Editor's Note: 10 Years and Counting

Warning: I've decided that you are entitled to be maudlin and sentimental on a 10-year anniversary—even if you are celebrating 10 years of publishing a magazine rather than 10 years of being married. I apologize in advance for this Editor's Note, which is a personal reflection on 10 years.

Ten years ago, I was hired to start a newsletter called NetWare Connection. The job seemed straightforward—except that I had no articles, no writers, no design, very little budget, and a deadline two weeks away. A s beginnings go, this one was not too promising. In fact, no one then would have predicted that 10 years later, NetWare Connection would not only still exist but would be a successful magazine.

Looking back at our early issues, I am struck by how simple networking used to be—at least by today's standards. In 1990–91, networking was a server-centric world. For example, in 1991, Novell released NetWare 3.11, arguably the best server-centric operating system ever written. In addition, ten years ago, companies were focusing on connecting all of their clients and downsizing their applications. The World-Wide Web hadn't been launched yet, and if people wanted to exchange e-mail with people in other companies, they used CompuServe. Although Microsoft had released Windows, most network administrators I knew thought GUIs were for sissies.

As I was taking a trip down memory lane and looking through my 1990–91 files, I found an interview with SuperSet—Drew Major, Kyle Powell, and Dale Neibaur—the engineers who wrote NetWare. Although SuperSet are no longer actively working together to write NetWare, this interview is particularly interesting now for several reasons: 1) At the time of the interview, Drew, Kyle, and Dale were celebrating 10 years of writing networking software. 2) Drew, Kyle, and Dale were looking back at how it all began—still an intriguing story nearly 20 years later. 3) The interview reveals the issues that were facing networking administrators 10 years ago. For these reasons, we decided to reprint this interview, "The First NetWare Users," in our anniversary issue. (See p. 6.)

As I perused 10 years of issues, I found myself smiling at articles that were fun to read (such as "Is Your Network D O O M e d?" Jan./Feb. 1996, pp. 6–18) or groaning at articles that were difficult to research or edit (the names will be withheld to protect both the writer and the editor). I found I had conveniently forgotten some articles. For example, remember all of the hype about the Information Superhighway? We published an exhaustive article about the Information Superhighway in March/April 1995. Who knew then that the Internet would run over the Information Superhighway?

I confess: Ten years of articles on topics ranging from designing a Novell Directory Services (NDS) tree to understanding firewalls, voice over IP, server-side Java, network analysis, Novell International Cryptography Infrastructure (NICI), to Novell Internet Caching System (ICS) can blur together. However, I will never forget the people who made it all possible and fun. Thanks to all of our great writers, but special thanks to the following regular contributors:

• Linda Kennard, who makes the most complex subjects easy to understand and is the only writer who can talk us into quoting 80s pop songs
• Cheryl Walton, who willingly tackles any topic, actually enjoys programming, and never gets upset no matter how unreasonable we are (and we've tested her)
• Sandy Stevens, who knows and loves NDS and ZENworks and completes her articles despite surgery or childbirth
• Laura Chappell, who helps us laugh and makes network analysis sound so interesting we're adding protocol analyzers to our Christmas lists

I'd like to also thank the NetWare Connection staff, both current and past: Leslie Miller, Debbie Reynolds (the art director, not the movie star), Jessica Chen, Jeana Quigley, Dennis Fredette, Carollee Frost, Brian Smith, Steve Branda, Kaye Young, Steve Sansevere, Emily Johnson, Kimberly Brinkerhoff-Jones, Cecily Spencer, Becca Morrell, John Roberts, and Eileen Neibaur.

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