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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

USENIX & SAGE

letters to the editor

HACKER VERSUS CRACKER

FROM MATT CURTIN
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I'd like to add my support to Joseph E. Wals's request that USENIX be more conscientious in its use of "hacker" vs. "cracker." I think John Walker, founder of AutoDesk, most clearly articulated why when he wrote in *The Hacker's Diet*:

> The word "hacker" and the culture it connotes is too rich to sacrifice on the altar of the evening news.

To that let me add only that it should be we who influence the mainstream media for the better, not the reverse.

Rob replies:

If only we had enough clout or numbers to influence the mainstream media. Regrettably, with the majority of our USA citizens (and a totality of its journalists) with access to computers, I fear we have no hope of winning this battle by leading the charge.

A BURGESS FAN

FROM: MARKO SCHUETZ
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I spoke my mind in the past, when I wasn't pleased with *;login:* content. This time I'd like to let you know, that I thoroughly enjoyed reading "System Administration Research" parts 1 & 2. Encouraging research in this direction and in the accessible way the articles do sure has my backing!

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

FROM TED DOLOTTA

Regarding the article "Teaching Operating Systems with Source Code UNIX" by Bob Gray in the July 2000 *;login:* (vol. 25, no. 4), we should recall the original – and, in the context of the history of UNIX, very, very significant – use of UNIX to teach operating-system design, namely the operating-systems courses taught by the late John Lions at the University of New South Wales in the 1970s.

John Lions wrote, for these courses, two companion volumes (*UNIX Operating System Source Code – Level Six* and *A Commentary on the UNIX Operating System*), which together constitute the first complete explanation of the UNIX operating system, apart from being very well-written and a model of pedagogical clarity.

Bob replies:

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the late John Lions who taught Operating Systems based on Source Code UNIX in the late 1970s. His material has been republished so that we may now grow from it.