apple II's Extra RAM**

**Volume 6  
No. 1  
May/June 1984**

Marlon Ouverson,  
Editor

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 4

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1990 \$6.00

# F O R T H

D I M E N S I O N S

■  
*RELIABLE 8086 DIVISION*

*THREE NUMBER PROBLEM*

*FORTH ASSEMBLER & LABELS*

*EASY EXTENDED-PRECISION MATH*

*68000 NATIVE-CODE FORTH (III)*  
■

Volume 12  
No. 4  
Nov/Dec 1990

Marlon Ouerson,  
Editor

## Retrospection:

I cannot predict Forth's future today any more than I could when I interviewed for this position back around 1983. Then, fresh from editing Dr. *Dobbs journal* and in an oversimplification typical of the relatively young, I told the FIG Business Group in Silicon Valley that I believed Forth had not succeeded widely because it had been mismanaged.

That was a sweeping generalization and a poor choice of words, too. I still am a bit surprised they hired me. I was trying to say that the collective energy and vitality of FIG's four or five thousand members (if memory serves) was amazing but wasn't organized or used well enough to promote the language. The energy many other people interpreted as religious-style zeal was mostly turned inward, and reinventing the wheel was a much-favored pastime. Despite perpetual complaints about the general lack of acceptance of Forth, marketing simply wasn't part of the mindset. Not even a piece in *Rolling Stone*—and how many computer languages can make that claim?—had helped Forth rise much above its grass roots. But inventing and refining a language requires different skills and temperament than marketing it and running an organization.

I see no compelling technical reason now, as I saw none then, why Forth cannot serve as well as any other language and, in enough situations to matter, be the better performer.

For a few years, I've had the opportunity to work with a company where I see evidence daily that Forth has steady work in embedded systems, some amount of general application, and enough mouthwatering projects to keep things exciting. Forth is found everywhere, once you start looking. For that reason, and because Forth embodies some important philosophical aspects of programming, the Forth Interest Group has a purpose.

In my early days at *Forth Dimensions*, after Leo Brodie's departure, the number of readers ensured there usually was more material submitted than pages to print it on. We used a typesetting service, a layout and paste-up artist, and a mailing house. It was high-tech, then, to drive diskettes into town and exchange them for galleys a week later, corrections after that, followed by page proofs and more corrections. When desktop publishing came along, I found it easy enough to design and typeset while I edited; that was good, because the group's size had begun a dwindling process which has continued, although I suspect the rate of decline has decreased. The FIG office changed similarly: a smaller staff with increased efficiency and scope of duties has been brought about by circumstance and enforced by economics.

FIG has done amazingly well, long outliving most special-interest technical groups founded in the nineteen seventies. The techno-culture evolved, and such user groups no longer serve the same purposes, or else they attempt to serve purposes that no longer exist. Perhaps it is time for the Forth Interest Group to reinvent itself.

With some sense of nostalgia, I conclude this, my last editorial for *Forth Dimensions*. I have been unable to continue creating this magazine, in its current form, with the resources and time available to me. With fewer members now, much more editorial time has been required to find material to print. I hope someone will bring fresh perspective, inventiveness, and enthusiasm to the job, and I encourage you to help the Forth Interest Group's administrative staff and its board of directors to provide ways for Forth users to share technical information in a format that is both well designed and compellingly useful.

It has been a pleasure to be associated with Forth—I wish FIG, and each of you, well!

### In Memoriam

Sadly, we learned that Roy Martin died after a long battle with a brain tumor. Roy managed the business affairs of the Forth Interest Group at a time when the organization grew to around five thousand members. He also founded Mountain View Press.

In the early days of FIG, Roy participated wholeheartedly in the FIG Business Group, which directed most of FIG's activities, and he regularly conveyed an inventory of Forth books and *Forth Dimensions* to FIG chapter meetings. His influence helped shape FIG and played no small part in bringing wider attention to the Forth language. He will be missed and remembered, and we offer our sympathies to his family and friends.

Forth Dimensions  
Volume XXI, Number 1,2  
May 1999 August

Published by the  
Forth Interest Group

Editor  
Marlon Ouverson

Circulation/Order Desk  
Trace Carter

*Forth Dimensions* welcomes editorial material, letters to the editor, and comments from its readers. No responsibility is assumed for accuracy of submissions.

Subscription to *Forth Dimensions* is included with membership in the Forth Interest Group at \$45 per year (\$53 Canada/Mexico, \$60 overseas air). For membership, change of address, and to submit items for publication, the address is:

Forth Interest Group  
100 Dolores Street, suite 183  
Carmel, California 93923  
Administrative offices:  
831.37.FORTH Fax: 831.373.2845

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### The Forth Interest Group

The Forth Interest Group is the association of programmers, managers, and engineers who create practical, Forth-I based solutions to real-world needs. FIG provides a climate of intellectual exchange and benefits intended to assist each of its members. Publications, conferences, seminars, telecommunications, and area chapter meetings are among its activities.

FORTH DIMENSIONS (ISSN 0884-0822) is published bimonthly for \$45/\$53/\$60 per year by Forth Interest Group at 1340 Munras Avenue, Suite 314, Monterey CA 93940. Periodicals postage rates paid at Monterey CA and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FORTH DIMENSIONS, 100 Dolores Street, Suite 183, Carmel CA 93923-8665.

Volume 21  
No. 1,2  
Nov/Dec 1999

Last Issue

Marlon Ouverson,  
Editor

Skip Carter,  
Manager

# Forth.org Home Page

## **Forth On-line Information**

- ◇ [Open Firmware homepage](#)
- ◇ [Forth websites](#)
- ◇ [\*Forth Dimensions\*](#)
- ◇ [\*Journal of Forth Application and Research\*](#)
- ◇ [FORML Conference Article](#)  
[Referenece: 1980 - 1992](#)





# Forth Dimensions On-line Issues, V1-V20

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[Scanned issues of Volumes 1 - 20](#)

[Forth Dimensions Archive](#)

The PDF documents are viewable with **Adobe Acrobat Reader**. A copy can be downloaded from [the Adobe website](#).

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# *Forth Dimensions* Index

Volume 1, 1978 through Volume 15, 1994.

<http://www.forth.org/fd/index.pdf> for PDF or

<http://www.forth.org/fd/index.doc> for Word

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# How To Use

- Download the Forth Dimensions Index in Word “.doc” format.  
From [forth.org](http://forth.org) “Forth Dimensions”.
- Open with LibreOffice (Word pukes.)
- Search on keywords from the Author section or the Subject section.

Henry Laxon	19 entries
Dr. Ting	18 entries
John James	16 entries
Bill Ragsdale	15 entries
Glen Haydon	12 entries

# Ideas From *Forth Dimensions*

- For your specific interests search on items such as:
  - CRC calculations
  - Extended precision math
  - Alternatives to indirect threaded code.
  - Dynamic memory allocation.
- See how Forth has evolved over 50 years.
- See the three generations of Forth Standardization.
- And much more.

# FORML Conference Proceedings 1980 to 1992

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*ARTICLE REFERENCE*

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FORML CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS FROM 1980 THRU 1992

**1993**

**NOVEMBER**

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**THE FORTH INTEREST GROUP**  
P.O. Box 2154, Oakland, CA 94621  
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# FORML Conference Proceedings 1980 to 1992

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# FORML Conference Proceedings

## FORML Conference Proceedings, 1980 thru 1992 by Keyword

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Forth in Industry	Kelly	Guy	90	3	10	Applications
From Below Ground to Outer Space: Forth at RPC	St. Laurent	Ray	90	38	8	Applications
Forth and Safety Related Systems	Bennett	Paul	90	352	31	Applications
Catalyst, A Molecular Biology Workstation	Ting	C.H.	91	195	5	Applications
Controlling A Large Commercial Laundry Using Forth	Nelson	N.J.	91	219	14	Applications
A Research Resistance Welding Timer, RTX2000 & ADSP2100	Osman	Keith	91	233	15	Applications
Property Rights in Computer Software	Walker	David	91	294	15	Applications
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Automated Animal Feed System—Real Time Multitasking	Shieh	Samuel	91	444	4	Applications
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An Object-Oriented Forth Implementation	Abu-Mostafa Ayman	89	197	7	Objects
A Forth Execution Simulator for Debugging	Asprey Tom	80	181	7	Debugger
Yet Another Recursive Decompiler	Astle Richard	85	209	14	Decompiler
Modern Control Logic	Baden Wil	83	125	10	Control Structures
Nonce Defining Words	Baden Wil	84	77	4	Defining Words
Interpretive Logic	Baden Wil	85	95	8	Interpretive Logic
A Set of Formal Rules for Phrasing	Baden Wil	85	127	16	Style
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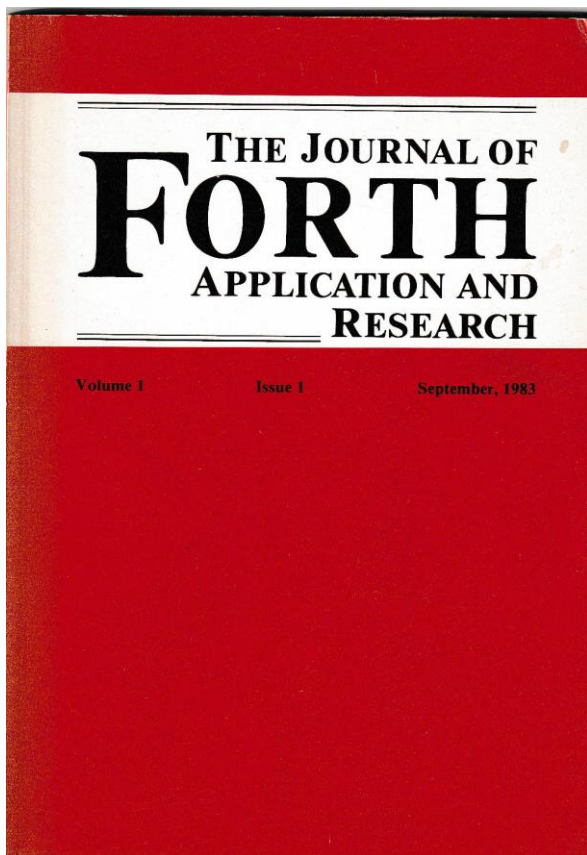
# FORML Conference Proceedings

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Compressed Forth Object Code	Lyons George	80	43	3	Tokens
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- YouTube videos of monthly meetings
  - 415 videos
  - 1,150 Subscribers
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# SVFIG Meeting Videos

<http://www.forth.org/svfig/>

## **Meeting Information**

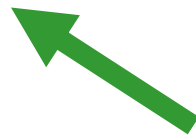
**[Future meeting dates](#)**

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**[Past meeting announcements](#)**

**[Meeting photographs](#)**

**[Meeting videos](#)**



# SVFIG Meeting Videos

[SVFIG YouTube Channel](#)

[SVFIG YouTube Channel](#)

[SVFIG on YouTube Live](#)

## Videos:

- 11-2023 - **Forth Day**
  - **Welcome** - *Kevin Appert, SVFIG Program Chairman*
  - **The J1 Family of Soft core Processors** - *Christopher Lozinski* - [Video](#) (34:04)
  - **ISO Weeks Programming Challenge** - *Bill Ragsdale* - [Video](#) (28:29)
  - **Lambdas in Forth** - *Brad Nelson* - [Video](#) (36:38)
  - **System Forth** - *Samuel A. Falvo II* - [Video](#) (18:12)
  - **FluidNC DIY CNC** - *Mitch Bradley* - [Video](#) (23:16)
  - **Forth Recognizers in SwiftForth** - *Leon Wagner - President FORTH, Inc.* - [Video](#) (19:52)
  - **CORE I Project Update and AI is Forth's "Killer APP"** - *Don Golding* - [Video](#) (32:10)
  - **2023 State of the CoSy Report** - *Bob Armstrong* - [Video](#) (28:13)
  - **Fireside Chat** - *Chuck Moore* - [Video](#) (54:59)



# SVFIG Meeting Notes

<http://www.forth.org/svfig/>

## **Meeting Information**

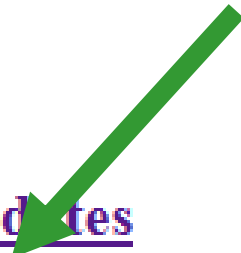
[Future meeting dates](#)

[Past meeting slides, video, and notes](#)

[Past meeting announcements](#)

[Meeting photographs](#)

[Meeting videos](#)



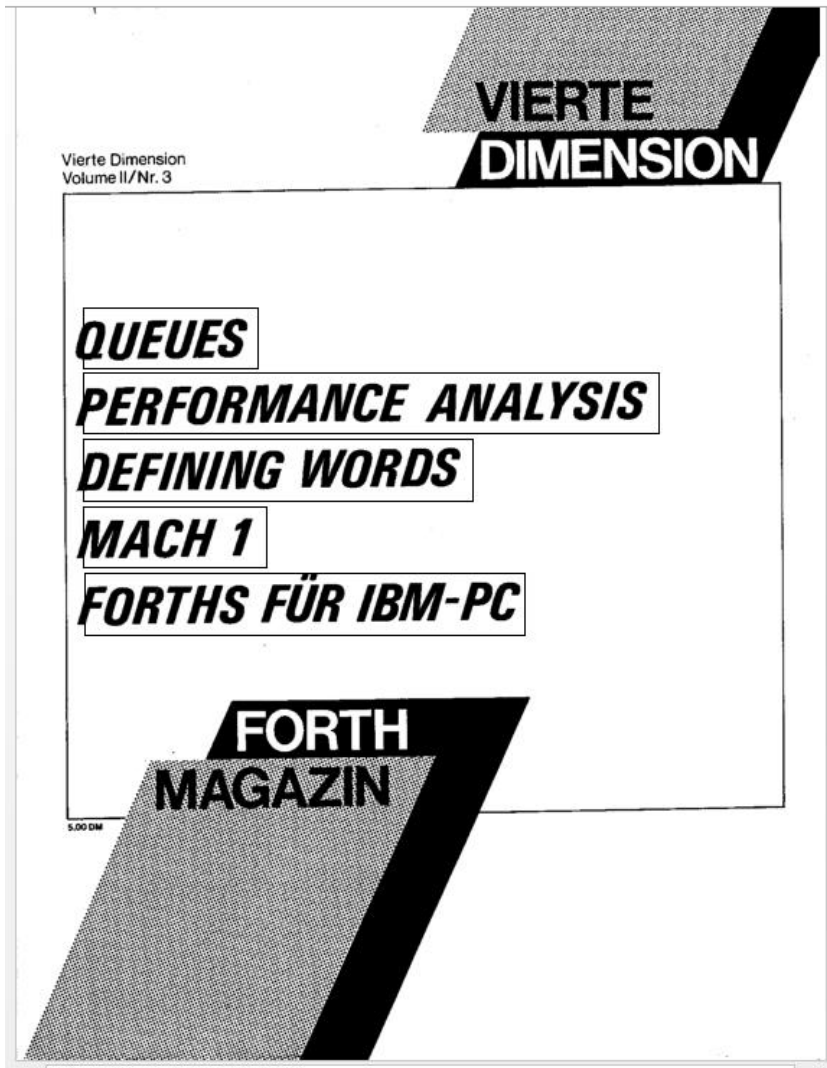
# SVFIG Meeting Slides

## 2023

- [12-2023](#) - Notes from the December 2023 meeting
- [11-2023](#) - Notes from the Forth Day 2023 meeting
- [10-2023](#) - Notes from the October 2023 meeting
- [09-2023](#) - Notes from the September 2023 meeting
- [08-2023](#) - Notes from the August 2023 meeting
- [07-2023](#) - Notes from the July 2023 meeting
- [06-2023](#) - Notes from the June 2023 meeting
- [05-2023](#) - Notes from the May 2023 meeting
- [04-2023](#) - Notes from the April 2023 meeting
- [03-2023](#) - Notes from the March 2023 meeting
- [02-2023](#) - Notes from the February 2023 meeting
- [01-2023](#) - Notes from the January 2023 meeting

## 2022

- [12-2022](#) - Notes from the December 2022 meeting
- [11-2022](#) - Notes from the Forth Day 2022 meeting
- [10-2022](#) - Notes from the October 2022 meeting



## Vierte Dimension 1984 to 2024

[https://forth-  
ev.de/wiki/vd-archiv](https://forth-ev.de/wiki/vd-archiv)

# Back Issues Vol 1 to 20, PDF

<https://forth-ev.de/wiki/vd-archiv>

The PDF documents are viewable with **Adobe Acrobat Reader**. A copy can be downloaded from [the Adobe website](#).

	Issue Number					
<b>1</b>	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<b>2</b>	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<b>3</b>	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<b>4</b>	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<b>5</b>	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<b>6</b>	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<b>7</b>	<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>

# EuroForth Conferences, 1985 onward

## Conference Program

<http://www.euroforth.org/>

<b>Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
<a href="#"><u>2023</u></a>	15-17 September	Rome
<a href="#"><u>2022</u></a>	16-18 September	Internet
<a href="#"><u>2021</u></a>	10-12 September	Internet
<a href="#"><u>2020</u></a>	4-6 September	Internet
<a href="#"><u>2019</u></a>	13-15 September	Hamburg, Germany
<a href="#"><u>2018</u></a>	14-17 September	DoubleTree Hilton Queensferry Hotel near Edinburgh, Scotland
<a href="#"><u>2017</u></a>	8-10 September	College Garden Hotel, Bad Vöslau, Austria.
<a href="#"><u>2016</u></a>	9-11 September	Hotel mein Inselglück, Insel Reichenau near Konstanz, Germany
<a href="#"><u>2015</u></a>	2-4 October	Pratts Hotel, Bath, England.
<a href="#"><u>2014</u></a>	26-28 September	Hotel Amic Horizonte, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

# EuroForth Conferences, 1985 onward

## Conference Full Proceedings

<https://lists.forth-ev.de/pipermail/euroforth/>

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November 2023:	<a href="#">[ Thread ]</a> <a href="#">[ Subject ]</a> <a href="#">[ Author ]</a> <a href="#">[ Date ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Gzip'd Text 1 KB ]</a>
July 2023:	<a href="#">[ Thread ]</a> <a href="#">[ Subject ]</a> <a href="#">[ Author ]</a> <a href="#">[ Date ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Gzip'd Text 552 bytes ]</a>
June 2023:	<a href="#">[ Thread ]</a> <a href="#">[ Subject ]</a> <a href="#">[ Author ]</a> <a href="#">[ Date ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Gzip'd Text 837 bytes ]</a>
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August 2022:	<a href="#">[ Thread ]</a> <a href="#">[ Subject ]</a> <a href="#">[ Author ]</a> <a href="#">[ Date ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Gzip'd Text 2 KB ]</a>
June 2022:	<a href="#">[ Thread ]</a> <a href="#">[ Subject ]</a> <a href="#">[ Author ]</a> <a href="#">[ Date ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Gzip'd Text 688 bytes ]</a>
August 2021:	<a href="#">[ Thread ]</a> <a href="#">[ Subject ]</a> <a href="#">[ Author ]</a> <a href="#">[ Date ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Gzip'd Text 1 KB ]</a>
June 2021:	<a href="#">[ Thread ]</a> <a href="#">[ Subject ]</a> <a href="#">[ Author ]</a> <a href="#">[ Date ]</a>	<a href="#">[ Gzip'd Text 1 KB ]</a>

# Credits, FIG & SVFIG

- *Forth Dimensions*
  - Anne Ragsdale
  - Roy Martens
  - Leo Brodie
  - Marlin Ouverson
- *JFAR*, Larry Forsley,  
Thea Martin
- *FORML Conferences*
  - Kim Haris
  - Bob Reiling
- *SVFIG Archive*
  - Dave Jaffe
  - George Perry
  - Kevin Appert
  - Brad Nelson

And  
Skip Carter of  
Taygeta Network  
Security for  
hosting  
forth.org

# Conclusion

Forth organizations and users have left a huge archive our benefit.

The starting point, as always, is:

[Forth.org](http://Forth.org)