Review of EPAC'96 Electronic Publishing

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Some of the Aims for EPAC'96

- Author education
  - seminars
  - electronic help
  - templates
- Feedback to the authors in Sitges
- High performance, high quality CD-ROM
- Rapid publication

At the Conference

- Significant resources were required
  - networks, computers, printers, software, personnel
- 700 papers were distilled.
- Feedback to the authors via the red/green stickers.
- Repairs were done to many papers but not by the authors.
- Authors preparing their papers were a nuisance.

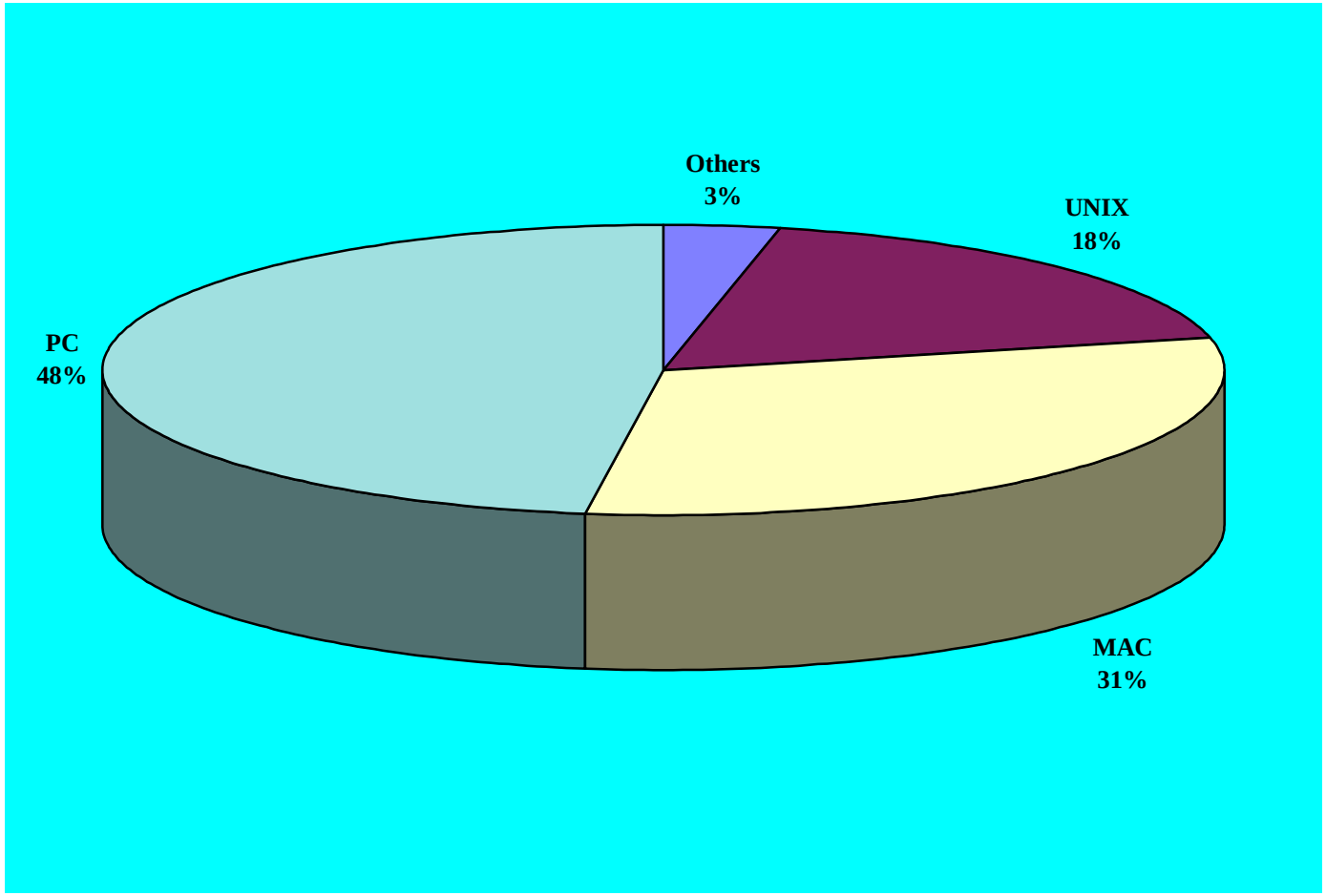
After the Conference

- Nothing processed for 1 week
  - setting up the proceedings office, transferring files and transporting the materials back to CERN
- The remaining time was spent doing the following:
  - Fixing problem papers
  - Liasing with authors
  - Checking titles, authors, compliance with the specification
  - Sorting and page numbering
  - Filling hidden fields in PDF files
  - Preparing the ‘wrapper’ (contents, author index etc.) and making the links.
  - Making the WWW version.

Analysis of the Process

- The network of support personnel was very useful both in the development of the templates and for authors.
- Processing at Sitges was well received by the authors and was a very efficient way to communicate with them.

Analysis of Computer Platforms



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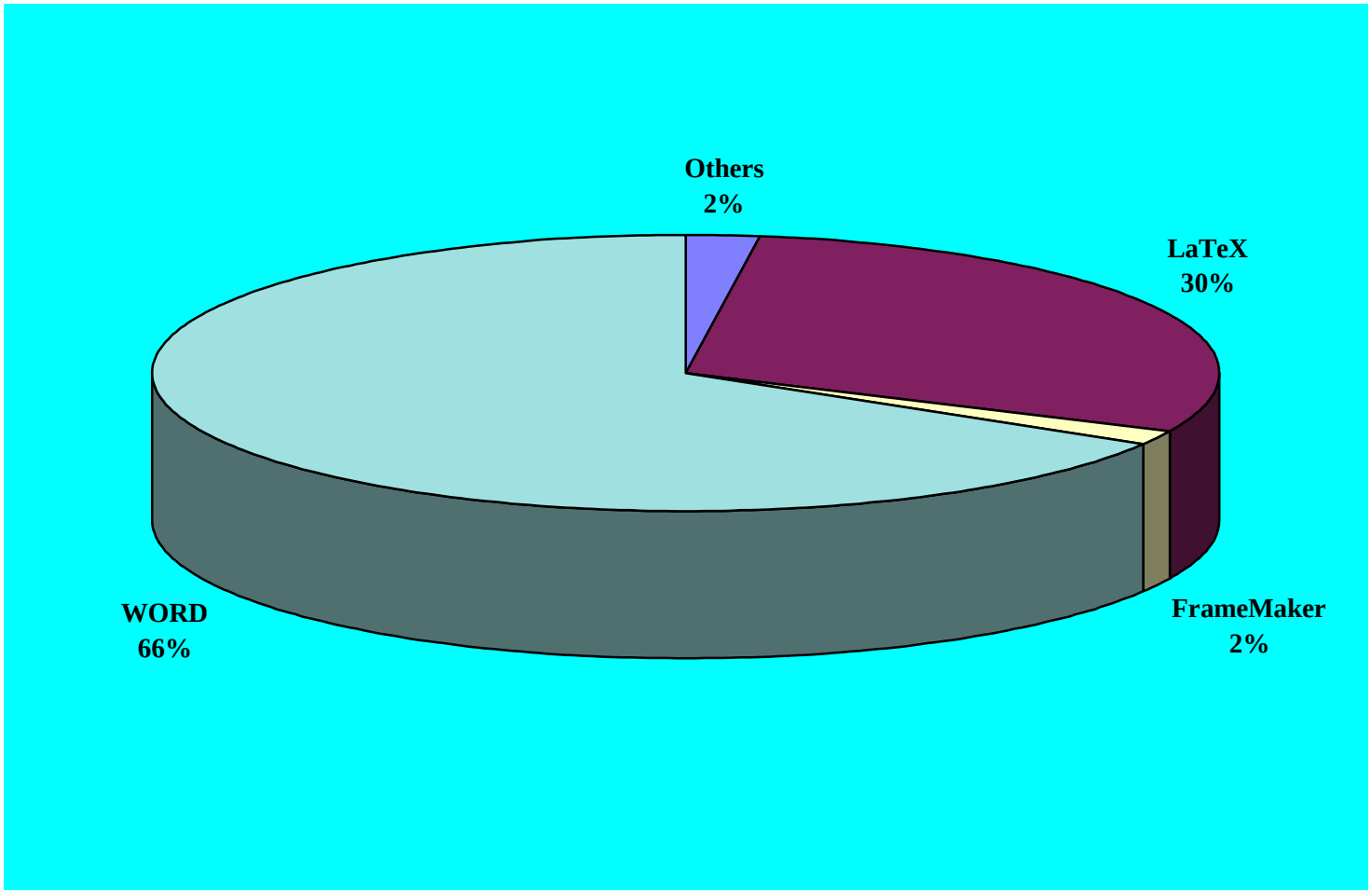
Software used by Authors



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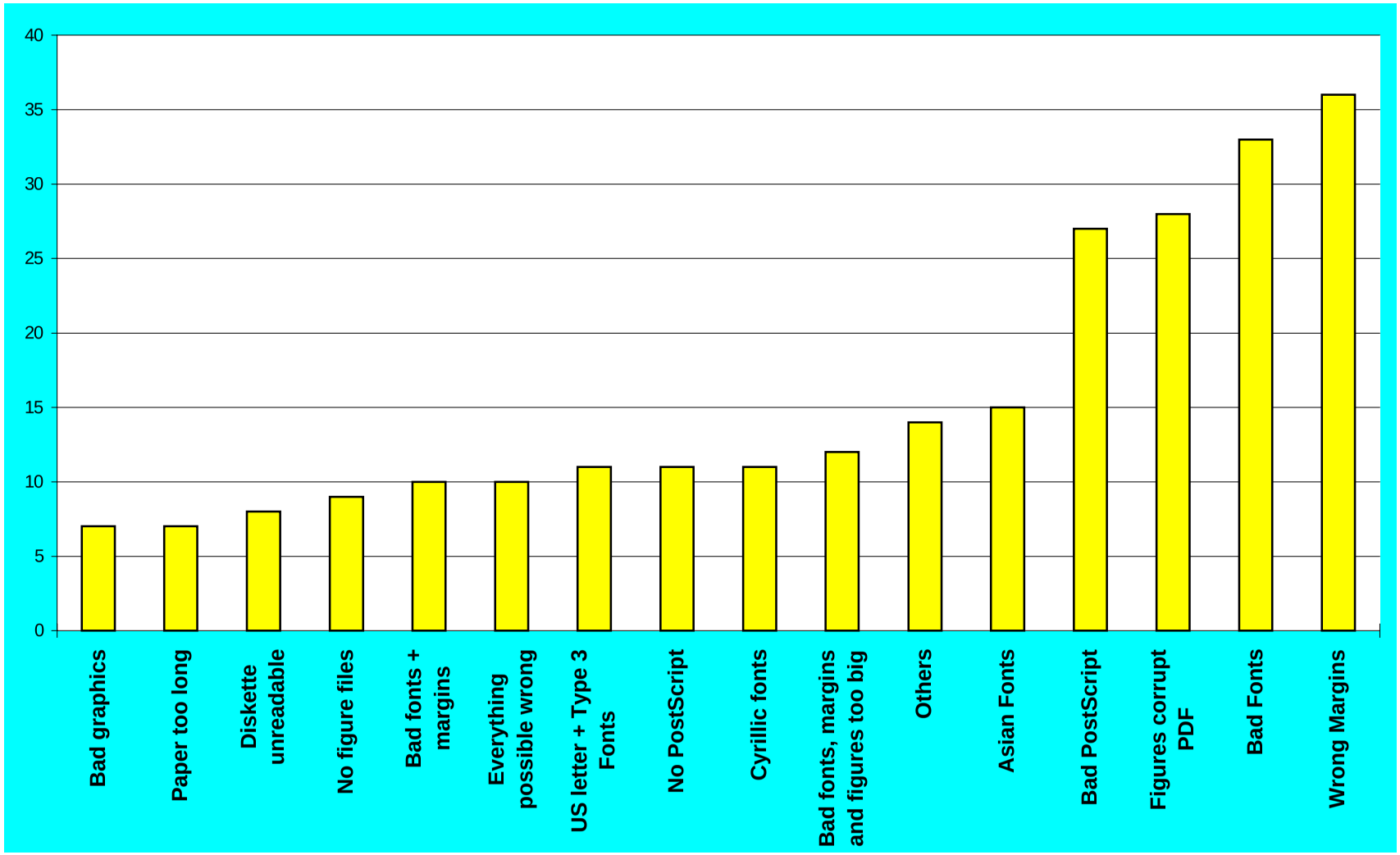
Problems Encountered



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Repairs

- 300 papers needed fixing
  - 83 were US letter paper
- On average it took 2.5 hours per paper
  - the worst took about 1.5 days, but the same technique was used on about 15 further papers.

Conclusions

- The whole process was a huge success.
- Page numbering is no longer a major problem.
- 70% success rate (60% counting US letter paper problems)
- 24 man-months of effort went into electronic publishing.
  - this should come down to ~15 man-months for EPAC'98 ⇨
- Face-to-face contact with the authors at the conference was very efficient.

Overall Manpower (man-months)

	EPAC'96	EPAC'00
R&D (techniques, templates etc.)	3	0.5
Planning (techniques, services, manpower)	2	1.5
Build/maintain WWW pages	3	1.5
Prepare WWW *HELP* pages	1	0.5
Build/maintain FTP services	1	0.5
Abstract processing	6	1.5
Author education programme	2	0.5
Processing at the conference	2	1.5
Conference infrastructure	1	1.0
Post conference	6	3.0
Total	27	12.0

⇨

Minimum Manpower Levels

(man-hours for CD-ROM Production)

At the conference	200
Post-conference problem solving	
US letter paper (10%, 25mins each)	40
Bad margins (5%, 2.5 hours each)	125
Strange fonts (3%, 2.5 hours each)	75
Others (2%, 2.5 hours each)	50
Update database (2 mins each)	30
Visual check (5 mins each)	80
Assembly of final document	80
Total	680

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… and next time

- Much the same as last time - similar techniques and resources.
- Use WWW for abstract submission.
- Extend the support network and educative process.
- Create an on-going editorial board to share the expertise and provide continuing support for EPAC electronic publication.
- Process the papers at the conference but have more resources.
- Get the publisher to do more of the preparatory work for the CD ?
- Some improvements possible for the CD
  - page numbering
  - self-playing
  - sell advertising (the EPAC'96 CD-ROM is 75% empty)