



NUI Poland

The Past, Present, and Future

NUI Poland Executive Committee

In 1993, approximately 20 people established a Novell Users International (NUI) group in Poland. Today, with more than 3,000 members, NUI Poland is the largest computer science association in the country and continues to grow. NUI Poland has organized and participated in more than 20 conferences. This article describes how NUI Poland has become a successful organization.

GETTING STARTED

In the beginning, NUI Poland had to overcome several challenges. For example, soon after the group was formed, the Register Court in Warsaw closely analyzed NUI Poland, searching for hidden political activity. Of course, since NUI Poland has no political agenda, all of the formalities were closed after more than a year. NUI Poland was then able to elect an Executive Committee.

After NUI Poland was fully operational, NUI Poland organized NetWorks 96, a three-day conference. This conference included a platform of meetings and cultivated an environment where administrators could exchange experiences. NetWorks 96 was attended by network administrators and other people who work with Novell products and technologies.

During that same year, NUI Poland began publishing a professional magazine called *W sieci*, which translated to English means "in the net." The focus of this magazine is to help NUI Poland members (network administrators) with their everyday work. The magazine provides information about products and technologies.

The NUI Poland Web Site

During 1997, under the direction of a new Executive Committee, NUI Poland launched its web site (www.ptun.org.pl). The NUI Poland web site features service packs, patches, beta versions of software, free software, articles, news, and photos of

NUI Poland events. This web site also enabled NUI Poland to publish *W sieci* magazine online. The magazine is then distributed quarterly to NUI Poland members on CD-ROM.

During this time, NUI Poland also implemented a two-tier membership program: an electronic membership (which is free) and a full membership. Through this electronic membership program, NUI Poland was able to reach many more potential members. As a result, membership in NUI Poland increased significantly.

Among the benefits NUI Poland members receive are discounts for conferences organized by NUI and Novell Poland. For example, NUI Poland members receive discounts to BrainShare Europe.

Conferences

Over the years, NUI Poland has sponsored and participated in numerous conferences. For example, NUI Poland participated in BrainShare 1999 Europe by working at the NUI and ClubInternet table. NUI Poland worked in the NUI Hands-On Training (HOT) Lab during BrainShare 2000 Europe in Nice, France. In addition, NUI Poland participated in *RoadShow*, several one-day seminars that focus on Novell products and were held throughout Poland.

NUI Poland continues to sponsor its NetWorks conferences. Last autumn, NetWorks 2000 was held in the beautiful city of Mikolajki. During this conference, NUI Poland members were able to learn more about Novell products, receive hands-on training, and interact with other networking professionals. Some highlights from NetWorks 2000 are listed below:

- "Meet the Experts" was led by one of NUI Poland's Executive Committee members who specializes in Novell products and is an active participant of a news group at pl.comp.sys.novell.

- AdRem Software (www.adremsoft.com) and DTK Computer Polska (www.dtk.com.pl) provided computers for the NUI Poland lab, enabling conference attendees to enjoy hands-on training.
- Conference participants attended the following types of sessions: Novell's new products, safe work on the Internet with Novell's solutions, and hands-on sessions.

THE PRESENT

Today, NUI Poland is focusing its efforts on solving the network challenges of its members through member interaction, education, and seminars. For example, NUI Poland recently helped locate research materials for two students working on master's degrees. In addition, each month, NUI Poland receives more than ten e-mail requests for help resolving networking problems.

This year at BrainShare 2001 in Salt Lake City, NUI Poland worked at the NUI HOT Labs. NUI Poland also participated in the HOT Labs at BrainShare 2001 Europe in Nice. This month, NUI will run the computer lab at TechShare (a conference sponsored by Novell Poland). Of course, the highlight of the year will be NetWorks 2001, which will be held this November in Krakow.

THE FUTURE

In the future, NUI Poland plans to reorganize the group according to geographic regions. In addition, NUI Poland is continually looking for new vendor sponsors to participate in NUI Poland activities.

NUI Poland plans to start a computer laboratory and begin collaborative training for its members. All things considered, the future looks bright for NUI Poland.

NUI Poland Executive Committee members include Janusz Marczyk, Malgorzata Szelest, Malgorzata Piotrowska, Jacek Matys, Jaroslaw Kalinski, and Piotr Tizaska. ●