

CONNECTIONS

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SUMMER ISSUE

Exceeding the Expected—The 18th International Software AG Users' Conference

Pam Ellis
Editor

The 1988 International Users' Conference will be held at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee on September 25-29. This is a great opportunity to come hear Software AG's plans for the year to come. Also, you'll be able to compare notes with other users of Software AG's products. Last year's conference was attended by over 2,000 representatives from around the world. Don't miss this opportunity to "Exceed the Expected" with Software AG.

Highlights

Sunday night kicks off with the Opening General Session followed by the SAGGROUP President's Reception and the Technology Fair. At the Technology Fair you will be able to meet with your Software AG area representatives and your SAGGROUP regional representatives; mingle with Software AG executives and other users; and learn more about ISA—Software AG's Open Integrated Software Architecture.

Monday's general session includes presentations from Software AG's executives and Mike Braude of the Gartner Group. Then the traditional breakout sessions begin, which will include the following types of presentations: Software AG Presents, Users' Papers, Classes, and Special Industry Group Workshops.

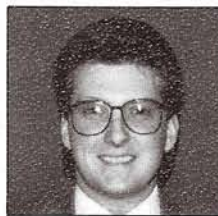
The Open Forum, where users can meet with Software AG's executives, developers, and product managers on a one-on-one basis is scheduled for Tuesday night. This is your chance to ask questions of key Software AG executives in a

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The Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee

CON-NECT 2: The Universal Office At Work



Doug Wheeler
Product Manager

If you are tired of wasting valuable time developing, sending, editing, organizing, distributing, filing, scheduling, tracking, printing, reminding, correcting, classifying, and updating information—DON'T.

Use CON-NECT 2!

CON-NECT 2 provides an integrated office system which includes document management, electronic mail, text processing, and time management facilities.

We had four goals in mind when developing CON-NECT 2:

- develop a PC-like user interface
- offer extensive functionality
- integrate the data processing environment
- build an open architecture.

The CON-NECT 2 developers answered the challenge, and developed a comprehensive office systems solution.

The User Interface—NATURAL 2 at it's best

Since CON-NECT 2 is written in NATURAL 2, the alternatives for implementing various types of user interfaces were numerous. A number of excellent ideas for the user interface came from the customer base at the Users' Conference

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President's Message



Carlo Scagnelli
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation

Though I find it unbelievable that my term as President of SAGGROUP is almost over, a quick check in a mirror confirms that 28 months have indeed passed. The snow on the roof threatens to become a blizzard and that space saver spare around the middle shows signs of becoming a wide tread.

During the time I have been privileged to serve as President, I have been counseled and supported by more people than I can possibly thank within the small space given me here. It would take the better part of this publication to list them all and I apologize in advance to any whom I may overlook.

My particular thanks to Bill Wagner for the balance his moderation has provided to offsetting my Mediterranean temper and for his support especially during these last few months. As Executive Committee Vice-president, he has completed every task related to the position and a few we hadn't thought of before. Bill is always there if something needs doing, especially if it needs doing well.

Colette Farabaugh has served both as North American Area Representative and currently as Nominations Chairman. To each position, she has brought enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication which are readily apparent in consistently excellent results as evidenced by the impressive candidates for this year's elections.

Kelly Jones has served as Change Enhancement Coordinator, an almost overwhelming job given the sheer volume of C/Es submitted. With the explosion of products, Kelly has classified, stratified and demystified the total system and has done so while maintaining both his sanity and sense of humor.

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Performance Tips: NATURAL 2 SM03 CICS

Chris Yandall
Customer Service Division

Software AG's Customer Support frequently receives questions regarding how to increase terminal throughput using NATURAL 2 in the CICS environment.

Since CICS is a multi-tasking processor, there are many variables which determine overall performance. To simplify matters, I have narrowed it down to three areas: *applications*, *CICS parms*, and the *environment*. Taking these areas and knowing the intimate relationship each has with the other will let you make key changes to effect most performance improvements. Here are some basic guidelines to follow.

Applications

First, let's look at the applications. This area is usually easy to handle in the production environment since there is a definitive number of programs. This is important when determining the size and location of the buffer pool. With the help of your NATURAL Administrator's Manual, the topic on SYSTAT will aid you in building a more efficient buffering environment.

CICS Parm

The next item is CICS parms. There are NATURAL and CICS parameters that, when specified in key amounts, make optimum throughput more of a reality. The biggest impact on NATURAL is the number of storage threads. The maximum number supported currently is 16. Choosing the maximum would require the CPU to respond quickly enough to service all 16 if all NATURAL tasks are on the active chain. This means the concurrent CICS active task setting, AMXT (global setting) or CMXT (task setting), is at least 16. All tasks are then marked as active and CICS attempts to service all of them as quickly as the CPU allows.

Now with that in mind, imagine a heavily loaded 4341 running DOS/VSE with active batch partitions and a 3090 running XA with a

dedicated CICS region to NATURAL. Sixteen threads on the DOS machine would be wasted because the CPU cannot respond quickly enough. (On the other hand, the XA system would best use all threads.) Based on your environment, the number of threads depends on how much CPU can be honestly given to CICS at any one time. As our SCP developer, Mike Meehan, says, "CICS seems to perform best when given a few concurrent tasks to service."

Consider starting out with three threads to service 10 to 20 terminals and tune up or down. As more and more applications are added and the work load (more terminals) increases, the necessity of more threads may be evaluated—keeping in mind the available CPU resources.

The Environment

The last item, the environment, has been discussed somewhat. The number of terminals using NATURAL will always be a major performance topic. When a major network (over 1,000 terminals) is employed in a CICS region using NATURAL, it is possible that 4,000-5,000 transaction requests are made of NATURAL every five minutes. This is where the number of threads and the AMXT/CMXT settings become a major factor. Our recommendation in this case would be 20 to 32 for AMXT/CMXT with an MXT (maximum number of users) of 100 to 500. This is assuming that the number of threads would be 10 to 16 in an environment where the CPU resources are available.

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ADABAS and NATURAL on VAX/VMS Version 5

Steve Sylvester
Customer Service Division

Both ADABAS (VMS) and NATURAL (VMS) have been tested under beta versions of VAX/VMS Version 5 and work fine.

Only ADALNK and ADASHR need to be relinked. User applications should work with no changes. ADABAS 1.4.2 will be shipped with two versions of ADALNK and ADASHR so that you can run it under VMS Version 4 or 5. ADABAS 1.5.0 will also handle both versions.

DEC started shipping VMS 5 first to VAX 62xx initial installations and then to 88xx sites. Shipments to most users probably started in late July. According to DEC, it will take several months to complete shipping to all of their customers. The documentation set has become incredibly huge—something like 17 linear feet of manuals!

Most VAX users we talk to expect to wait for VMS 5.1 to come out before installing it. Fortunately, DEC's layered products groups had more time to prepare for this than they did for VMS 4.0, so most of the critical and high impact products will be available at the same time as VMS 5.0.

We will publish future articles in Connections on various VMS 5 features, such as Symmetric Multi-Processing and Parallel Processing.

Below is a summary of what Software AG products are released and available on VAX/VMS, here is the list:

- ADABAS 1.4.1 (1.4.2 works on VMS 5)
- NATURAL 1.3.2
- NET-WORK 1.3.0
- PREDICT 1.0.1
- ADABAS SQL 1.3.0 (includes support for FORTRAN)
- CONVERT 1.0.0
- CON-STRUCT 1.1.0
- SUPER NATURAL 2.1.0

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NATURAL Elite in Nashville

Susan Lowy

Customer Service Division

At this year's Software AG International Users' Conference, as in the past, Elite will have a demo booth open throughout the demo room hours. We hope to demonstrate Elite 2, showing off all of its new enhancements, as well as VMS Elite and its capabilities. Therefore, you can be assured that you will not only be able to see a complete demonstration of the product, but you will also be able to direct any of your questions to the people who use the product daily: Software AG's Elite course developers.

In addition to the demos, we will also be making several presentations. A brief description follows for each.

Integrating NATURAL Elite into an Effective Training Strategy

This presentation defines the integration of computer-based training (CBT) in the form of NATURAL Elite, into a successful and effective overall training strategy. An overview of the NATURAL Elite product is followed by a discussion of a variety of training options available to the NATURAL Elite user. Some of the options discussed include: in-house course development vs. custom courseware contracts, Elite training cost projection and control, courseware life-cycle management, and the effects of Elite 2 product directions on an overall training strategy.

Authoring Tips and Techniques for Elite 2

The focus of this seminar will be to identify and demonstrate how to incorporate instruction using the new Elite 2 environment. An emphasis will be placed on comparing and contrasting development between NATURAL Elite V1.3 and V2.1 throughout the discussion. The primary areas of concentration will be: the new Elite map editor, using windows for student interaction, and creative answer-checking to promote learner retention.

Elite Custom Courseware

There you are—needing to train your employees on a specific application using NATURAL Elite. However, due to limited resources (time and people), you can't do it your-

self. What are you going to do? Enter the Elite development team. In this presentation, you will learn how this team can develop and write a NATURAL Elite CBT course for a particular application and need. The specific steps involved from the first phone call to the final release of the custom courseware will be covered, including the different custom options.

Customizing Off-the-Shelf Elite Courseware

You've purchased an Elite course; however, you want to modify it to meet your specific needs. The problem is how to get started. In this presentation, you will learn how to create a new course using an existing course (using the administration component of Elite). You will also go step-by-step through the process required to modify existing lessons or those needed to add a new lesson (using the authoring component of Elite).

Elite and VMS

There will be two Conference presentations that will focus on Elite and the VMS market. The first will concentrate on VMS authoring techniques, while the other will feature the current and future capabilities that will accompany Elite VMS.

Except for the presentation on *Integrating Elite into an Effective Training Strategy*, the above Elite topics are new to this year's Conference. So, note these sessions and make sure to save time to fit them into your five busy days in Nashville.

Recapping Elite Courses

Periodically, we like to present a listing of the current Elite courses which are available for purchase. If you want a particular course, or if you have any questions, please contact your Software AG Account Representative.

Here is a list of our courses:

How to Use Elite (June 1986, SM02 February 1988)
SUPER NATURAL Fundamentals (January 1987)
Advanced SUPER NATURAL (January 1987)
SUPER NATURAL Administration (March 1987)
NATURAL 2 Enhancements (July 1987)

NATURAL 2 Introduction (November 1987)
NATURAL 2 for the Business Professional (December 1987)
NATURAL 2 Intermediate Structured Programming (April 1988)
NATURAL 2 Advanced Structured Programming (September 1988)
NATURAL CONSTRUCT Fundamentals (July 1988)
Advanced NATURAL CONSTRUCT (Fall 1988)
ADABAS 5 Fundamentals (Fall 1988)
ADABAS 5 Program Design (Direct Calls Fall 1988)
ADABAS 5 File Design (Fall 1988)
ADABAS 5 Utilities (Fall 1988)

NATURAL 2 Tips

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Hopefully, this will help you as a guideline in configuring your NATURAL environment.

Tips

Here are some tips that may help your quest for sub-second response time to become a reality.

1. Number of Threads: The more threads there are, the better the chance of finding the old data, thus preventing a roll-in. A roll-out always takes place, but a roll-in is a logic option. That is, if no one has occupied the thread you were in, no roll-in takes place. The disadvantage of many threads would be the paging that CICS must perform to keep all programs efficiently in the DSA.
2. Choice of Roll Files or AUX TEMP Storage: If AUX is chosen, use the most efficient CISIZE for the device. For a 3380, 20K with a record size of seven bytes less has been quite efficient for many users. If this CISIZE cannot be defined, it may become more efficient to define RRDS files for the roll device using the recommended CISIZE/RECSIZE above. Remember, when AUX is being used by other applications as well as by NATURAL, a bottleneck may occur. The symptom is less than optimum response time. Therefore, RRDS roll files become

- more and more a factor in increasing response time—especially when I/O channel contention can be avoided. However, if AUX can be dedicated to NATURAL, use it.
3. AMXT/CMXT settings: As previously discussed, the number of threads has a direct relationship to these CICS S.I.T. parameters. If three threads are active in a CICS session, it is strongly recommended that three more NATURAL users be queued for a thread. The CICS settings should be six in this example.
 4. Main Storage: In the XA environment, roll files should be above the 16 meg line. In this dreamland of real storage, no I/O is performed on roll-in. If large amounts of main storage are used from NATURAL, then tuning considerations for paging may be required.
 5. DTB: Turn off DTB for the NATURAL transaction. For NATURAL VSAM, turn off journaling and logging for files so that the external overall overhead for NATURAL is minimal.
 6. Command Level Links: If ADABAS is used, a significant decrease (20-60%) in CPU may be attained by applying the source mod from the 8806 fix tape from the optional CICS source change member. The mod affects NATCICS and ADALNC. It replaces the usage of command level links to ADABAS with a BALR'ized approach.
 7. RRDS: If RRDS files are used, we strongly recommend against adding them to the LSR pool. This is because VSAM buffering waits cause NATURAL to step into the unpredictable result zone. When a NATURAL session abends using RRDS and addressability is lost at house-keeping end, the roll file directory is not reset and the area used by the session is not freed. When CICS is restarted, the RRDS file remains in this state. Place an IDCAMS DELETE/DEFINE job in the CICS start-up with the roll file initializer included.
 8. Threads: All threads should be made resident. A CICS short-on-storage condition may occur if CICS has been active servicing many tasks outside of NATURAL and suddenly the first NATURAL session begins. When this occurs, DSA fragmentation will develop due to NATURAL performing EXEC CICS LOAD with HOLD option on the threads.
 9. File Access: Avoid reading entire large ADABAS files physically or calling external COBOL routines that read excessive records from NATURAL. This causes the thread to be assigned to the program for the duration of the file access.

Remember, these are guidelines—not bottom line recommendations. We can only suggest what we perceive as critical areas to be concerned with and ask you to use them as guidelines.

Happy Birthday ADABAS and NATURAL!

Mary Kirkman
VAX Product Manager

I hope you are planning to attend the Users' Conference next month to help celebrate four years of ADABAS and NATURAL.

We're having a Party and you are invited!!!

Who's Birthday: ADABAS & NATURAL

When: September 25-29

Where: Nashville

P.S.: Don't forget to register for the Users' Conference

It seems like only yesterday when ADABAS & NATURAL were first introduced into the VAX market. But, it will be four years ago on October 1, when they were first announced.

The Software AG's VAX family has grown since October 1, 1984. Since that date we have seen the introduction of PREDICT, SUPER NATURAL, CONVERT, NET-WORK, (DECnet, HYPER CHANNEL, INTERLINK, SNA),

ADABAS SQL, (COBOL, PL/1, FORTRAN) AND NATURAL CONSTRUCT.

These products have defined and surpassed the needs of such critical issues as OLTP (on-line transaction processing), CONNECTIVITY (homogeneous & heterogeneous), transportability between IBM and VAX and application development including CASE methodology.

1988 has already proven to be an exciting year for Software AG in the VAX arena. This year alone we have seen the release of new versions:

NATURAL 1.3
ADABAS 1.5
NET-WORK 1.5
ADABAS SQL 1.3

And 1988 is the year for NATURAL Graphics, SUPER NATURAL, NATURAL CONSTRUCT, NATURAL Security and NATURAL Elite.

Yet there is more. Keep your eyes and ears open for other exciting product announcements and enhancements that are coming your way soon . . . including something with the MacIntosh.

I hope to see you in Nashville. And don't forget your party hat!!!

STOP!

If you haven't registered for the 18th International Conference in Nashville
Please call:
703-648-2486

CON-NECT 2

continued from page 1

and were implemented. For example, CON-NECT 2 offers you the capability to activate functions via a PF-key, command, menu-item, or cursor-sensitive positioning. CON-NECT 2 makes extensive use of windowing for a context-sensitive help system and many of the new time management functions such as the "reminder." In addition, every piece is tailorable to your own environment. It is possible to completely modify PF-keys, menus, and commands at a system-level, group-level, or individual-level. Therefore, you can offer your users the optimum environment for information processing and office systems communications.

Many of the office system products built today are activity driven. In an "activity driven" system, users specify the activity they wish to perform—such as "send." Then, once the user gets the "send" screen, they specify the document to be sent. If you think about it, this is not an intuitive process. The new CON-NECT 2 user interface is object driven. When users select an object to work with, such as a document, on the same screen they are provided with all the various functions that are appropriate to that object (e.g. modify, file, discard, print). This approach corresponds to traditional office procedures and completely avoids the need for intermediate menus. As a result, users find the system very comfortable, very quickly. They make intuitive use of its available functions.

Extensive Functionality— CON-NECT 2 has it all

The new CON-NECT 2 is more than just electronic mail and a text editor. CON-NECT 2 is a complete office system product which offers document management and sophisticated electronic mail, as well as full text processing and time management.

Complete Document Management

Within CON-NECT 2, as in most of office environments, all users have their own "Cabinet(s)" within which they may store "Folders." And, within the folders, documents are stored. In fact, CON-NECT 2 allows users to store all objects (e.g. DCA formatted documents,

NATURAL programs, PC documents, and digitized images) defined to it in this manner.

CON-NECT 2 provides an easy to use set of functions to create, manipulate, and retrieve all types of documents. This includes documents which can be created with our text editor or those from the PC environment.

A number of attributes can be associated with a document when it is defined. These include subject, document type, archive date, and up to 6 keywords for rapid retrieval.

Sophisticated Electronic Mail

Mail items sent via CON-NECT 2 can be simple notes, forms or large documents. Mail can be sent/received to any addressee defined to the system. An addressee may be an individual, a distribution list, or several distribution lists. In fact, an addressee can even be someone who is not part of the CON-NECT 2 system. For example, mail items can be sent through Telex and Teletex networks (with the provision of suitable hardware interfaces) and to users working at remote CON-NECT 2 nodes or on other office systems. With these capabilities, CON-NECT 2 offers your users tremendous flexibility and connectivity.

Full Text Processing

At the heart of CON-NECT 2's document handling is a sophisticated text editor. Using all the capabilities of a mainframe, it permits users to quickly create and manipulate textual elements. The editor enables individual profiles to be set up for each user, incorporating a powerful set of edit commands. These include line splitting and joining, word wrapping and tabulation. In addition, the editor supports a split-screen mode allowing text to be copied from one document to another while both documents are simultaneously visible on the screen.

In conjunction with text editing, CON-NECT 2 features CON-FORM which provides a text formatting facility. CON-FORM offers the capability to create large documents such as proposals or manuals.

A unique aspect of CON-NECT 2 is the ease with which live data from a production data base can be included in reports. During the text

formatting process, NATURAL programs can be invoked to retrieve the required information and insert it in the document.

Time Management

CON-NECT 2's Calendar facility is an indispensable time management tool for the individual user and the organization as a whole. An individual's calendar can display meetings and appointments for day, week, month, or year. Users may have private calendars or entire calendars can be authorized for viewing by other users, such as secretaries or managers.

In addition, CON-NECT 2 provides sophisticated facilities for meeting scheduling. A user simply specifies a timeframe for the meeting and CON-NECT 2 will search each calendar and find an open time. In fact, CON-NECT 2 will offer a number of alternative times if they are available. Once a time has been selected, CON-NECT 2 automatically makes the reservations, sends confirmation invitations to the attendees and, if desired, reserves the appropriate time in all of the calendars. This facility will save you and your users a lot of time and frustration that is invariably caused when scheduling meetings.

Additional Features

Using the unique capabilities of NATURAL 2, CON-NECT 2 offers a number of other features: the "Reminder" facility, the "TO DO List," the "Desktop" command, phone messaging, and much more. CON-NECT 2 addresses the full range of office system functions.

Integrating the DP Environment— CON-NECT 2 is unique

One of the most unique and valuable functions of the new CON-NECT 2 is its integration with the data processing environment via NATURAL 2. Since CON-NECT 2 is a NATURAL 2 application, other NATURAL 2 applications may be executed from menus, PF-keys, or by commands all within CON-NECT 2. These applications may incorporate live data and text or execute your NATURAL 2 production applications (i.e. accounting, purchasing, etc.).

CON-NECT 2 may also be "called" from NATURAL 2 applications. By using standard routines provided by CON-NECT 2, all the major functions of CON-NECT 2 can be incorporated in application systems. For

CON-NECT 2 FREE DEMONSTRATION DISKETTE

Yes! Please send me a diskette featuring CON-NECT 2, Software AG's Universal Office System. The CON-NECT 2 diskette features these capabilities:

- Electronic Mail
- Text Processing
- Time Management Facilities
- Document Management

Name _____

Title _____

Company Name _____ Customer # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____





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example, applications could be created where reports are generated and then automatically stored in the appropriate person's "inbasket" folder within CON-NECT 2. No other office system product offers its users this level of integration with the data processing environment.

**Building an Open Architecture—
Extended Connectivity**

CON-NECT 2 has an open architecture which allows communication with external office systems. In fact, CON-NECT 2 users may distribute documents and send mail without worrying about whether the addressee exists outside of the CON-NECT 2 node. The CON-NECT 2 address directory au-

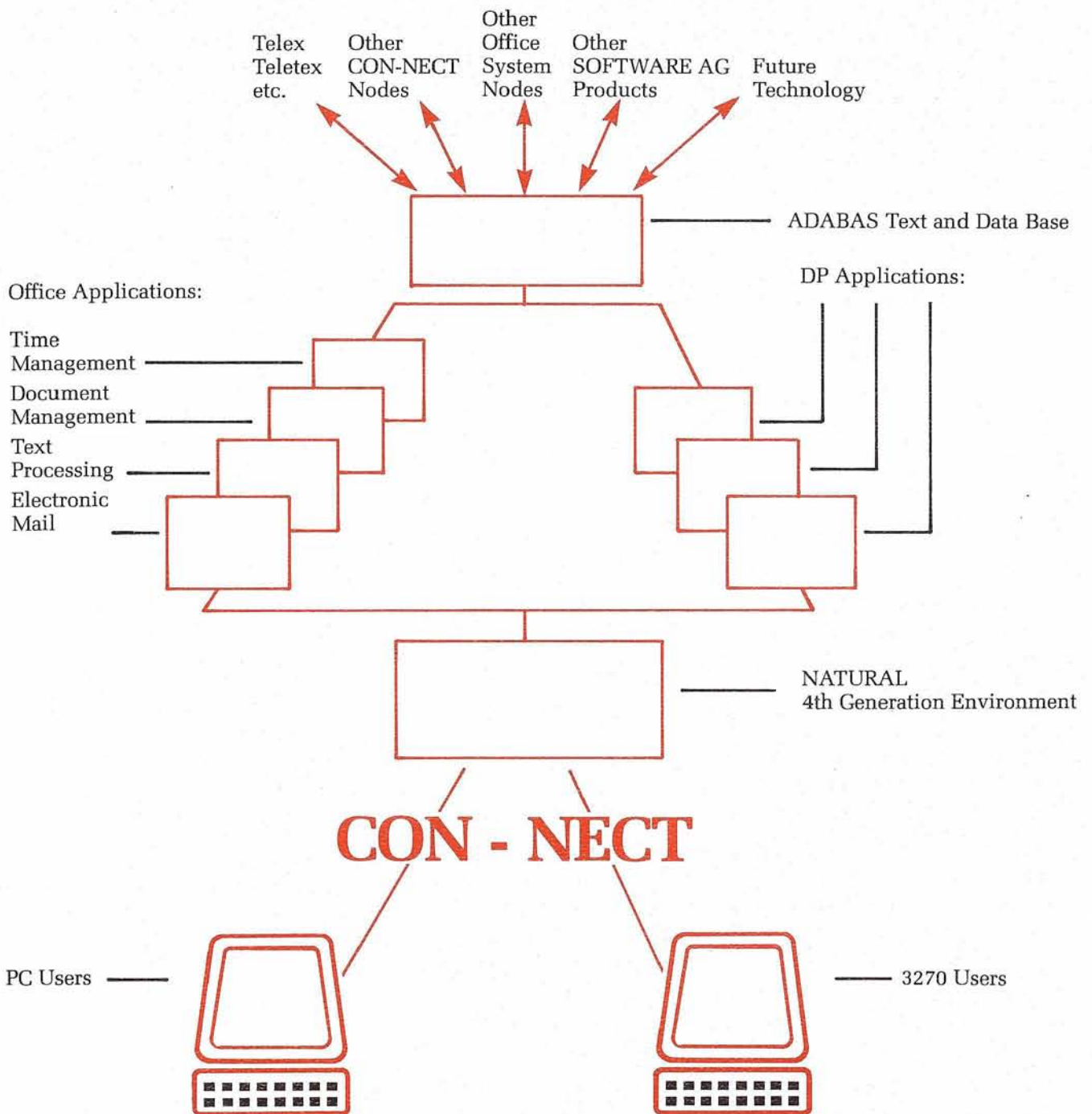
tomatically manages the interface to outside systems. Interfaces for CON-NECT 2 that are under development or planned include: DISSOS, PROFS, VAXMAIL, ALL-IN-ONE, SNADS (based on LU 6.2), and support for X.400.

The Universal Office

The most efficient way to improve office productivity is through a truly integrated set of functions. One which provides a seamless interface between the traditional, record-oriented world of data processing, and the document-oriented world of the office. An office system solution should provide compatible support for a company's existing network: hardware work-

stations, personal computers and traditional display terminals. It should have the ability to provide communications to users just around the corner or around the world. And, it should be able to grow as demand grows, without any disruption of service. CON-NECT 2 delivers this universal solution.

For more information on CON-NECT 2, please fill out the information card in this issue or contact your local sales office.



Conference

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personal, face to face atmosphere. Also on Tuesday night, there will be a VAX customer reception where we will celebrate four years of ADABAS and NATURAL on the VAX.

Wednesday evening, Software AG hosts the Farewell Banquet; however, there is a full day of sessions on Thursday with the last events ending around 4:00 p.m.

Demo Room

Even bigger and better this year, the demonstration room will be designed as mini-classrooms with over 25 of Software AG's latest products showcased. Hours of operation have also been expanded over last year's. Don't forget to sign-up for the demos you would like to see. Registration begins on Sunday and runs throughout the week.

Executive Track

Once again this year, Software AG will host an Executive Track on September 25-27 concurrent with the 18th International Users' Conference. This is a chance for executives at your organization to hear the most authoritative analysts in our industry, see motivational speakers, and discuss products and strategies with Software AG executives and users. Seating will be limited for the Executive Track and attendance will be limited to executive-level DP or corporate managers. If any executives at your organization would like information concerning this event, please contact your Software AG Account Representative.

See You in Nashville!

You won't want to miss Software AG's 18th International Users' Conference! This year's blend of speaker presentations, demonstrations, classes and workshops will focus on the latest technologies in the industry and provide you with new solutions to your information management needs. For more information please call 703-648-2486 and ask for the Conference Registrar.



Opryland Musical Entertainment

VAX/VMS Version 5

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Products/versions recently released or that will be available soon:

ADABAS 1.5.0

ADAMUP utility, extended VMS error messages, mailbox support, numerous enhancements to utilities and support for non-cylinder aligned container files

NATURAL 1.4.0

Structures to support Graphics, Connection, and Security, hardcopy a screen, PF-key to toggle insert or overstrike mode, performance enhancements, and numerous fixes

NET-WORK 1.5.0

Supports SNA, relaying, watchdog

PREDICT 1.1.0

Various fixes, supports FORTRAN

SUPER NATURAL 2.1.1

User file maintenance

NATURAL Security 1.0.0

First release

NATURAL Graphics 1.0.0

First release

NATURAL Elite 1.3.0

First release

CONVERT 1.2.0

Supports NATURAL 2 structures

We will see a few other new products as well as additional functionality to existing products, such as:

Watchdog

Monitors the status of VAX nodes and data bases. If a node fails, routine will run a user-defined procedure to reconfigure the network and restart data bases, if necessary

CONNECT-VMS Mail

Allows sending and receiving mail messages between CONNECT on the IBM and VMS Mail on the VAX

NATURAL Professional Programmer Tools

Interactive debugger; also handles arrays, MUs, PES; MONITOR collects stats for a session; VERIFY records a session, replays session, and compares output with previous sessions; language sensitive editor (LSE)

With the release of NATURAL 1.4.0, NATURAL CONNECTION will be supported on VAX/VMS.

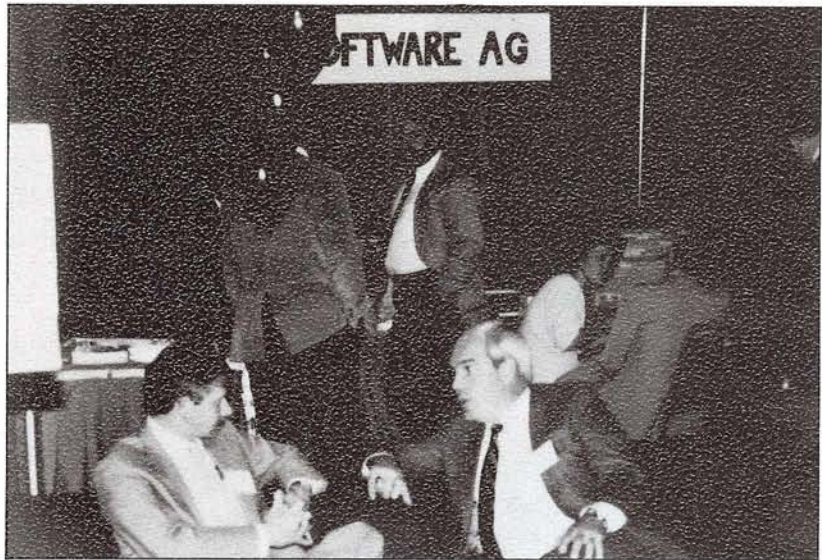
Software AG's 1988 International Users' Conference will once again feature a full track of sessions specifically for VMS products. Several members of the VMS Customer Support Group will be there, along with product developers, SSRs, and representatives from other countries. Be sure to stop by and see us.

USER'S GROUP NEWS

University/College Software AG BIG Conference

The Fourth Annual University/College Software AG Business and Industry Group (BIG) Users Conference was held April 17-20, 1988 in Wilmington, Delaware. The University of Delaware was host to over 250 attendees representing over 40 universities and colleges across the nation. Highlights of the Conference included:

- 25 User Presentations in the categories of Applications, Technical and End-User topics.
- 10 Workshops that included training in NATURAL 2, file design, end user tools and performance and tuning.
- An EXPO including over 25 vendors with demonstrations of Software AG services and products for attendees review.
- An EMPORIUM for software exchanges between members.
- An update of the Software AG product line by Software AG Product Representatives.
- Best Speaker awards were presented in the three tracks and the winners were:



Users enjoy EXPO where Software AG demonstrated products and services.

- Applications—John Wheat, University of Texas at Austin
- Technical—Randy Ebeling, University of Texas at Austin
- End User—Barry Cunningham and Karen Swartz, University of California at Santa Barbara

The annual BIG Conference has provided members the opportunity to exchange information as it relates to the higher education market and Software AG products and applications. The conference attendee list has grown each year and mem-

bership is now over 100 schools. This year's evaluations indicate how beneficial this conference is to its members.

Future conference dates and hosts were set as follows:

- Spring, 1989—University of California at Santa Barbara
- Spring, 1990—Pennsylvania State University
- Spring, 1991—University of Texas, Southwest Medical Center

Federal Business/Industry Group Is Formed

During the Miami Conference the Federal Business/Industry Group was formed. George Coker has agreed to act as interim President until formal elections are held.

The purpose of the Group is to develop, distribute, and promote a contact list of professionals directly involved with supporting the United States Federal Government through the use of Software AG products and services; to provide a forum to define, discuss, and resolve common problems with ultimate presentation to Software AG if

required; to provide an opportunity for all Federal users of Software AG products and services to discuss experiences, goals, and ideas among colleagues; to provide an opportunity for site visits and demonstrations of actual applications of Software AG products and services; and to channel the Federal community voices into a single audible and effective tool to influence product development and vendor support.

The proposed membership of the Group consists of representatives

from Agencies of the United States Federal Government and contractors currently supporting those Agencies who hold an up-to-date license for a Software AG product(s).

Individuals interested in the Group should contact George Coker through the following address:

Software AG of North America, Inc.
11490 Commerce Park Drive
Suite 210
Reston, VA 22091
Attn: G. Coker
(703) 620-0100

ADABAS Product Representative Report

Bob Becker

I realize that at the time that you read this, summer will be winding down, you'll be planning for the Software AG International Conference in Nashville and probably quite fed up with the heat of the summer. At the time of this writing, which is mid-June, we have experienced perhaps one of the hottest and driest spring seasons ever in the state of Michigan. I'm sure that you'll have had your fair share of a long hot summer.

This is a time of change within the Software AG user community. Several vacancies have occurred within the Special Interest Group arena. The ADABOMP SIG chair is presently vacant as well as the Large Data Base SIG chair. However the DOS SIG Chairperson which was vacant has now been filled by Len Berger from MMU Pension and Welfare Plans (212) 337-4956. Len has graciously accepted to be chair for the DOS Special Interest Group and is presently planning a workshop which will be given at the Conference in Nashville. If any person is interested in chairing the ADABOMP Special Interest Group or the Large Data Base Group SIG, I would very much like to hear from you. Please contact me at my office if you have an interest in these areas.

Another subcommittee which has formed recently within the ADABAS arena is Data Base Directions Committee. Dan Creager from U.S. Sprint (214) 401-7391 has accepted to become the Chairperson of this newly formed committee. Myself and several others have volunteered to become members on this committee. The purpose of this group is to work closely with Software AG in defining direction on future data base developments. In light of distributed data via ADANET being introduced fairly shortly as well as use of DB2 in conjunction with ADABAS in many installations throughout the world, the challenges of the future direction in DBMS's become crucial

and very strategic. I therefore urge you to think about joining this group. You and your company can have an active roll in the definition of data base directions.

A Security Directions Committee is also being formed. Security at the global level is the basic premise for the user community's voice to feed its input to Software AG. A plan should be proposed which consolidates security into one centralized facility which can be driven by TOP SECRET, RACF, or ACF2. I would like to locate a Chairperson for the Global Security Issue Committee. I feel it to as be equally as important as the Data Base Directions Committee. If you are interested in becoming a member or becoming the Chairperson, please contact me at my office as this committee is now being formed.

I have written a letter to Peter Schnell indicating a need for the allowance of accessing the checkpoint file within ADABAS 5 by the user community. During the past year of testing ADABAS 5, I and other testors have discovered that the checkpoint file is no longer readable via NATURAL or COBOL programs. Many users use the checkpoint file to build applications that allow for automatic operational backout facilities within their environment. Peter Schnell has indicated that he recognizes the situation and is working on a proper solution to the condition.

I hope to see many of you at the Conference this fall. Prior to that time if you have any ADABAS related issues, questions, or suggestions to improve the product, I would enjoy discussing them with you. It is our input to Software AG that counts and that can improve all Software AG products. Please contact me at Foremost Insurance Company—(616) 956-2664.

Performance Issues

Bob Becker

Many of you have an expressed interest in using tape cartridge rather than tape in backing up and restoring the data base in your environment. We have been using tape cartridge as our vehicle for the ADAFIX utility for over a year now and have experienced a rather sizable improvement in elapse time for the backup process. As many of you know, data streaming is a component used in the tape cartridge technology to experience a fairly sizable benefit from using cartridge over tape. One must increase the number of buffers in the JCL for the dumping and restoring process. We are using fifteen buffers for the DD statement referencing the tape cartridge and have experienced a 20% decrease in run time over using standard tape drives. We are also using tape cartridge for coping off the dual command log and protection log from disk periodically through the day. However I have not determined the performance improvement of this process over using tape.

Another area that we are looking into for improving performance is testing of the NATURAL Optimizer software. Although we have not received an advanced copy of the Optimizer, we expect one coming soon and will be reporting the results of our benchmarks of using NATURAL Optimizer in comparison with standard COBOL at the convention at Nashville. Indications from Software AG are that NATURAL Optimizer will run NATURAL code faster than similar code written for COBOL. We evaluated NATURAL 2 against NATURAL Version 1 as well as COBOL last fall and reported those results at the 1987 Conference. We're very encouraged by the preliminary figures that Software AG has reported on NATURAL Optimizer and hope that we will have concrete results that we can report at the Nashville Conference.

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

Larry Godec
SAGGROUP Secretary

The SAGGROUP Executive Committee interim meeting was held April 13-15, 1988 at the Software AG of North America headquarters in Reston, VA. Meeting highlights are included for your information. Should you require additional information or clarification on these or other topics, please write me at the address in the back of the Newsletter and a detailed answer will be provided either directly or in future issues.

Annual International Users' Conference

The mailing of Conference material has been sent out. Expected attendance is about 2300. There are 1200 rooms reserved at the Opryland Hotel with overflow hotels available. There has been some talk about extending the Conference an extra day, but because of space conflicts this is not possible. To alleviate the problem of so many concurrent sessions, Software AG General Session will start Sunday night. If possible, you should plan to arrive in Nashville by early Sunday afternoon. There is also a Technology Fair planned for Sunday evening.

There will also be an Executive Track again this year. Registration will be on Sunday with the Conference starting on Sunday evening and continuing through Tuesday. Several well-known speakers will be present. This is a good opportunity to get your management more involved and better informed.

The companion program will also be available this year. Companion tours of the surrounding area will be offered through Maritz Travel, the sponsoring travel agent.

Executive Committee

This year there are four offices for which elections are being held. They are: President, Secretary, NATURAL Product Representative, and PREDICT Product Representative. You will be receiving ballots soon and I encourage each of you to take a minute and vote. Remember that these people are your represen-

tatives to Software AG. Candidate statements are included in this Newsletter.

With the increasing number of products being offered by Software AG, a restructuring of the Executive Committee has been proposed. Instead of having Product Representatives, there will be Functional Representatives. Under each of these areas will be Technical Advisors. This approach allows more people to be involved in the Executive Committee structure. I again encourage all of you to take the time to vote on this issue and to take this opportunity to volunteer for one of the technical positions. Here is your chance to make your voice heard.

Software AG

Stu Miller has resigned as CEO of Software AG and on behalf of SAGGROUP, I want to thank him for his help and support over the years.

If you haven't heard by now, Software AG of North America has merged with Software AG Darmstadt. The first question that came to my mind was, how will this affect me, the user? Software AG assured us that there will be no effect! They also said that this move will allow Software AG to put more resources into R & D. It also allows Software AG of North America to work more closely with Software AG Darmstadt, the effect being more timely releases and better support.

Product Strategy And Product Releases

As a result of the merger, Software AG has recognized and has put all of the relevant disciplines that have something to do with a product into one section of the company. This pertains to preparing a product for development and release. It allows the same people to be involved in a product development life cycle longer. The result of this should be a reduced lag time between a European release and an American release.

ADABAS: ADABAS 5 is currently in beta testing. The scheduled release time frame is third quarter.

NET-WORK: NET-WORK is also in beta testing and will be released in the same time period as ADABAS 5.

NATURAL: You should have received SM03 by now. This appears to be the most stable NATURAL 2 yet. This is the release that our company plans to go to production with.

ADAMINTS: You will receive one more ADAMINT tape with all known fixes applied. This version will also support PREFETCH. ADAMINTS will not be included on the ADABAS 5 tape but will continue to be supported. There will not be any more enhancement though.

COM-LETE: There was some confusion about which COM-LETE tape you should install. A letter has been sent out from Denver Support explaining the differences between the different versions. If you have any questions about which tape your site needs to install, call Denver.

NATURAL Elite: NATURAL Elite is currently being rewritten in NATURAL 2. When that is complete, the Authoring System will then be available under NATURAL 2. Anticipated beta test dates for this 2.1 version are fall 1988.

VMS Elite has recently been released. There are 6 courses available: NATURAL Introduction, NATURAL for the Business Professional, SUPER NATURAL Fundamentals, SUPER NATURAL Advanced, SUPER NATURAL Administration, and CON-STRUCT Fundamentals.

Instead of continuing with an exhaustive list of every product and its current status and target release date, let me tell you that a document exists with this information and a copy was sent to all Regional Representatives. I encourage you to get in touch with your local Software AG office or Regional Representative and to attend your next Regional meeting to get any specific information you need.

Highlights

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Newsletter

An article explaining the responsibilities of the Executive Committee members is included in this Newsletter. The Executive Committee is your voice to Software AG. It is made up of users just like yourselves. The only difference being that we all opened our mouths at a Regional meeting or conference and someone said, "Hey, you ought to be on the Executive Committee." We are not a hand picked group of gurus who know everything about all the products. We simply care enough and feel it's important enough to let Software AG know what the users want. I know that "getting involved" means spending a little of your precious spare time, but it is worth it! So take some time to read the article "Executive Committee Responsibilities" and if you happen to see one of the members walking down the hall at the Conference, stop and say "Hi" and ask them how you can get involved. You'll feel better, they'll feel better, and the world will be a better place.

Service/Connection

Service/Connection is a new product which will give the user access to technical product information. This should reduce the number of times you have to call Denver Technical Support. It will also include a Customer Profile System and Bulletin Board capabilities. This is something that users all over the world have been asking for. The availability should be sometime late this year. A Service/Connection Users' Panel will be starting soon and they will need your comments. More information about this product and the Users' Panel will be forthcoming. (Here is another chance to get involved.)

Outstanding Product Topics

It would be nice to have one security umbrella over all Software AG products instead of having several different security packages for different products. A project is currently under way in Software AG to address this issue. Bob Becker, the ADABAS Product Representative, is heading this project up from the users' standpoint. Please contact him with any suggestions or comments about how such a product should work.

An official statement was requested from Software AG concerning their position on user exits and what will happen when ADABAS 5 is released. Any user exits you are currently using which are undocumented should be done so at your own risk.

A concern was brought up about upward compatibility between product releases. Software AG stated that upward compatibility is not guaranteed. They will, however, provide a migration aid in the cases where there is not compatibility.

SAGNA Image And Direction

Lin Pearce, Chief Operating Officer, has given several presentations to users at Regional meetings about Software AG's Integrated Software Architecture. If this is something you would like to hear, contact your Regional Representative and tell them to schedule Lin at your next meeting.

All Software AG technical and sales staff began a new training program which will enhance their knowledge of the product line. General questions you have about the functionality of a particular product should be directed to your local sales office.

With IBM's announcement of MVS/ESA, Software AG was asked what effects this would have on ADABAS. They assured us that ADABAS has never needed enormous resources to run. In the future, if ADABAS needs ESA, Software AG feels confident that they will be able to use whatever interface IBM comes up with.

Change/Enhancement Report

The current process is that Change/Enhancements will be sent out monthly to the Product Representatives who will go through and edit them. They will then go to Software AG where an answer will be determined. The C/Es then go out to the users to vote on. Results will be distributed at the Conference.

Education And Documentation

There is a "new" license agreement to copy product manuals (documentation). There will be an annual fee based on 1% of the current license fee in effect on the anniversary date of the copy agreement. Also note that only product manuals may be copied, thereby exclud-

ing education manuals, marketing brochures, or any other Software AG materials. If this sounds new to you, check your license agreement and see if this clause is in there.

Area Representatives

John Tomashunas, North American Area Representative, sent out a form to all Regional Representatives asking for questions, suggestions, and outstanding logs from the different regions. Answers were provided by Software AG and they were sent back to the regions. This is done at every Executive Committee meeting, so if you have a particular questions or concern, let your Regional Representative know and an answer will be provided.

The map in the back of the Newsletter will be modified by changing the name of the "Eastern Midwestern" Region to the "Mideastern" Region. The map will also include the Mexican Region.

Miscellaneous Topics

Europe is currently using a Tape Creation System (TCS) for customizing distribution of Software AG products. TCS is a two part mechanism. First, it is an automated system to ensure that the right components, version, and combinations go onto a tape. Second, it is a System Installation Aid (SIA), which is an automated install feature. With the increased number of products, SIA is lagging behind the automated system and is currently being rewritten. Within a year, the U.S. should have the automated system in place. This should ensure that Software AG will deliver exactly what a particular customer orders and needs.

Software AG will bundle or unbundle certain products so they can compete evenly with other vendors.

Software AG will bundle its Custom Solutions with a new MSA interface product which allows users to define MSA files on ADABAS. Within a few days of the MSA package coming out, it will run on ADABAS. Software AG will come into your shop for three days and tune this product so it is working effectively. No more waiting months for a version to run on ADABAS.

Responsibilities of Each Executive Committee Member

Bill Wagner
SAGGROUP Vice President

If you attended the last International Users' Group Conference in Miami last year, you probably noticed twelve people wearing light blue ribbons reading "Executive Committee" on their badges. These are the officers of SAGGROUP, the group to which you belong by virtue of your use of Software AG products, and probably the largest and most active user group of its kind in the computer industry. Many people have considered running for these offices, but have hesitated because they were unsure of exactly what is involved in being an office-holder. The SAGGROUP Constitution and By-Laws describe the "formal" responsibilities of the officers, but the best descriptions of duties and benefits naturally come from the people who have had the experience of holding office themselves.

The members of the Executive Committee fall into four categories. The "officers" (President, Past President, Vice President, Secretary) are defined in the SAGGROUP Constitution, and elected by the entire user group. The second group is the Product Representatives, also popularly elected. However, the number of such representatives and their areas of responsibility are not defined in the Constitution, but determined by the Executive Committee as a whole. The third group consists of the Chairmen of Standing Committees, who are appointed by (and serve at the pleasure of) the President or the Executive Committee as a whole. There are three such Standing Committees: Change/Enhancements, Nominations, and Technical Support. Finally come the International Area Representatives, elected by the Regional Representatives of their geographical areas. Although they are all members of the Executive Committee, it is unusual for any of them (except the North American Representative) to attend a meeting, for obvious reasons.

PRESIDENT: The major elements involved in this position are the coordination and overall management of the various layers and facets of SAGGROUP. The biggest challenge is weighing specific user concerns and wants against the overall benefit to both SAGGROUP and Software AG itself. Twice each year, the President presides over meetings between Software AG executives and the SAGGROUP Executive Committee; keeping the discussions focused while making sure that all sides of issues are fairly presented can be an interesting experience. The time involved outside of these meetings can be substantial (primarily devoted to telephone calls and correspondence) and writing four articles per year for Connections. The annual International Users' Conference offers the opportunity to make a presentation at the opening general session, in front of well over 2000 of your peers.

VICE PRESIDENT: There are two primary responsibilities that go with this position; preparing the agenda for the two yearly Executive Committee meetings, and authoring and coordinating all changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. An informal duty (which is now being formalized by a Constitutional change) is being a liaison between the Business and Industry Groups (BIGs) and the Executive Committee. As with all members of the Executive Committee the Vice President occasionally is assigned a special project by the President. A recent example has been working out the details of a reorganization of the Product Representative positions on the Executive Committee. Like the Vice Presidency in any organization, there is the possibility that the Vice President will be called on to assume any or all of the President's functions. (Unlike the Vice Presidency in certain industrialized nations, it is not required that the Vice President have no opinions of his own.)

SECRETARY: The key element in this position is the accurate recording of discussions at Executive Committee meetings. For this, a tape recorder is almost a requirement. Immediately following the close of a meeting, the Secretary prepares a complete draft version of the minutes for review by all attendees of the meeting. Accompanying the draft are two "Action Lists," one each for Software AG personnel and for Executive Committee members. After review and revision, a final version is sent to all members of the Executive Committee. A summary version of the minutes is prepared for the International Area Representatives, who in turn distribute copies to all Regional Representatives. The summary may also appear in Connections. Another responsibility of the Secretary is maintaining a record of all SAGGROUP correspondence sent or received by all officers. In total, the Secretary may devote upwards of 100 hours per year to these duties.

PRODUCT REPRESENTATIVES: Each Product Representative is an advocate for issues related to Software AG products in a particular area. It is their responsibility to transmit all user concerns to appropriate Software AG personnel, encourage exchange of product information between users, and act as liaison between the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and the Executive Committee. Product Representatives are editors of Connections, writing a quarterly column, and soliciting and reviewing articles in their respective areas. All Change/Enhancements requests are reviewed by the Product Representatives, who edit the requests, consolidate similar ones, and add any comments of their own before returning them to the Change/Enhancement Coordinator. This involvement with the Change/Enhancement process has led many people to assume that a great degree of technical knowledge is required of this position. At one time that may have been true. Now, the position is much more one of being a coordinator and facilitator; with the explosion of new Software AG products, it is not possible for anyone to have expertise in them all.

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Responsibilities

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This issue is being addressed as well by a Constitutional amendment that will allow the Product Representatives to create Technical Advisory Committees (TACs), to handle matters (such as Change/Enhancements) that require detailed knowledge of specific products. As an example of a special project, the ADABAS Product Representative is currently working with Software AG to define the specifications for a Centralized Security System, which would cover security for all Software AG products.

CHANGE/ENHANCEMENT

COORDINATOR: Each year, hundreds of Change/Enhancement requests are written by users. It is the responsibility of the Coordinator to collect all such requests, put them in machine-readable form, distribute them to the appropriate Product Representatives, conduct voting among the user community, tabulate the results of the voting, and transmit the results both to Software AG and the users. In addition, the Coordinator usually chairs an annual meeting between the Product Representatives and the Software AG Product Managers at one of the Executive Committee meetings to discuss the individual Change/Enhancement requests.

NOMINATIONS CHAIRMAN: This is the position on which all others depend. The Chairman locates and solicits potential nominees for all elected positions on the Executive Committee and insures that they meet all qualifications and requirements. Prior to the International Conference, the Chairman prepares and distributes ballots to all Software AG customers. At the close of voting, the ballots are tabulated and validated. Finally, the Chairman notifies all nominees of the election results, then makes the official announcements at the Conference's formal banquet.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman of this committee is responsible for producing the annual User Survey. Any changes to the format or content of the survey originate with the Chairman, and are discussed with the Executive Committee once a year. The survey, in its final form, is distributed to all licensed Software AG users. Completed surveys are returned directly to the Chairman, who tabulates and analyses the results. These results are in turn presented to the Executive Committee and Software AG executives, then finally distributed to all licensed Software AG users.

INTERNATIONAL AREA REPRESENTATIVES:

These Area Representatives are elected by the Regional Representatives from each separate geographical area, and as

such are directly responsible for being the voice of a clearly defined group of users. Prior to each Executive Committee meeting, the Area Representatives contact each of their Regional Representatives to gather their questions, problems, comments, and complaints. These are given to Software AG personnel at the meetings and discussed individually; each item is given separate attention. After the meetings, the responses are relayed back to the Regional Representatives. As with all other positions on the Executive Committee, special projects may be assigned that require additional time. One such recent project was the realignment of the North American Regions, which involved sending out a user survey, collating the responses, studying maps and distances, finding users willing to organize the first meetings in the realigned regions, preparing a report for the Executive Committee, and publishing the results.

I hope this article helps to define the individual tasks associated with each SAGGROUP Executive Committee position.

Communications Products News

Ellen M. Birch

Price Waterhouse

I have been hearing from many Software AG communications products users over the past few months and am pleased to hear the interest in these products within the Software AG user community. Some of the following news may be relatively old to some of you, but I'll repeat it for those who did not receive a direct letter from me this past spring. Please note that when I say "COM-PLETE," I am including all members of this family of products, such as COM-POSE and ADABAS/TPF.

Some of the major communications products issues which were dis-

cussed at the Executive Committee meeting in April included:

COM-PLETE release/SM tape

status—Much confusion has surrounded the simultaneous release of COM-PLETE 4.4.0 and COM-PLETE 4.3.5. I have communicated the concern with the distribution process to all Software AG personnel involved in the release—they are very aware of the problems. Art Burkett of Denver Customer Support has sent a letter to all COM-PLETE users clarifying the status of these releases. In summary, Software AG is recommending that Version 4.3.5 (SM5) be installed, unless the Version 4.4 functionality is required, and that migration to 4.4 should be post-

poned if possible until the release of Version 4.4.2 (SM2). COM-PLETE 4.3.5 is a very stable release and will be supported for an "indefinite" period. Version 4.4.2 is expected to resolve "all" VTAM and VSAM problems.

Software AG commitment to communications products—We expressed concern to Software AG on the marketing focus for COM-PLETE, NET-PASS, NATURAL PROCESS, and all "systems programming" oriented (versus data base) products. Issues such as advertising, sales staff orientation, product packaging and naming, and responsiveness to current customers were brought to the table. Software AG is looking for a



INFORMATION REQUEST CARD

CO-0888

YES, Please send me additional information on:

- VAX Products
- NATURAL Elite Computer Based Training

- Please Include me on the Customer Training Mailing List
- Other _____

NAME _____

TITLE _____

COMPANY NAME _____ CUSTOMER # _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

