

CONNECTIONS

VOL. 12 ■ NO. 4 ■ OCTOBER, 1987

FALL ISSUE

Join 1300+ Users for Software AG's 17th Annual Users' Conference

To date over 1,300 people from over 500 companies have registered for the 17th Annual Users' Conference in Miami, Florida from November 1-5. This year there will be more international representatives than ever before representing countries from all over the world including Canada, Mexico, Singapore, Venezuela and Australia.

The Monday morning General Session will be hosted by the executives of Software AG of North America, Software AG of Darmstadt, and Software AG's SAGGROUP. Stuart Miller will give a year in review on Software AG. Peter Pagé will present on the strategic product directions of the next four years. As well as the General Sessions there will be technical presentations, workshops, and product demonstrations. Once again this year Software AG will host an Open Forum session. Users are welcomed to come and meet, ask questions, and make recommendations to the senior management of Software AG.

Software AG users will be presenting working papers on their own experiences with Software AG products. Also, users will be getting together for Business/Industry Group Sessions (BIGS) and Special Interest Group Sessions (SIGS).

This year's conference offers over 30 hours of product workshops, demonstrations and presentations uniquely designed to address your information management needs. However, four days of intense orientation will be accompanied by opportunities for relaxation and entertainment. The conference kicks

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ADABAS 5 . . . Beginning the New Era



Mark Milne
Product Manager

Its been talked about! Its been read about! But November 1-5 at the Miami User's Conference, see it for yourself! Although it is difficult to "see" a data base, we will be demonstrating ADABAS 5 through ADABAS Online Services, user experiences and Software AG presentations.

Status

Testing on ADABAS 5 began as early as mid-1986. Most of this was done internally and really concentrated on component testing. We then went to Alpha testing which involved customer testing and was designed to stabilize the software. Some initial problems existed but

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President's Message "Changes"



Carlo A. Scagnelli
Central Hudson Gas & Electric
Corporation

With the conference coming up in November, there'll be enough information flowing in all directions to keep this short. Please note the following change to the Executive Committee. Other matters will be discussed in Miami.

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2 Tom Bradbury has resigned as PREDICT Product Representative as a result of a promotion out of the data base environment. We wish Tom well in all his future endeavors. Succeeding him in that position through November 1988 will be Ms. Frances Osteen of DuPont (her address is on the back page of this issue). She brings with her a new enthusiasm and definite ideas about the direction of PREDICT. Get in touch with her and offer your assistance.

During the past several months, Bob Becker has been working with several volunteers in an attempt to develop a proposal for the possible reorganization of SAGGROUP and especially the Executive Committee to more accurately and effectively reflect the environment in which we operate. The multiplicity of operating systems, mainframes and products mixes has strained the current product orientation and reduced the level of support SAGGROUP has been able to provide while increasing the work load of the individuals involved. Bob's group is working hard on finalizing their plan and hopes to have a presentation ready for the conference. As always, the key to its success is a high degree of involvement from you, the user.

It has been gratifying to review CONNECTIONS these past several months as each issue has reflected a renewed level of activity at all levels of our group. The number of articles, tips, suggestions and applications has increased dramati-

cally. If this is a reflection of the quality and quantity of information to be available in Miami, the conference promises to surpass all expectations.

See you there !!!

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Business Development at Software AG

Andrew C. Ford
Vice President

Since this is the first time we've had the chance to tell you about Business Development, we'd like to give you an overview of who we are, what we do, why and how we work with third party organizations like application software vendors and consultants.

We are Business Development and our mission is to contribute to our customers' success by making sure that there are high quality Software AG compatible application solutions and professional services available to them. We do this in a variety of ways: we establish partnerships with application software companies, often participating in Software AG compatible implementations. We set the stage for professional services companies to keep current and proficient in our growing product line by offering various training opportunities to them. Also, we look into new products and/or services which might enhance Software AG's products or services.

Many of you are already aware of the commercially-available packages which are ADABAS and/or NATURAL compatible. We have ongoing relationships with over 30 companies who produce all types of application software: banking, utility, education, general financials, insurance, transportation, manufacturing, government, human resources, sales information and tracking, and OSHA monitoring. We continue to pursue application compatibility in an aggressive fashion. We'll be using the newsletter as a vehicle to let you know about these relationships. In the meantime, if you would like specifics, please call me at 703-648-2446.

Echoing your concern over quality, we have recently initiated an application certification program. This program is available to vendors whose products work with ADABAS. Our Professional Service

Team reviews file design, analyzes performance, determines ease of use with NATURAL, PREDICT and SUPER NATURAL, and makes recommendations for greater efficiency and performance. We verify that recommendations have been executed before issuing certification. Some application vendors have already started the certification process, so you may be coming across this soon when you evaluate software.

Our Consultant Liaison program was established to provide a means for consultants to get technical information about our products directly from Software AG. The program is based on our interest in

your having well-qualified consultants to help you develop business solutions. We believe that it is done best through education. In addition to the regularly scheduled Software AG classes, we will be presenting product information to consultants (and application vendors) through special classes and seminars. The net result is better service for you.

That's Business Development in a nutshell. We'll be keeping you updated regularly in CONNECTIONS. In the meantime, if you would like to know more about us and our programs, or would know any candidates for our application or professional service programs, please contact us at 703-648-2446.

What's New with NATURAL ELITE?

Maggie Geiser
Supervisor of Instructional Technology
Customer Service Division

NATURAL ELITE, Software AG's computer-based-training product, has gained many new customers and is now offering more courses than ever before. Currently, there are seven on-line courses available, with more than fifteen new courses planned for this fiscal year.

Software AG customers will have an opportunity to attend two ELITE presentations at our Annual Users' Conference in November, as well as sign up at the demonstration booth to view ELITE courses and upcoming changes to the Authoring system. Hope to see you there!

New ELITE Courses on NATURAL 2

On July 20, 1987, the NATURAL 2 Enhancements course was released. This course is written for the experienced NATURAL V1.2 programmer who needs to learn NATURAL 2. The course highlights the new editors, new statements and commands, and structured mode syntax. Additionally, it points out enhancements to statements and commands which have been used regularly by NATURAL V1.2 programmers. This is a great way to train your programmers quickly, or to use the on-line instruction as a review of other training they may have received.

For our new NATURAL customers who are training beginning NATURAL programmers, we have a new course which teaches NATURAL 2

NATURAL ELITE

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from the ground up. This course, called *NATURAL 2 Introduction*, will be released in September. All customers who currently have the *NATURAL V1.2 Introduction* course will get this upgrade free of charge. The new course begins with an overview of the *NATURAL* language, system, and programming philosophy, then moves into step-by-step descriptions of *NATURAL* syntax and statement processing.

In development are three additional *NATURAL 2* courses which deal exclusively with Structured Mode. These courses are:

- *NATURAL Structured Mode Design Concepts*
- *Advanced Mapping Using NATURAL Structured Mode*
- *Advanced NATURAL Programming Techniques*

5 This series is expected to be available at the end of the year.

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NATURAL ELITE ADABAS Series in Development

It's almost here! The series of *ADABAS* courses which many customers have requested is scheduled for release at the Annual Users' Conference in November. Why November? Because we are incorporating information about *ADABAS 5*, and want it to be as up-to-date as possible.

The *ADABAS* series will consist of three courses. In this way, it will be easy to identify the correct course for each special audience. The courses are:

ADABAS Fundamentals: This introductory course covers *ADABAS* features, general architecture, simple data base access methods, and the basic concepts associated with *ADABAS* file modification.

ADABAS Program Design Concepts: This advanced course describes the components necessary to incorporate *ADABAS* into programs through the use of direct

calls for on-line programs and *JCL* for batch programs. In addition, a brief overview of *NATURAL*, *ADASQL*, and *PREDICT* will be discussed as they relate to *ADABAS*.

ADABAS File Design and Utilities Usage: The final course in this series will focus on basic *ADABAS* file design and general *DBA* utilities. The primary utilities discussed include: file modification, restart/recovery, and disk space management.

NATURAL ELITE at the Annual Users' Conference

In November, we will be looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Users' Conference. Two *NATURAL ELITE* presentations will be available to attend, each designed for a different audience.

"*Integrating ELITE Into an Effective Training Strategy*" is a presentation which will include highlights on product directions, training statistics, and cost justification analysis. The presentation will clarify a methodology for creation, development, and completion of a fully integrated training program. Special attention will be given to such universal problems as: employee "down" time, building internal product experts, life cycle management, cost projection and control, and training motivation. Case studies of current *ELITE* customers will be presented, illustrating the variety of training options available through the use of *NATURAL ELITE* and its impact on project management and employee resource management.

"*NATURAL/ELITE Authoring Tips and Techniques*" is a presentation designed for customers who are actively involved in, or planning, their own course development using the *ELITE* Authoring System. The focus of the seminar will be to identify and demonstrate how to incorporate effective instruction in a computer-based-training environment. The three primary areas of concentration will be: (1) Do-it-yourself tools for initial design and development; (2) Better screen design; and (3) Using creative answer-checking to build better interactions. Anyone who is working with the *ELITE* Authoring System to build in-house training should not

miss this presentation. Bring your problems, victories, ideas, and questions to the Conference. Let us help you get a great start on your next course!

Would you like an opportunity to see the courses on-line and find out more about what's available? Then come to the *ELITE* demonstration booth at the Conference. We will be demonstrating sample lessons from all of the *NATURAL* courses, as well as the *ADABAS* series currently under development.

Better yet, get an advance look at some of these courses by contacting Software AG's Telemarketing or your Account Representative now. They can get a demonstration tape with sample lessons for you right away!

ADABAS 5

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preliminary results have been very encouraging. Our next phase is the Beta testing cycle in which we analyze the quality and functionality of the software. At the User's Conference there will be presentations by both Software AG and test sites in which we discuss our preliminary impressions and results. Release is targeted for first quarter 1988. Realize that testing a data base is very complex. Companies depend on *ADABAS*'s abilities and functions. We will take as much time as necessary in testing, so that we can help ensure *ADABAS*'s continued high quality and reliability.

New Technologies

You will hear much about the product, *ADABAS 5*, at the User's Conference. As a customer the new features and functions will be important. They will help in your day-to-day jobs. But Data Processing must look for new ways to help a company. Again, look to *ADABAS 5*.

ADABAS 5 is important to you and to Software AG because it is the foundation for new technologies to be introduced. These include technologies such as:

- **RELATIONAL**—Further expansion of ADABAS's relational processing in support of the RELATIONAL model. But where the RELATIONAL model is not suitable for all of organizations information processing needs there are other technologies. . . .;
- **TEXT**—Direct call-level support of text and document-based processing;
- **E-R-A**—Support of more complex data structures and the basis of new technologies (CASE, Encyclopedias, etc. . . .);
- **KBMS**—The ability to store 'information' as opposed to just data;
- **DISTRIBUTION**—True distributed data base processing with support for logical files spread across multiple physical data bases

To support these new areas, many new features and functions have been added to the ADABAS 5 nucleus. For example, ADABAS now supports both keyed and non-keyed searches. This is an important as-

NATURAL 2			
R E L	T E X T	E / R / A	K B M S
DISTRIBUTION			
ADABAS 5			

pect of the RELATIONAL technology. Another function is the hyper-descriptor which supports TEXT processing. The Preliminary ET command is involved in DISTRIBUTED Processing. These are just a few of the new functions ADABAS has to offer.

So you can begin to see, that ADABAS is important on several

levels. As customers, ADABAS 5, the product, allows you to do a better job today. ADABAS 5, the foundation, opens the door for new technologies to be built on top of existing technology. It becomes the basis on which to extend your data processing environment. We look forward to seeing you at the Miami Users' Conference.

Conference

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off Sunday evening with the President's reception hosted by Carlo Scagnelli. This gives you a chance to get reacquainted with old friends. Monday and Wednesday evenings also feature fine food and entertainment.

The host hotel for the conference is the world famous Fountainebleau Hilton Resort. The recently remodeled hotel boasts more than \$50 million of refinements giving it an exciting World Class status. A host of new restaurants, lounges, public areas, tropical gardens, waterfalls and a half-acre swimming lagoon have been added to the list of new items.

Come join Software AG and the other users for Software AG's best conference yet. To register call: 703-648-2486.

17th Annual Software AG Users' Conference

November 1-5
Miami, Florida

THERE IS STILL TIME
TO REGISTER CALL
703-648-2486

Customer Training Schedule

October–December 1987

Software AG's Customer Training Schedule for October to December 1987 follows, including a brief description, date(s) and location(s) for each course.

To register, or to have your name added to our Customer Training Schedule mailing list, please call our Training Registrars at (703) 648-2482.

ADABAS Concepts & Facilities: Introductory course on concepts and features of ADABAS inverted list architecture, relational-like processing, access possibilities, and data structures. This course is a prerequisite for all other Software AG courses. Prerequisite: A technical data processing background.

October 5-6	Washington, D.C.
October 12-13	Dallas
October 19-20	New York
October 26-27	Los Angeles
November 9-10	Washington, D.C.
November 16-17	New York
Nov 30—Dec 1	Denver
December 7-8	Washington, D.C.
December 14-15	New York

NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop: Introductory course designed to provide students with a working knowledge of NATURAL 2 programming with primary concentration on NATURAL's "report" mode. Combination lecture/workshop allows hands-on experience. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, as well as basic data processing concepts, are essential in order to gain the most from this class.

October 7-9	Washington, D.C.
October 14-16	Dallas
October 21-23	New York
October 28-30	Los Angeles
November 11-13	Washington, D.C.
November 18-20	New York
December 2-4	Denver
December 9-11	Washington, D.C.
December 16-18	New York

NATURAL Programming 2 Workshop: Second course in the NATURAL programming series designed to build upon student's knowledge of NATURAL. Has strong focus on NATURAL's "structured" mode. During the five days, students will use knowledge learned in lectures to develop a sample NATURAL application in the daily workshops. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities and NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop, unless experienced in NATURAL V1.2 and knowledgeable in new features and functionality of NATURAL 2.

October 5-9	Los Angeles
October 12-16	Washington, D.C.
October 19-23	Denver
October 26-30	Washington, D.C.
December 7-11	Los Angeles
December 14-18	New York

NATURAL 2 Programming Enhancements Workshop: Enhancement training for NATURAL V1.2 Programmers who want to learn to use what is new in NATURAL 2. Topics include environment overview, basic array definition, MU and PE processing, global, parameter, and local data areas, and data area editor. After completing this course, students will be ready to take

NATURAL Programming 2 Workshop. Prerequisite: NATURAL V1.2 programming experience.

October 1-2	Los Angeles
October 5-6	New York
October 12-13	Denver
October 19-20	Washington, D.C.
October 21-22	Dallas
October 29-30	Washington, D.C.
November 9-10	Denver
November 16-17	Los Angeles
December 3-4	Washington, D.C.
December 9-10	New York

NATURAL Security System Workshop: Designed to give Security Administrators a comprehensive view of NATURAL Security System (NSS). Covers full security environment provided by NSS, a practical procedure for designing your own security environment and the use of the maintenance tools provided in NSS. All Security Administrators will benefit from this course. If you do not have NSS, but are considering it, this course will also be useful. Prerequisite: NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop, or similar experience in managing NATURAL environment or maintaining a security environment.

October 5	Washington, D.C.
November 9	Dallas
November 30	New York

NATURAL Administration Workshop: Presents system information useful in the effective management of the NATURAL environment. Topics include logical system file usage, installation options, including related subsystems and buffer pool management. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop.

October 6-9	Washington, D.C.
November 10-13	Dallas
December 1-4	New York

NATURAL V1.2 Advanced Techniques Workshop: An advanced NATURAL course covering the more complex NATURAL facilities by using innovative programming techniques in pragmatic examples, as well as program tuning and performance. Highly recommended for experienced NATURAL Programmers, DBAs, NATURAL Administrators, and NATURAL System Designers. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop, or equivalent experience.

October 13-15	Washington, D.C.
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ADABAS DBA Skills Workshop: An intensive five day course covering all basic tools needed by Data Base Administrators. Combination lecture/workshop allows hands-on experience typical in the day-to-day activities of an ADABAS DBA. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities and some NATURAL programming experience.

October 12-16	New York
October 19-23	Washington, D.C.
November 9-13	Los Angeles
November 16-20	Washington, D.C.
Nov 30—Dec 4	New York
December 7-11	Dallas

ADABAS Direct Call Programming: Provides students with detailed information on access to ADABAS using direct call commands. This course is a prerequisite for ADABAS Internals. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, or equivalent experience.

October 12	Los Angeles
October 19	New York
October 26	Dallas
November 9	Washington, D.C.
November 16	Denver
November 30	Los Angeles
December 7	New York
December 14	Washington, D.C.

ADABAS Internals: Presents students with the internal, behind-the-scenes information about ADABAS. This course is a necessity for DBAs and System Programmers to further their effective use of ADABAS, and is a prerequisite for ADABAS Performance and Tuning. Prerequisites: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, ADABAS DBA Skills, and ADABAS Direct Call Programming, or equivalent experience.

October 13-14	Los Angeles
October 20-21	New York
October 27-28	Dallas
November 10-11	Washington, D.C.
November 17-18	Denver
December 1-2	Los Angeles
December 8-9	New York
December 15-16	Washington, D.C.

ADABAS Performance & Tuning: Presents an in-depth understanding of the factors and areas that influence ADABAS performance and the means that can be used to gather, analyze, and react on available information. An enlightening course for those directly involved in ADABAS performance. Prerequisite: ADABAS Internals.

October 15-16	Los Angeles
October 22-23	New York
October 29-30	Dallas
November 12-13	Washington, D.C.
November 19-20	Denver
December 3-4	Los Angeles
December 10-11	New York
December 17-18	Washington, D.C.

ADABAS Physical File Design: Presents basic techniques of ADABAS physical file design with emphasis on trade-offs in alternative design strategies. Single versus multiple files, field placement, and descriptor selection are among the topics covered. The course is intended to follow ADABAS Concepts or ADABAS DBA Skills. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop.

October 5	Dallas
October 12	New York
October 26	Denver
November 16	New York
November 30	Washington, D.C.
December 14	Los Angeles

PREDICT Concepts & Facilities Workshop: Introductory course designed to provide students with the background information necessary to become an effective user of PREDICT. This course is a prerequisite for the advanced level PREDICT and Data Dictionary Usage. ADABAS DBA Skills graduates should not attend this course. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts & Facilities, NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop.

October 6	Dallas
October 13	New York

October 27	Denver
November 17	New York
December 1	Washington, D.C.
December 15	Los Angeles

PREDICT & Data Dictionary Usage Workshop: Designed to explore the concepts, capabilities, and usage of the data dictionary and PREDICT system. Information will help students to utilize the system fully, including extending system's functionality to meet the unique needs of an organization. Designed for Data Administrators, Data Base Administrators, and NATURAL Administrators. Prerequisite: Sound knowledge of ADABAS, NATURAL, and PREDICT.

October 7-9	Dallas
October 14-16	New York
October 28-30	Denver
November 18-20	New York
December 2-4	Washington, D.C.
December 16-18	Los Angeles

ADASQL Programming Workshop: Forms the basic training for all programmers working with ADASQL in a conventional programming language on ADABAS. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, or equivalent experience.

October 19-20	Dallas
Nov 30—Dec 1	Washington, D.C.
December 7-8	New York
December 14-15	Denver

SPL's 4th Generation System Design: Provides students with a design methodology for applications which are to be developed using the NATURAL 4th generation programming system. Course was developed and is instructed by members of Systems Programming, Ltd., and is targeted toward System Analysts and System Designers. Prerequisite: ADABAS and NATURAL knowledge is recommended.

December 14-18	Dallas
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NATURAL ELITE Author's Workshop: In-depth course for computer-based training (CBT) authors which provides students with the necessary knowledge for building self-paced instructional courseware. Provides current CBT course development techniques and integrates them through use of NATURAL ELITE Authoring System. Prerequisite: None.

December 1-3	Dallas
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COM-LETE Concepts & Facilities Workshop: Introductory course designed to give Programmers or DBAs a working knowledge of COM-LETE and its facilities. Course covers COM-LETE's features as a TP monitor, program development and execution under COM-LETE, and utilities for program development and system information. Prerequisite: Sound knowledge of data processing programming and concepts.

October 26-27	Washington, D.C.
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COM-LETE Systems Programming: Provides System Programmers with information needed to initiate, manage, and maintain COM-LETE environment. Explores internals in-depth and many system-oriented utilities. Intended for Systems Programmers with working knowledge of COM-LETE and ASSEMBLER. Prerequisite: COM-LETE Concepts and Facilities, or equivalent experience.

November 16-20	Washington, D.C.
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VMS Public Training Schedule

ADABAS (VMS) Fundamentals: Introductory course on concepts and features of ADABAS (VMS) inverted list architecture, relational-like processing, access possibilities, and data structures. This course is a prerequisite for all Software AG courses for the VAX/VMS products. Prerequisite: Technical data processing background.

November 16-17 Washington, D.C.

NATURAL (VMS) Programming 1 Workshop: Introductory course designed to provide students with a solid working knowledge of NATURAL (VMS) programming. Combination lecture/workshops allow students hands-on experience with the VAX/VMS product. Prerequisite: Knowledge of ADABAS (VMS) concepts, as well as basic data processing concepts.

November 18-20 Washington, D.C.

NATURAL (VMS) Advanced Techniques Workshop: Covers the more complex NATURAL (VMS) facilities by using innovative programming techniques in pragmatic examples, as well as program tuning and performance. This course is highly recommended for experienced NATURAL (VMS) programmers, DBAs for VAX/VMS products, NATURAL (VMS) Administrators, and NATURAL (VMS) System Designers. Prerequisite: Thorough knowledge of NATURAL (VMS), combined with some NATURAL (VMS) programming experience.

October 20-21 Washington, D.C.

VMS Data Base Administration 1 Workshop: Week One of the nine-day VMS DBA training series. During this week, students will learn to plan, install, and control ADABAS (VMS), NATURAL (VMS), and PREDICT (VMS). Extensive workshops on dedicated DEC VAX equipment will include product installations, PREDICT (VMS) usage, and ADABAS (VMS) file loading. Students are encouraged to take the VMS Data Base Administration 2 Workshop immediately after successful completion of this course. Prerequisite: ADABAS (VMS) Fundamentals and NATURAL (VMS) Programming 1 Workshop, or equivalent knowledge.

December 7-11 Washington, D.C.

VMS Data Base Administration 2 Workshop: Week Two of the nine-day VMS DBA training series. During this week, students will learn to manage the NATURAL (VMS) environment, learn the basics of data base physical file design, data base restart/recovery, performance tuning and ADABAS (VMS) security. Frequent terminal workshops will be used to reinforce learning retention. Prerequisite: VMS Data Base Administration 1 Workshop is required; ADABAS (VMS) Fundamentals and NATURAL (VMS) Programming 1 Workshop, or equivalent experience.

October 5-8 Washington, D.C.

December 14-17 Washington, D.C.

ADABAS (VMS) Direct Call Programming: Provides students with detailed information on access to ADABAS (VMS) using direct call commands. Prerequisite: ADABAS (VMS) Fundamentals, or equivalent knowledge.

October 19 Washington, D.C.



New Special Interest Group— Using Relational Concepts in The Software AG Product Environment

David Dornbusch

Relational concepts promise to create data environments that are both highly stable and adaptable while also providing inherent data integrity. It is the intent of this SIG to address two areas:

First, to enhance the pragmatic "how to" ability of implementing relational concepts in today's real world operational systems using the Software AG family of products. ADABAS, NATURAL, PREDICT and DBA tools in the IBM/MVS CICS environment will be of special interest. Although ad-hoc inquiries will receive some attention, the primary emphasis will be on routine production processing (both on-line and batch). This is expected to be accomplished by the sharing of experiences

and by group participation in formal educational sessions that are organized by the SIG.

Secondly, to serve as a communication focal point between Software AG and its relational user community. The intent is to foster mutually beneficial two way communications. We anticipate requesting that Software AG address today's immediate needs on a product feature basis. Tomorrow's needs would be approached via much broader functionality requests. Strong emphasis is expected to be placed on the longer term direction and functionality concerns. This is expected to be accomplished by having SIG participants determine and prioritize their requests to Software AG, and

by requesting that Software AG make presentations and provide information to the SIG.

The intent is to have an active SIG with either two or three meetings per year in addition to the Software AG International Users' Group Conference. We seek members who are willing to commit time and effort as active participants. In return we expect to have a SIG that provides real impact on the success of relational concepts in the Software AG product environment.

We plan to have an organizational SIG "workshop" session in Miami at the 1987 International Users' Conference. Please stop by and provide your input, and/or drop me a note now to let me know of your interests and concerns.

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NEW ENGLAND REGION

Boston University Hosts Performance Workshops

Mary C. Albano
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Election of Officers for 1987-1988

Congratulations to the following people:

- President—Jim Wisdom, Boston University
Vice-President—Terri-Lynn Thayer, Aquidneck Management Associates
Vice-President—Mary Albano, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Secretary—Ginger Wright, Network Solutions Incorporated

Customer sites attending the NATURAL 2.1 Capabilities class will be billed. Update training is not included in maintenance contracts.

Connections will now contain a list of all SIG's and BIG's and the chairperson of each.

On July 30th Boston University will host the first (hopefully of many) group of performance workshops. There will be a total of three: TP considerations (COM-LETE, CICS, CMS, TSO), ADABAS performance and tuning and Programming (NATURAL, Direct calls, ADAMINT and ADASQL). Software AG representatives will be present at each. Watch for an agenda. . .

Larry Jayne, Software AG's Manager of Customer Relations, spoke about the upcoming conference and future conference sites. The 17th International Software AG Users' Conference will be held November 1-5 at the Fountainebleau Hilton Hotel, in Miami Beach, Florida.

This conference promises to be an exciting one with 5-6 concurrent sessions and approximately 50 user presentations.

Upcoming conferences will be as follows:

- 1988 Nashville, Tennessee, September 25-29, 1988
1989 Anaheim, California, October 22-26, 1989

Buck Shaw, vice-president International SAGGROUP, talked about some of the material discussed at the May SAGGROUP Executive meeting held in Denver.

General Announcements:

- There were no new developments on SERVICE CONNECTION.
- Software AG is developing a new Customer Service database. Contact the Braintree Office to make sure your information is up to date.
- Software AG is undertaking a new advertising and marketing campaign. Watch for better and more timely advertising.
- John McAra will be addressing the documentation and future upward compatibility of user exits.
- Additional copies of SM10 documentation are available for purchase.
- Licensed sites will be required to request in writing the authorization to copy documentation and training material.

Product Futures and Tools:

- New ADABAS, NATURAL and COM-LETE tools tapes will be available soon, watch for them in Connections.
- There is not currently a tools tape for PREDICT.
- A tool on the ADABAS DBA tools tape allows NATURAL programs to be recovered from a adafix dump.
- SAGUTILS will no longer exist.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGION

Carlo Scagnelli Talks About User Involvement

Charlie London

The June 10, 1987 meeting was called to order at 9:00 by President John Tomashunas. There were 74 people in attendance representing 43 companies.

John introduced our special guest Carlo Scagnelli. Carlo is President of the SAGGROUP Executive Committee.

He then had representatives from companies new to the regional group introduce themselves. Petitions for guest membership were presented by Computer Task Group, Wilmington, DE and Complete Computer Consulting, Downingtown, PA. All of the petitions for guest membership were accepted by the board.

There was no Old Business to be covered.

New Business was opened up for nominations for 1987-88 Officers. There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations and the election will be held at the next meeting.

Tom Bradbury, Hay Group, reported on the last Executive Committee meeting. Tom covered the makeup and purpose of the Executive Committee. He also talked about the "Connections" magazine and upcoming customer training in NATURAL 2.

Larry Jayne, Software AG, then talked about his activities at Software AG. Larry is responsible for the newsletter and the International Conference. Larry also reviewed and clarified the competition and participation policy for the User Groups. If you have any questions

regarding the quarterly "Connections" magazine or need more information about the upcoming International Conference, give Larry a call at Software AG in Reston at (703) 860-5050.

The competition and participation policy prohibits the attendance, participation, and giving of presentations at user group meetings by any non-licensed group or persons who compete with Software AG. If your organization is not a licensed user of a Software AG product, then your organization must participate in the Cooperative Consultants Program with Software AG. Contact Andrew Ford in Reston at (703) 648-2446 to obtain the information necessary to sign-up. Andrew is sending the Region a list of participants if you aren't sure of your company's status.

As part of the new business at the next meeting, we will discuss the details of how our local policy will be implemented.

Carlo then talked to us about increasing participation in the User Group. He suggested taking the time to write up hints and tips. Another suggestion was to make a presentation at a meeting.

10 After the break, Jon Ebert, Software AG, spoke to us about Software AG's communication products. These products included the COMPLETE product family, NET-PASS, and NATURAL PROCESS.

The final presentation was by John Church, Software AG. He talked about some of the new features and processing concepts with NATURAL 2.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9th, in the Frederick the Great Ballroom of the Holiday Inn—King of Prussia.

Secretary's Note

Apologies are extended to our Vice President Jim Bell. In the past two sets of minutes I incorrectly referred to him as John Bell.

EASTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Jonathan Kinberg Speaks on REVIEW Version 2

Bill Hiron

The meeting was on June 9, 1987 at the Marriott Hotel in Syracuse and opened at 9:30 by Laura Jacobs with the introduction of 32 attendees representing 15 organizations. The central theme was large data bases.

Jonathan B. Kinberg led off the day's events with a presentation on REVIEW Version 2, Software AG's realtime monitor, which offers on-line and batch performance reporting for ADABAS, NATURAL, COMPLETE and COMPOSE. He emphasized that poor response time can be attributed, in most cases, to poor application design. REVIEW provides the tools to gain control of the data base by pointing out "problem" jobs that tend to degrade overall system performance.

Larry Jayne then spoke about the User's Conference which will be held November 1st thru the 5th in Miami, Florida. He stated that there will actually be two conferences held concurrently. A technical one which, like previous conferences, will be directed towards DP Management, DBAs, analysts and an executive one which will be directed towards the "upper" management of an organization. Larry emphasized to register early if you are planning on going, since the Fountainebleau Hotel has 1150 rooms and he's expecting an enrollment of 1700 attendees.

He also sought comments and suggestions from the group on how to enhance the Software AG periodical "CONNECTIONS."

The afternoon session began with the business meeting. Laura asked the group to start thinking about running for office in the upcoming elections at the November meeting.

Eric Seifert from Citibank, then gave a presentation on "Performance of Large Databases." The environment, requiring 24

hour availability, mandates optimum performance. Eric provided a list of things that can be done to maximize ADABAS performance.

A round table discussion on large volume files closed the day's activities.

Future Meetings:

September 15—CTG Buffalo
Users Presentations
Third Generation Languages vs
NATURAL 2
Election of Officers

November 18—Rochester Gas
and Electric
Security
Post Convergence reports

ROCKY MOUNTAIN EAST REGION

Owen Plaster Talks About His Experiences with NET-PASS

Joe Leighty
State of Colorado

The Summer Regional meeting of the Rocky Mountain East SAG Users was held August 21, 1987 at the State of Colorado General Government Computer Center in Lakewood.

Annual elections were held with Jim Keebaugh of TRW being named Regional Rep. Dave Ritter of Metropolitan State College was elected Program Coordinator and Gene Fisher of Jefferson County Schools was chosen Secretary/Treasurer. We extend our congratulations and thanks to these men for their willingness to serve.

Larry Jayne of Software AG was in attendance and helped clarify the Software AG policy and guidelines on Regional meetings. The group vigorously affirmed its affiliation to Software AG, but also expressed the desire to hear presentations from third party sources. The consensus appeared to be that, at the discretion of the Regional officers, we should set aside one or more of our quarterly meetings for third parties with the remainder reserved for Software AG.

INFORMATION REQUEST CARD

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| <input type="checkbox"/> NATURAL ELITE Computer Based Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Please Include me on the Customer Training Mailing List |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SUPER NATURAL Courseware | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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Following the business meeting, Larry Jayne asked the group for feedback on Connections. A few cosmetic improvements were suggested, but compliments far outweighed criticism. Recent trends in user and product manager articles were seen as particularly encouraging.

Larry then spoke about the upcoming Conference and the new Executive Track. The benefits of having a better informed management were apparent to many of the technical types present.

After the break, Owen Plaster, of the Colorado Department of Revenue, gave a presentation on NET-PASS. Owen had been involved in the alpha and beta tests since September, 1986. Owen was very complimentary about the product's wealth of features, reliability and documentation. By permitting multiple concurrent VTAM application sessions, NET-PASS lowers system overhead by reducing logon activity. The transmission optimizer feature and the ability to pre-position users into VTAM applications (e.g. CICS or TSO) reduce network overhead. Subjectively, Owen felt that productivity would be enhanced because people could think like people instead of compartmentalizing and batching their work as they had done in single session environments.

Mickey Trujillo of Fashion Bar capped the session by sharing his experiences installing NATURAL 2. His presentation was punctuated with some much appreciated humor. The message was encouraging. NATURAL 2 installs easily, the source conversion utilities work well and the buffer pool manager seems to work in all environments. Mickey found that the NATURAL 1.2 TSO driver (NATTSO) could be used successfully with NATURAL 2 (at least in his environment). He identified a couple of run time anomalies to watch out for. First, the INPUT NOERASE statement appears to behave differently; and, second, there are occasional NAT0954 errors which occur on arithmetic operations.

The next Regional meeting will be held at a time and place to be announced by our newly elected officers.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Sue Karlin Discusses ADABAS 5 Features

The June 25, 1987 meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at Red Lion Riverside in Boise, ID.

New Business—Leo W. Schutter, Chairperson

Call from the Chairperson for topic ideas. Some suggestions were:
—NATURAL 2 class/workshop
—Distributive Processing

Call from the Chairperson for meeting locations. Some recommendations were:
—Jackpot, Nevada
—Sun Valley, Idaho
—alternate between Boise, Idaho and Salt Lake City, Utah
—Idaho Falls, Idaho

Request for a designated contact person per organization—none received at meeting. Asked to send names, etc., when one appointed.

ADABAS 5—Sue Karlin, Software AG

Software AG has been conducting intensive testing on ADABAS 5 for the last one and one-half years in Reston, VA. Also it has been in user alpha testing in Europe for the past nine months.

ADABAS 5 is based on the concept of Distributed Data Base Management (DDBM). This is a philosophy where the files in the data base are logically configured rather than physically, i.e., you can have one logical file that is actually made up of several physical files. This would be transparent to the application. This would also allow for remote data base processing. In our current data base environment (with ADABAS Version 4.1) the applications must be sensitive to the location of the data—whether it is remote or local. A DDBM doesn't care about how many data bases there are or what their physical locations are—logical rather than physical. So far no vendor has come up with a solution to this quandary. This is mainly due to the problem

of dealing with update or retrieval of data from multiple physical locations.

To address these obstacles, Software AG's DDBM has four components:

1. DBMS—Process the PET (i.e., two phase commit protocol), create and maintain distributed files, and on-line utilities.
2. ADANET—Key functions are: translation of logical ID's to physical ID's, distributed search management, and distributed transaction management and recovery.
3. NETWORK—Provides capability to distribute data storage and processing using a variety of different communication protocols using network addressing, route selection, communication with neighboring nodes using appropriate protocols, routing table synchronization.
4. PREDICT—Will provide capability to define and maintain a distributed data base and distributed file directory.

All calls to ADABAS in the Version 5.1 environment will be considered logical not physical.

No changes to Data Storage will be required; however, there will have to be changes to the Associator—conversion will be automatically done by the nucleus. This would not mean a larger space requirement for the Associator. Buffers will be processed through cross-memory services instead of the SVC, leaving SVC's function merely that of a traffic cop.

There will be sharing of the IFB via global use—no duplication of this information. Also, the IFB will be translated in the work pool rather than the FBP. This should reduce the number of overwrites. Thread processing will be done in the work pool instead of the work dataset. The end result of both of these changes will be less I/O.

ADAMINT will be a "frozen" product—will not be considered in any new enhancements.

Multi-thread update, will replace the single update through thread 1. The limit of twenty threads will still exist—the user may assign the threads for update or simply command processing as necessary.

Software AG does suggest a maximum number of update threads of three to five.

In Version 5.1, when an ET is issued, the nucleus will scan the command queue and process all ETs at that time. Only one write to Work will then be done, instead of one for each ET.

For other enhancements, please see attached list (Exhibit 'A').

Also, with ADABAS 5, an online menu driven DBA assistance system will be available—ADABAS ONLINE SERVICES. This system will allow processing of these areas:

1. ADABAS session communication
2. ET data/checkpoints
3. File maintenance
4. Data base maintenance
5. Data base report
6. Space calculation

These would be well received in the DBA community! They would eliminate the need to create and execute our own JCL when running utilities, and would also give us the ability to process certain operator commands.

UTILITY CHANGES:

1. All two-step utilities will be one-step
2. JCL changes (not expounded upon)
3. Restart checkpoints for large utilities
4. Logs utility execution to checkpoint
5. Can restore from tape housing needed file, rather than searching through all tapes for needed file.

International Conference—Larry Jayne, Manager, Customer Relations

This year Software AG is going to be offering an "Executive Track" at their International Conference in Miami, Florida.

The Executive Track will be seminars designed specifically for upper management personnel. It will be held on Monday and Tuesday only.

The other side of the coin will be the "Technical Track" which will be composed of seminars similar to those held in previous years—aimed at the technical users. It will run Monday through Thursday.

Future conferences are scheduled as follows:

1988	Nashville, TN
1989	Anaheim, CA

ADASQL User Presentation—Ruth Pacheco, State of Utah

Ruth's presentation was on 'Converting from ADAMINT to ADASQL'. She talked on her experiences encountered while trying to implement a system they received from another state. The system was written in ADAPREP. After reviewing this system, they decided to purchase and use ADASQL to accomplish the conversion.

Structured Query Language (SQL) is a data base retrieval language developed by IBM. ADASQL is based on that language.

ADASQL can retrieve one or more records based on search criteria. These records are stored in a 'table' fashion and processed from there. Cursors are used to position yourself within the table while processing records.

When converting from ADAMINT to ADASQL these suggestions were made:

1. Analyze ADAMINT macros:
 - a) Check for ADABAS passwords
 - b) Check for single and paired macros
 - c) Pull off search criteria
 - d) Pull off field names
 - e) Decide on when to declare cursors and name them
2. Modify COBOL program:
 - a) Build ADASQL selection statements
 - b) Modify LOOP processing
 - c) Convert other commands
3. General suggestions:
 - a) Watch out for conditional statements—cannot do calls in conditional statement, must change to performs

- b) Avoid duplicating control blocks and buffers—put all single record processing in separate paragraphs, so program does not generate duplicate information
- c) Mixing ADAMINT and ADASQL
 - Maintain correct command sequences,
 - Possible conflicts with command ID's.

NOTE: We do have extensive backup documentation from Ruth, for future reference.

NATURAL CONNECTION Demo—John Martin, Software AG SSR

NATURAL CONNECTION is a PC-based application with the following features:

1. multi-task, menu-driven processor,
2. allows for toggling between mainframe and PC,
3. can invoke procedures for delay starting, and
4. can schedule invoking of PC applications for later execution.

The next meeting will be held on October 8th in Salt Lake City, Utah. Gordon Wood volunteered to coordinate the meeting location arrangements.

We will strive to have NATURAL 2 and Distributive Processing as the main items on that agenda.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Mark Milne Presents ADABAS 5 Highlights

The June meeting was called to order by President Ted Dumetz. There were about 30 people in attendance.

Ted reminded those in attendance that election of officers is coming up soon. He announced that hand-

outs were available from the latest SAGGROUP Executive Committee meeting.

Mark Ambrose of TICOR announced an early warning for ADAMINT users with ADABAS SM10.

Jon Ebert, Product Manager of the COM-PLETE family of products, presented a slide presentation.

The base system products include:

- the nucleus (COM-PLETE, COM-POSE)
- COM-PASS for customizing user profiles, providing start-up transactions, and managing up to 9 concurrent sessions
- Advanced NATURAL Services for online printing, graphics, on-line workfiles, and RJE submission from online NATURAL
- Program development utilities
- System management utilities.

Add-on charge products include:

- COM-PLETE security system
- REVIEW—interactive performance monitoring
- ACCESS—can attach any TP monitor to COM-PLETE.

He then compared and contrasted COM-PLETE and COM-POSE, and also discussed ADABAS HPE (High Performance Option). Jon then reviewed the general status of the products and possible release dates.

NET-PASS, Software AG's session manager, was discussed which is installed as a VTAM application and has 4 functions:

- Session management (multiple simultaneous sessions in multiple TP monitors)
- Screen management, including windows
- Session control (session portability and multiple CPU's)
- Operator control facilities

Jon also gave an overview of NATURAL PROCESS which runs NATURAL against a pre-defined DDM of operating system data. Reports can be made on all aspects of the operating and spooling systems. This can be a replacement for TSO/ISPF functions.

Mark Milne, Product Manager for ADABAS, ADASQL, and 4 other products presented a slide presentation.

ADAMINT will continue to be supported, but not enhanced. ADASQL should be the choice for use with 3rd generation languages.

Some aspects of SQL are the following: data manipulation, data definition, data security, adhoc query, portability, standard, industry accepted.

Some extensions for ADASQL are: better use of ADABAS, sorted processing, histogram, centralized error handling, automatic cross referencing with PREDICT, transaction commitment/roll back.

ADASQL commands are embedded in the 3GL code, run through a preprocessor which uses PREDICT and populates it, and outputs source code with direct calls. This source is then compiled. It gives high productivity because it is simple and uses PREDICT. It is efficient because it generates direct calls.

Mark then discussed ADABAS 5. This version is a complete rewrite of the product. The product will be in alpha test in July. It will be in test for 60-90 days, will be modified based on the test results, and be released for beta testing. When generally available it will be released in phases similar to the release of NATURAL 2.

Mark highlighted 5 areas of change in the product:

- Performance: buffer pool above 16MB, multi-thread update, internal modifications for efficiency, adds another search algorithm, buffered ET's, and others
- Relational support: non-keyed search, soft coupling
- Utilities: utilities rewritten, new functions, some functions in nucleus (meaning ADABAS on-line services now possible), batch utilities still available
- Internal Changes: SVC versus cross-memory services
- Distribution: ADANET add-on software to extend ADABAS across multiple files on multiple CPU's.

Following Mark's presentation there was then an extensive question and answer period.

SOUTHWEST REGION

Jeff Schmidt Demonstrates PREDICT Verification Rules

Laurie Hanley
Southwest Regional SAGGROUP

The June 5, 1987 meeting was called to order by Larry Godec, the Interim Southwest Regional Representative. The following items of business were covered:

1. Elections for the SAG Southwest Region Users' Group
2. General discussion concerning vendors—Larry Jayne, Software AG
3. Recovering ADABAS FROM Hardware Failures—Bill Wagner, UT
4. Human Resources Application for ADABAS/NATURAL Environment—John Cailloux, ISI
5. Year in Review—Jon Hoaldrige, Software AG
6. Discussion concerning the Software AG International Conference—Larry Jayne
7. PREDICT Verification Rules—Jeff Schmidt, Software AG
8. Open Forum

ELECTIONS:

The First order of business was to hold elections for the SW Region users' group. The results were as follows:

Larry Godec (Computer Language Research)—Regional Rep
Kerrie Meyler (T.G.I. Friday's)—Program Coordinator
Laurie Hanley (T.G.I. Friday's)—Secretary/Treasurer

Persons who wish to make contributions and/or suggestions for future meetings, please contact one of the above representatives. All input is appreciated!

GENERAL DISCUSSION CONCERNING COMPETING VENDORS:

The discussion as to whether competing vendors should attend Software AG user group meetings aired many concerns of both Software AG and the users' group. It is the policy of Software AG that consultants, who are not a part of the Business Development Division Program, as well as competitors, are not allowed to attend, participate in or give presentations at SAGGROUP meetings.

RECOVERING ADABAS FROM HARDWARE ERRORS: A COOKBOOK: (I.E. "The Rocky Hardware Picture Show")

The discussion centered around the very important and informational topic of recovering ADABAS from hardware errors. Recovery of the following ADABAS components were discussed in detail:

- Data Storage
- Associator
- Work
- Temp
- Sort
- Protection Log
- Command Log

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14 Anyone interested in copies of Bill Wagner's foils should contact Larry Godec or Kerrie Meyler.

HUMAN RESOURCES APPLICATION FOR ADABAS/ NATURAL:

John Cailloux, Regional Sales Manager for INTEGRAL SYSTEMS, presented a human resources software package for ADABAS. Some brief highlights of this package are:

- Package is written in environment's native language (NATURAL)
- the entire system is in table form
- interfaces with many other vendors' software packages
- fully customized within a system upon installation
- reporting capabilities use SUPER NATURAL
- uses NATURAL and ADABAS security packages
- multiple tax entity reporting possible

For more complete information concerning this package, contact John Cailloux of INTEGRATED SYSTEMS at (214) 470-0550.

YEAR IN REVIEW:

Jon Hoaldrige of Software AG discussed the 1987 fiscal year current product distribution mix. The results are attached.

SOFTWARE AG INTERNATIONAL USERS' CONFERENCE:

The 1987 Users' Conference will be held in Miami, Florida from November 1-5. This year's conference will have two tracks: a technical track and an executive management track.

The technical track will be subdivided for IBM and DEC/VAX users. This track will include 111+ sessions, a demo hall to demo new products, and an open forum Monday evening to talk directly with the Software AG product designers and technical staff.

The executive management track will follow a slightly different format. This track will run from November 1-3 and will include several informative speakers discussing subjects such as: conceptual thinking, 2nd generation applications and concepts, Software AG future directions, etc.

Because the management executive track is by invitation only, executives are urged to inform Software AG if they wish to attend. For additional information contact the Users' Conference Registrar at (703) 648-2486.

Also, sites for the 1988 and 1989 conference were announced:

- 1988 Nashville, Tennessee at Opryland
- 1989 Anaheim, California at the Hilton

PREDICT VERIFICATION RULES:

Along with the new release of NATURAL 2, is PREDICT V2.2. Jeff Schmidt, of Software AG, demonstrated how the PREDICT verification rules work under this new release. Some of the highlights of his discussion follow:

There are four basic types of verification rules:

1. CONCEPTUAL—these rules are used in the planning stages
 2. INLINE—this type of rule is stored in a MAP, not in PREDICT
 3. FREE—these rules are stored in PREDICT and are available to the programmers
 4. AUTOMATIC—these rules are tied to fields through the DDM (a rule is considered free until a DDM is generated then it is an automatic rule)
- The PREDICT verification rules provide for standardized editing rules and error messages, checked automatically
 - You can have up to fifty verification rules tied to an ADABAS file
 - Overall performance should increase (less overhead since reinputs in MAPS don't have to switch control back and forth between the program and the map)
 - The verification rules work only with MAPS.

OPEN FORUM (Important Notes):

Several important points were brought up in a general discussion at the close of the meeting.

1. A ZAP was announced (#NT273902) which will return a condition code in Batch NATURAL under DOS VSE/SP2.
2. A conversion utility is available for NATURAL 2 which will clean up global variables by removing format and length specifications and defining them in the Global Data Area. A tape will be distributed to all account reps in the near future.

Washington State University Shares Their Experiences with NATURAL 2

Paul Brogger

The June 5th, 1987 meeting of the Northwest Region was attended by 42 members from 21 organizations, and featured NATURAL 2 presentations, including a beta test demo.

Bill Anderson opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the first item on the agenda: when should the next SAGGROUP Northwest regional meeting be held? After some discussion, the region voted to hold an extra meeting in September and quarterly thereafter. Justifications for the extra meeting included the increased level of product activity around NATURAL 2 and ADABAS 5.

Bill Anderson summarized the Executive Committee notes, reporting that Software AG's SERVICE CONNECTION is "not dead", but will probably be delayed by NATURAL 2 and ADABAS 5. Word should be available at the 1987 International Users' Conference.

Bill also wanted to compliment Bill Linker and Ken Torri for their help with a COM-LETE benchmark at Service Center I.

Jerry Maioli of Western Library Network presented on their CDROM desktop database product, "Lasercat".

Jerry began by summarizing the nature of the Western Library Network, a division of the Washington State Library. Its charter is to provide bibliographic cataloging services to Northwest area libraries. From the Library of Congress and participant input, WLN has built an ADABAS database of 4+ million logical records. These records are lengthy textual summaries of information about books (author, title, publisher, subject, etc.) This database is made accessible online by a variety of keyword and other descriptors with a large PL/I and

Assembler application system, and is used as source data in batch mode for the creation of a variety of hardcopy products.

The focus of Jerry's presentation, however, was WLN's use of the new CDROM technology to offload the 2 million most-used records from this database to a PC-based desktop inquiry/reporting system. Using batch mainframe software, the selected records are read, inverted, and compressed, creating a number of data and access key files. These are concatenated on tape in a specified format and sent to a vendor for creation of CDROM laser disks. Finally, a PC with CDROM drives and access software (written in C) are used by librarians to perform local searching and reporting on this desktop database. The three disks used in the current implementation allow over 1.5 gigabytes of compressed data and indexes to be searched and read from the menu-driven PC application. Augmentation of the read-only CDROM database with floppy disks enables eventual update of the mainframe (source) data after communication to the host via TP linkup.

While not strictly a presentation of an ADABAS-related product or service, LaserCat provides an example of one use of the emerging technology of CDROM laser disks. Jerry stayed on with a demonstration setup of LaserCat, which received much interest during breaks.

Jim Hill was introduced for a presentation of Washington State University's experiences as a beta test site for NATURAL 2. Jim began with an overview of WSU's NATURAL environment and many applications, and went on to the topic of WSU's experiences with installation of the beta tape.

Installation of NATURAL 2 at WSU began on January 27, took only 2-3 hours, and went essentially smooth. In general, the product seemed to work, the new features were there, but some new features exhibited problems. Jim recommended attending Software AG's "road show" on NATURAL 2 capabilities for a better understanding of the differences between the older and newer versions. Important points include:

- INPL changes—NATMAINT has been eliminated. INPL is now part of the nucleus, and INPL recognizes

FSEC, FNAT and FUSER. The System file is protected under Version 2 because the nucleus recognizes N.S.S. files.

- Buffer Pool Manager—Use of the Buffer Pool available and required for all environments (including CMS, TSO & batch), NATURAL programs are now fully reentrant and are shared/executed directly from the Buffer Pool. One Buffer Pool is used per region, the Buffer Pool Manager employs an aging algorithm to make space utilization more efficient, and statistics on use are available through SYSTAT. NATURAL 1.2 nuclei and buffers can be run concurrently with Version 2.1 nuclei and buffers. Version 2.1 can load both 1.2 and 2.1 object code.
- TP Interface—One interface will be used for all subsystems (CON-NECT, SECURITY, etc.), the CICS interface is now written in Command Level and the CICS MSIZE limit of 64k has been removed (while the USIZE limit is still at 32k).
- CICS Storage Handling—Dynamic storage organization has been made contiguous and GETMAIN/FREEMAIN usage eliminated because Version 2.1 manages its own space in single large area GETMAINED from CICS. Available space is divided into "threads" for management purposes, and parameters determine the number and size of threads.
- Storage Control Program—NATURAL temp storage under CICS can be segregated from non-NATURAL applications' storage, and either CICS temporary storage or a VSAM file can be used for the Roll File.
- CICS Configuration—NATURAL manages its portion of the DSA, which is divided into threads and utilized as needed. This storage apparently can be located "somewhere else" to avoid 512k limit on Buffer Pool implied by operation under CICS.
- Distribution Tape—A documentation file is found at the front of the distribution tape with lots of good information, and drafts of the documentation were made available early. WSU has been receiving fix tapes at a rate of about one each week.

