

20 Years International DERIVE & CAS-TI User Group

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ABSTRACT

It was in 1988 when an Austrian school teacher found an announcement of “DERIVE – A Mathematical Assistant” on his desk. His headmaster ordered the software and the teacher was immediately fascinated and had visions how his teaching could be changed.

Short time later he contacted the distributor of DERIVE, Bernhard Kutzler, who promised supporting establishing a “DERIVE User Group” (DUG). In 1990 the DERIVE Newsletter #1 (DNL) was sent to a list of DERIVE users together with the invitation to subscribe the membership to the DUG. The number of subscribers was satisfying, so the DUG was born.

When the symbolic calculators appeared on the market many of the TI-CAS users joined the group which was then renamed in DERIVE and TI-CAS User Group. Now the DUG is a world wide spread association of CAS enthusiasts and the DNL is its bulletin. Nearly 80 issues of the DNL have been published so far.

Within the DUG a special “spirit” was created which is responsible that even a couple of years after taking DERIVE off the market the DUG is still growing and the members are active as ever before.

We will present some impressive data, highlights and pitfalls from the 20 years. We would also like to discuss aims and visions for the future – the next 20 years? – of this remarkable group of people connected by the “Spirit of DERIVE”.

Keywords

DUG, DNL, DERIVE, TI-CAS