

The Third IFIP WG 9.7 Working Conference on History of Nordic Computing

HiNC3

18 - 20 October 2010

Stockholm

<http://dsv.su.se/hinc3/>

The first and second conferences on the history of Nordic computing, organized in Trondheim (2003) and Turku (2007) respectively, were very successful and acquired a great deal of interest from ICT professionals and academics as well as from historians of technology. These conferences are therefore now to be followed by a third one, which will take place in Stockholm, October 2010. The conference will also honour the successful completion of a project on Swedish ICT history. Called "From Computing Machines to IT", the Swedish Computer Society initiated the project with the support of the Division of History of Science and Technology at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) and the National Museum of Science and Technology.

The conference is organized as an activity within IFIP's Working Group 9.7 (History of Computing) of its Technical Committee 9 (Relationship between Computers and Society). It is sponsored and organised jointly by the Department of Computer and Systems Sciences at Stockholm University and the Swedish Computer Society. Sponsorship is being sought also from Nordic private companies.

Although humans have dealt with computing since the day someone felt the need to count on one's fingers, the history of modern computing began some sixty years ago. In the Nordic countries as well as in most other places, it started shortly after the Second World War with efforts to design and build computers for military/industrial calculations and data processing. From there, information technology has spread into and penetrated all areas of society. Hence, today ICT is employed in areas ranging from the control of machinery and production lines in manufacturing to business administration and office applications, and to e-health and e-government applications. Additionally the private lives of people have been heavily affected by mobile phones, and personal digital assistants. The internet and the world wide web offer information at one's fingertips, not to mention computer games, multimedia, and other interesting applications.

In other words, there is no question that computers and information technology have had a tremendous effect on the Nordic countries and societies, not only technically but also socially and culturally. How did all this happen? The HiNC conferences contribute to answering this question.

Aims and Scope of HiNC3

Nordic computing started with hardware development such as BESK, DASK, NUSSE, ESKO and other machines. From there it has evolved into all aspects of information technology development and use. When contemplating the past sixty years, a number of questions may be asked:

- Why and how did we arrive to the position where we are now? Could we have done better or otherwise?
- What, in the past, did we do well and which decisions were less fortunate?
- What can we learn from the past? How should we continue in the future?

Consequently, the aim of this conference on Nordic computing history is

to re-examine our past and to extract experience and knowledge that we may use **to make wiser decisions about future endeavours** in developing and making use of information technology in the Nordic countries.

At large, the HiNC series of conferences provides a vehicle for bringing together Nordic collective memory regarding development of hardware and software as well as methodology and areas of usage of computers. However, while development of technology is fairly well documented, less is written about the development of

its use and about the ways in which ICT usage and users are affected by the technical development. Therefore, HiNC3 will focus on

- **The application and use of ICT in private enterprises as well as in public administration, and for the individual's personal use;**
- **How the conditions for developing and using IT systems have been affected by technical progress in areas such as user interaction and networks.**

The historical time period that will be at the centre of attention during the conference covers the period from around 1970 up until around 1995. This leads up to the beginning of the Internet and global networks era.

Invitation to Contribute

The Program Committee of HiNC3 solicits suggestions and contributions of the following types:

1. Submitted papers (not more than 3500 words) or extended abstracts (between 500 and 1000 words) about historical aspects of computing in a Nordic country. The paper should conform to the aims and scope of the conference (see above). Authors who submit an extended abstract must provide a full (draft) paper by 1 June 2010. A selection of papers presented at the conference will be published as post-proceedings by Springer. Authors will be required to sign an Assignment of copyright to IFIP and author's warranty to Springer.

A typical paper could e.g. account for the development of some important system or product, some important decisions or events, or it could analyse some important trend or generic development over time. It could also deal with establishment and activities of relevant ICT-oriented organisations in the Nordic countries. In all cases it is, however, important in the paper to include a discussion that makes some general conclusions concerning the outcome of the particular endeavour.

2. Other suggestions (e.g. for panels and tutorials) that will make HiNC3 an interesting and stimulating conference.

A highly eligible contribution would be one or more papers or a panel presenting and/or comparing different approaches and projects to exploring and recording ICT history in the Nordic countries.

The conference language is English.

Conference Organization

General conference co-chairs:	Janis Bubenko Jr, professor em., Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) PO Persson, Athena Konsult
Program co-chairs:	Benkt Wangler, professor em., University of Skövde Per Lundin, Division of History of Science and Technology, KTH
Organizing co-chairs:	Gunnar Hesse, former CEO, Unisys Nordics Anita Kollerbaur, DSV, Stockholm University
IFIP WG 9.7 representative:	John Impagliazzo, professor, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar

Important Dates

19 March 2010	Dead-line for contributions (full papers or extended abstracts) and suggestions. Insert into conference management system (preferably) or mail to hinc3pc@dsv.su.se
15 April 2010	Notification of acceptance
15 May 2010	Author pre-registration
1 June 2010	Final draft papers due
1 September 2010	Program finalized and distributed
18 – 20 October 2010	Conference in Stockholm
1 December 2010	Final papers for post-proceedings due
Spring 2011	Post proceedings published by Springer

The conference is sponsored by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Vetenskapsrådet, Department of Computer and Systems Sciences at Stockholm University, Swedish Computer Society, Silicon Vikings, and DATASAAB:s vänner.