

Software AG International Users' Group Newsletter

Published by the International Software AG Users' Group and Software AG of North America, Inc.

Vol. 6, No. 3, February, 1981

Users' Group News

Technical Agenda for Innisbrook

With Education the theme of Innisbrook '81, Software AG is committed to offering a highly technical and informative agenda.

In keeping with this commitment, specially developed tutorial sessions addressing areas of user interest and concern will be offered. The Software AG Education and Consulting Department will develop and present highly specialized 1-1/2

hour sessions. While scheduling details have not been finalized, Software AG expects that each class will be offered more than once during the four-day conference. Topics include:

- Restart/Recovery for ADABAS V4.1
- ADABAS Tuning and Optimization
- ADABAS V4 Operating Environment
- Tuning the COM-LETE System
- On-Line System Design Considerations (applicable to all TP systems)

- NATURAL Screen Design Techniques

In addition to these, Software AG presentations will broach a variety of technical topics. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear "status and futures" for all products, updated information on the Data Base Machine and channel-to-channel software, and DBM performance, ADABAS-M technical overview, and NATURAL V1.2 considerations.

Workshop topics have expanded to reflect current user interests and concerns. Software AG will chair an ADABAS De-

(Continued)

debugging Tools Workshop, describing ADAICK and ADALOG as debugging aids. New user workshops will include Data Administration, Staffing and Operation, Managing The NATURAL Environment, and Techniques for Teaching NATURAL to non-data processing personnel. Users interested in participating in these new workshops should contact Cathy Vivona at Software AG.

Informal one-to-one technical support and consulting services will be available as regularly scheduled conference sessions. Technical Support sessions will provide a convenient way for users to meet with Technical Support Representatives to review technical support structure and procedures and resolve questions regarding product use. The Education and Consulting staff will be available to review your file design and to discuss your project implementation plans and concerns. Additionally, users will have the unique capability of discussing their DDP and Networking requirements with Dr. Dixon Doll, an expert in this field.

User presentations on experiences with all Software AG products will complete this technical agenda. Topics covered in these presentations will be made available in future conference literature.

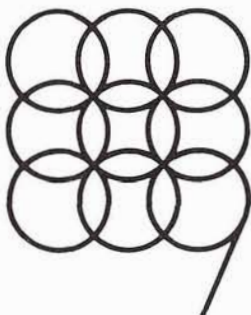


Table of Contents

Users' Group News	1
Technical Agenda for Innisbrook	1
President's Message	3
Three Speakers Augment Technical Agenda	3
Users Participate in Conference Planning	4
Regional Groups Maintain High Activity	4
Conference Registration Form	5
Hotel Registration Form	7
Transportation Reservation Form	9
Regional Reports	11
ADABAS News	21
ADABAS-M Helps Track Artists' Royalties in the U.K.	21
Online Data Dictionary System	22
ADABAS Technical Notes	23
ADABAS/VM—An Overview	23
Frequently Encountered Problems—V4.1.1	24
ADABAS V4.1 Experiences	28
ADABAS Product Representative's Report	30
ADABAS Special Interest Group Chairpersons	30
COM-LETE News	31
COM-LETE Technical Notes	31
Security Under COM-LETE	31
COM-LETE At Franchise Tax Board	33
Experiences with COM-LETE and VSAM	33
COM-LETE Special Interest Group Reports	37
COM-LETE Product Representative's Report	38
COM-LETE Special Interest Group Chairpersons	38
NATURAL News	39
NATURAL V1.2 Enhancements	39
NATURAL V1.1 Update Applications and ADABAS V4.1 Transaction Logic	39
NATURAL Technical Notes	41
Last Call for Languages	41
NATURAL CMPEXIT Revisited and NATURAL With No Data Base	42
NATURAL Special Interest Group Reports	44
NATURAL Special Interest Group Chairpersons	45
NATURAL Product Representative's Report	46
Software AG News	47
Technical Services	47
Note of Thanks	49
Software AG Announces Organizational Changes	50
Publications Update	51
1981 User Education Plans Announced	51
Software AG Class Schedule	52
Software AG Introduces	54
Current Release Levels	54
Regional Representatives	55
International Software AG Users' Group Executive Committee	56
Dates to Remember	56



President's Message

President's Message

Michael Berman
INCO Ltd.

The Executive Committee of the Software AG International Users' Group met in Reston, Virginia on October 20-21 to review the accomplishments since the last Conference and to plan out the required work for the next eight months, leading us into the next Conference. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the individuals who attended this meeting for their hard work and for making this meeting a success. The attendees included myself; Ellen Kasun, Vice President; Jennifer Lee, ADABAS Product Representative; Alan Routhier, COMPLETE Product Representative;

Steve Froneberger, NATURAL Product Representative; Peter MacRoberts, Change/Enhancement Coordinator; David Berg, North American Area Representative; and Cathy Vivona, Users' Group Liaison. In addition to the Executive Committee members, the following individuals were invited to the meeting to give presentations: Bob Taylor, Technical Support Committee Chairman; Dan Nolan, to discuss the User Profile System; Ann Rodriguez, to review future Conference sites; and Edward Forman, to review Software AG Technical Support.

Bob Taylor reviewed the purpose of the Technical Support working committee and discussed the future plans of the Group. Dan Nolan discussed the Users' Profile System and reviewed enhancements which he

will make to the system. These enhancements will allow users to input more data regarding their installation; however, only the basic information will be required to be part of the system and, therefore, receive the User Profile Report. Edward Forman discussed Software AG Technical Support and other questions which arose during the meeting. The final presentation was given by Ann Rodriguez which dealt with an update on Innisbrook and a discussion of future Conference sites.

As you are all aware, the Conference is only a few short months away and the deadline for Change/Enhancement ballots is March 6, 1981. Please make sure that your ballot is received before this date to allow it to be counted in this year's voting.

Three Speakers Augment Technical Agenda

Supplementing a full technical conference agenda, three speakers will participate at Innisbrook. These speakers will add breadth to each attendee by discussing state-of-the-art technical topics, common user concerns, and means for personal and professional growth.

Dr. Dixon Doll, an expert in all phases of advanced computer systems and communications, will present "Future Trends in Data Base/Data Communications". Dr. Doll's credentials in this field are extensive and impressive. The author of *Data Communications: Facilities Network and Systems*, he has con-

tributed to over 1,000 papers and journals. President of the DMW Group, Dr. Doll's expertise has been shared by industry, government and academic interests. Dr. Doll's presentation will provide an overview of recent signi-



Dr. Dixon Doll

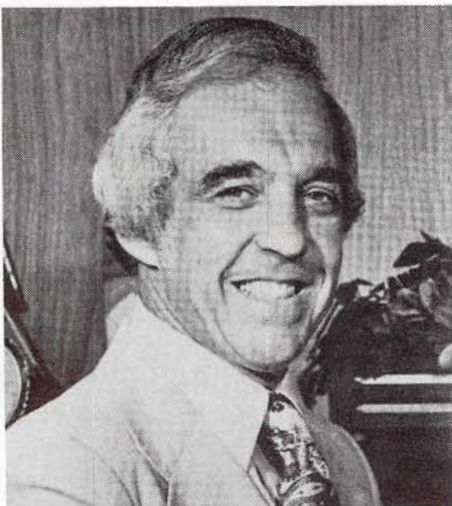
ficant developments in the data communications, distributed processing and data base area, with specific emphasis on new technology and application trends likely to produce significant benefits for the end users of these offerings.

He will present the concepts of enterprise specification, logical data analysis, data modeling, analysis techniques for designing distributed data base configurations, new offerings from the value-added common carriers, satellite communications offerings, and the general directions being taken to integrate the office automation, data processing and telecommunications functions. Additionally, local networking technologies and the role which these offerings play in the automated corporation of the future will be considered.

(Continued)

Harold Uhrbach, President of the DBD Consulting Group, will offer his experiences and expertise in organizing corporate data base administration groups by presenting "Organizational Implications of Data Base". Skilled in all aspects of data base design and implementation, Mr. Uhrbach specializes in organizational analysis and management information systems. His consulting experiences span all industries but have a specific emphasis on the application of the Integrated Data Store in manufacturing, retail, banking, transportation and medical fields. With over 25 years experience in information systems and data base development, Mr. Uhrbach's contribution to the professional growth of Software AG users will be significant.

David Yoho provides an interesting and informative break in data processing concerns. An acknowledged leader in the field of professional and personal motivation, Mr. Yoho will discuss motivational techniques and how they relate to conference attendees. He is currently a sales and marketing consultant and



Mr. David Yoho

has traveled widely addressing audiences throughout the world. Mr. Yoho's topic will provide personal satisfaction to attendees as well as adding a new dimension for them in their business environments.

Addressing the total needs of conference attendees, these three speakers will be a most welcome addition to Innisbrook '81.

Users Participate in Conference Planning

Members of the International Software AG Users' Group will play an active role in conference agenda preparation for Innisbrook '81.

Efforts for this participation will be centered around and directed by "product" coordinators. Charles Rolls (ADABAS), Alan Routhier (COM-LETE) and Jim Reiner (NATURAL) have agreed to serve the Users' Group in this capacity.

One of their major responsibilities is to ensure variety and timeliness in user presentations. By reviewing user abstracts, product coordinators may suggest speakers emphasize a specific idea or theme in their chosen presentation topic. In areas of particular user interest, coordinators may be requesting user presentations. Coordinators will work with Special Interest Group Chairpeople and Software AG to plan for meaningful and productive workshop sessions. They are also responsible for enlisting user participation in the "new" user workshops included on the Conference agenda.

Regional Groups Maintain High Activity

The Software AG users' community claims the most active network of software users in the world. Comprised of 21 regions, the international user community provides a forum for users' ideas, exchange of ideas, information and techniques. Typically, these groups meet quarterly.

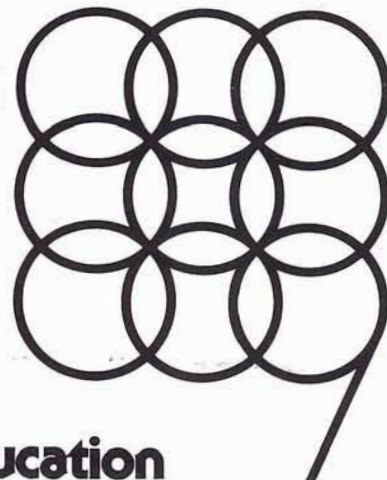
Geographic proximity of users has fostered more frequent meetings for the Northeastern Region (5-6 times yearly) and the Pacific Southwestern Region (monthly). Both groups report an active informal communications network.

One other region, the Southwestern Region, had distinguished itself by intense user interaction. Growing rapidly, this group not only had highly active regular meetings, but also boasts of the Houston Users' Group. This local group meets monthly for breakfast meetings and discussions relating to their use of Software AG products. For more than a year, these meetings have offered attendees an update on product use, techniques, problems, and resources. Houston users, chaired by Doyle Cook of Dow Chemical, find these informal sessions highly valuable in planning and "troubleshooting" to ensure optimal performance of Software AG products.

Conference Registration Form

Innisbrook 81 Ninth International

Software AG
Users' Conference
May 10-14, 1981
Innisbrook, Florida



The Olympics of Education

CONFEREE NAME
COMPANY
COMPANY ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP
COUNTRY
TELEPHONE
COMPANION NAME
FIRST NAME (OR NICKNAME)
FOR BADGE

CONFEREE _____ COMPANION _____

CONFEREE
COMPANION
NON-USER
LATE FEE AFTER APRIL 10

\$495.00
\$150.00
\$750.00
\$ 50.00

PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____
PLEASE INVOICE \$ _____

PLEASE SEND INVOICE TO:
COMPANY
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP
COUNTRY
ATTENTION
PURCHASE ORDER #

PLEASE CIRCLE

Will you be playing golf? YES NO
Will you bring your own clubs? YES NO
Will you be playing tennis? YES NO
Will you bring your own racquet? YES NO
Is this your first Software AG Users' Conference? YES NO

FOLD



No Postage
Necessary
if Mailed
in the
United States

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS

PERMIT NO. 3115

HERNDON, VA.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

SOFTWARE AG
OF NORTH AMERICA, INC

**Reston International Center
11800 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, Virginia 22091
Attention: Conference Registrar**

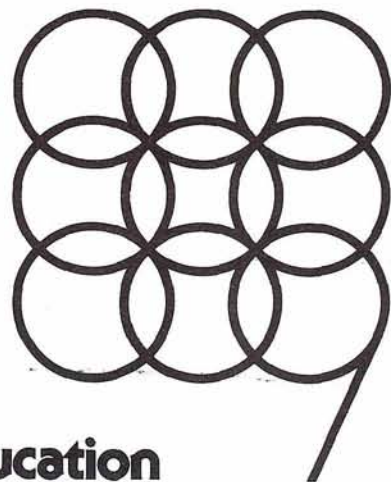


FOLD

Hotel Registration Form

Innisbrook 81 Ninth International

Software AG
Users' Conference
May 10-14, 1981
Innisbrook, Florida



The Olympics of Education

PLEASE ENTER THE FOLLOWING
RESERVATION FOR:

PLEASE RESERVE ACCOMMODATION
AS CIRCLED:

RATES

NO TIPPING POLICY

APRIL 10 CUT OFF DATE

THIS ROOM WILL BE OCCUPIED BY

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Deluxe Hotel Room	\$62.00
Club Suite	\$72.00
One Bedroom Suite	\$82.00
One Bedroom Deluxe Suite	\$92.00

Rates are based on single or double occupancy per bedroom; additional occupants 13 years of age and over, \$8.00 per person per night.

Innisbrook has a no tipping policy and the above rates are subject to a daily \$4.00 per person service charge (not including children under 18) which covers all guest services except food and beverage, where a 20% service charge (tax and gratuity) is in effect. Room rates are subject to 4% Florida State Sales Tax and a 2% Pinellas County Tourism Tax.

All reservation requests must be received **in writing** by Innisbrook no later than 30 days prior to arrival. Any **adjustment** to the original reservation must be submitted **in writing** until 10 days prior to arrival, at which time you should call reservations directly.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

of Adults _____

Each category of accommodation is available on a limited basis. Should the category requested be sold out to other members of your group, the next higher category will be confirmed to you.

Transportation is available from Tampa International Airport, and a separate form has been provided for your convenience.

FOLD

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Reservations Department
Innisbrook
P.O. Drawer 1088
Tarpon Springs, Florida 33589

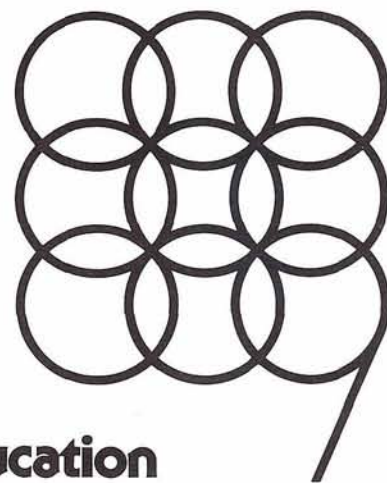


FOLD

Transportation Reservation Form

Innisbrook 81 Ninth International

Software AG
Users' Conference
May 10-14, 1981
Innisbrook, Florida



The Olympics of Education

Innisbrook is a pleasant 25 minute drive from Tampa International Airport. Two forms of ground transportation are available through Innisbrook: Shuttle Service at \$8.00 per person, each way; or Dollar Rent-A-Car. Either (or both) arrangements may be made by completing and returning this form to Innisbrook's Transportation Desk.

AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PLEASE ARRANGE

Shuttle Service _____ Dollar Rent-A-Car _____
For Dollar Rent-A-Car, the following information is required:
Driver's License No. _____ State Issued _____

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Arrival Date _____ # of Persons _____
Airline/Flt. #/Arrival Time _____

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Departure Date _____ # of Persons _____
Airline/Flt. #/Departure Time _____

CAR RENTAL INFORMATION

We have arranged to have your car waiting for you at Innisbrook. Should you desire to pick up the car at Tampa International Airport, please check here _____. If so, please contact Dollar Rent-A-Car (upon your arrival at the airport) for transportation to your car.

SHUTTLE SERVICE INFORMATION

I will use the car for _____ days and will return it to the Dollar Rent-A-Car desk at: Tampa International Airport _____ Innisbrook _____.

Guests traveling to Innisbrook via Shuttle Service report to the **ORANGE BOOTH** located just outside the baggage claim area.

APRIL 27 CUT OFF DATE

This form must be returned to Innisbrook's Transportation Desk no later than April 27, 1981.

FOLD

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Transportation Desk
Innisbrook
P.O. Drawer 1088
Tarpon Springs, Florida 33589



FOLD



Regional Reports

Far East Region

*Yasuo Shimizu
Fuji Photo Film*

Software AG (Far East) Users' Group meeting was held on October 9, 1980 at Hotel Grand Palace in Tokyo. Ninety-six users representing 46 installations were present.

Mr. Shimizu, President of Software AG Users' Group (Far East Region), presided over the meeting. He restated his belief that the Users' Group meeting should be a voluntary exchange of users' experiences so that all might grow in their awareness and use of Software AG products. He invited and encouraged active participation by many users.

Mr. Maguire, President of Software AG of North America, gave a slide presentation showing the growth of independent software manufacturers and the decline of IBM leadership in the software marketplace. He named many prominent Software AG users in the worldwide marketplace.

Mr. Maguire described his role in the recent Trade Mission to the People's Republic of China, relating the present status of computer technology in China and how the Chinese people are endeavoring to automate and computerize their business sectors. In the course of his 2 week trip, Mr. Maguire gave seminars on data base/data communications technology for Chinese technicians and government officials.

Mr. Takenaka, Manager of Sumitomo Metal Industries, reported on the Eighth International Software AG Users' Con-



Software AG of Far East users discuss product features and use.

ference and offered an abbreviated presentation on ADABAS applications at Sumitomo Metal Industries. Mr. Takenaka presented these experiences at the International Conference and was a panelist at an ADABAS Version 4.1 session.

According to Mr. Takenaka, the Eighth International Conference was more than a get-acquainted meeting. It offered the place where the makers, vendors and users got together to discuss the future of Software AG. Furthermore, it provided the opportunity to each user to promote its own technical standard and also to educate qualified engineers.

Our business discussion focused on future meetings. Many users agreed the general meeting to be a social gathering and that technical issues should be left to Special Interest Groups, such as ASSIGN (ADABAS Special Interest Group of Nippon). Users agreed that the talks on the tendencies of the software industry, software itself, Software AG directions, and new information on each product were essential to the meetings. We also discussed forming a study group for young engineers.

Australian Region

*John Palmer
Australian Bureau of Statistics*

The Australian Region met in Sydney on 27 November. Hosted by Overseas Containers Australia Ltd. (OCAL), it was attended by 19 persons representing 17 of the 13 user organizations. This, together with the very active participation by the attendees, indicates that we are strongly endorsing the existence and role of the Group.

For the first item on the agenda Mr. Les Coyne provided an interesting description of OCAL's computing operation. This operation supports the shipping of container cargo in and out of Australia and is based on an IBM 4341 (DOS/VSE) with 4M bytes memory. OCAL is in the process of implementing a "star" configuration by connecting 5 IBM SYSTEM 38s situated in their State offices to the central 4341. They plan to establish a distributed data base utilizing ADABAS, which is already in production

(Continued)

use on the 4341 and SYSTEM 38 Data Base on the SYSTEM 38 machines. Another aspect of OCAL's operation that provoked considerable interest is their singular success in limiting the programmer resource devoted to maintenance. By developing systems that can be maintained by simple adjustments to tables and other parameters, they are able to implement almost all routine modifications via a Systems Control Group of non-programmer staff. Only 4% of their total programmer resource of approximately 40 programmers is needed for maintenance of existing applications.

Mr. Coyne's presentation was followed by general business. The establishment of the Technical Support Committee was noted; however, information regarding the Committee did not reach us till after the meeting (it appears to have spent two months at sea!). The Australian SAGGROUP committee will appoint a coordinator so that we can contribute to this effort without further delay.

We are all eager to see the Early Warning System implemented.

We decided to establish a FACOM users SIG. It is of interest that there are four FACOM M-Series installations of ADABAS in Australia incorporating five users (two separate Government departments share a common installation). This SIG has a set of common concerns relating to the support of interfaces between components of the OSIV/F4 operating system and ADABAS. They are particularly interested in sharing techniques regarding the use of ADABAS in conjunction with AIM, the M-Series TP Monitor.

The General Business session was followed by an informative segment from Frank Zaknic of SPL who outlined his experiences at SAG in Germany and answered a number of questions regarding how the development of ADABAS software is organized. Bob Warburton then presented information on the Software AG NET-WORK proposal and the Data Base Machine.

Our last agenda item was a session at which members presented details of problems that have arisen in their use of ADABAS and their solutions to these problems. This segment provoked considerable discussion and has been requested as a regular feature at meetings of the group.

The next meeting of the group will be at the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Canberra in March 1981.

South American Region

Members of the South American Region met for a business meeting on Thursday, 23 October 1980. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Thirteenth National Congress of Data Processing (SUCESU) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This international conference is the major gathering for the South American data processing professionals. Representing the Software AG product line, the CONSIST exhibit included online demonstrations of ADABAS, COM-LETE and NATURAL. Natalio Fridman was pleased to announce the availability of the Data Base Machine. An overview of this new Software AG product was included in the

(Continued)



South American Software AG users meet at SUCESU.

"Jornal do Congresso", a newsletter highlighting conference activities and significant data processing news.

The Software AG users discussed plans for their annual Users' Conference scheduled for late March or early April 1981. This will be held in Rio de Janeiro. All South American users are welcome to attend. The group is also planning for various informal regional meetings in Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires. These meetings are open to all Software AG users. Please contact Natalio Fridman at CONSIST (in Brazil) or Pan American Computer Systems (in Argentina) for details.

Northwestern Region

Doug Hart
Weyerhaeuser Company

The fall conference for the Northwestern Region was held on September 12, 1980 with over 30 individuals from Alaska, British Columbia, Oregon and Washington attending. Steve Carter represented Software AG at the meeting.

The first presentation was given by Ravi Mahur of NOVA (formerly Alberta Gas Trunk Lines) on a table handling system using ADABAS. The system will load two-directional tables contained in an ADABAS file for efficient table look-ups by an application program. Two subroutines are used in this system: ATLOAD, for loading the table in-core, and ATFIND, for finding the description data for a supplied

key from the named in-core table. Utilization of the two subroutines is made via a CALL statement with a parameter string from the application program. Three types of calls can be made. The first initializes the table and loads it from the data base; the second finds a data item in the in-core table by supplying the proper index key; the third adds more items to the table for the duration of the job without affecting the permanent copy in the data base. More than one table may be loaded from the same ADABAS file by using different table names. Additional tables may be loaded from other ADABAS file(s) using different table names. The subroutines have been written in PL/1 code and are called as standard subroutines.

Hans Stoker of Administrator for the Courts gave an update on ADABAS performance tools being used currently at the Courts. Using the transaction log as origin of needed information, the following "tools" are produced on a daily basis:

1. A Command Log exception report based on a set of user-specified selection criteria including CPU time, ECB list, Associator I/O, Data I/O, Work I/O, time queued and response code. The above parameters can be adjusted via a control card for a particular run. The report is useful for analyzing commands which use an excessive amount of CPU or I/O or both.
2. A report summarizing each type of command issued against each ADABAS file. Summary fields for each command on the report are average CPU time, average

time queued, percentage of CPU time to total CPU time for session and Associator, Data and Work I/Os.

3. ADABAS Command Queue depth profiles. Two Command Queue depth profiles are printed as histograms. One is for teleprocessing and the other for batch. Each histogram gives the queue depth position, number of commands executed at that position and its percentage of the total commands issued during that session.
4. Worst-case statistics. For each session, the longest time in seconds a command was queued, worst-case CPU time for a particular command and total accumulated time in seconds that commands waited in the queue for both batch and TP.
5. Interval utilization report. At a user-specified interval (e.g., five minutes), the analyzer program summarizes all accumulated command information during that interval and produces a summary line of the following information: I/O service time, number of I/Os per command, ADABAS response time, CPU time and I/O counts for both batch and TP.

"Such reports give a very clear picture of ADABAS performance," stated Hans. Changes can now be made and their effect on the performance of the system can now be evaluated.

Jon Hudson of King County spoke next about his latest effort—development of an ADABAS interface to DMS. The

(Continued)

generalized interface is viewed as a called user program by DMS programs. The assembler-written program interprets the parameters passed to it and generates low-level calls to ADABAS. Current functions provided are inquiry on one key, update, delete and adding of records to an ADABAS file. Jon stated that the first system to use the interface is just coming up in a production mode.

After lunch, a group discussion on NATURAL impressions was conducted. Most installations in attendance did not currently have NATURAL in-house but most intended to evaluate it sometime in the future. We discussed a variety of topics including NATURAL in a CICS environment, ease of program development and the logistical problem of controlling the type of ADABAS commands which would be issued by a NATURAL program.

The final item of the day was SAGGROUP business. It was formally decided to hold our quarterly regional meetings on the first Friday in September, December, and March with a meeting at the International Users' Conference as the fourth quarterly meeting.

Pacific Southwest Region

*David Berg
Hughes Aircraft Co.*

The September meeting was hosted by Linda Simon and Tom Potts at the UCSB campus. In response to the letter from Bob Taylor, chairperson of the Technical Support Committee,

Jeff Chroman of City National Bank was elected the Pacific Southwestern Region's Technical Problems Coordinator. The users have agreed to fill out the Technical Support Incident Log forms for any significant ADABAS technical problem that is reported to Software AG and submit them to Jeff.

John Weil announced the organizational changes that have occurred recently in the Western sales region and which were reported in the last newsletter.

Walt Hopkins has observed that under MVS, an MPM can be brought up twice as fast as under VS1 and that the only changes required were to the ADASET parameters. It was noted that under Version 4.1 all the utilities will run in one update thread.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to ADABAS security. David Berg noted that a program can only handle one password and that all secured files accessed concurrently by that program must have the same password.

A NATURAL problem discovered by Hughes Aircraft and confirmed by Nissan Motors occurs when NATURAL is run in batch single user mode and any file on the data base happens to be secured. ADABAS returns a response code 208 or 209 which is translated by NATURAL into a 311 message. This problem is awaiting resolution.

Linda Simon explained that UCSB uses dynamic passwords, where a four-character password is randomly generated for an end user and a production job reads the password into a program from an input card. Linda Simon warned that if a password is added to the security table and

the secured file is then loaded to the data base, the file cannot be accessed by that password until MPM is reinitiated. She also noted, confirmed by David Berg, that field security is maintained in the FDT and must be reapplied if a file is deleted and reloaded.

At the October meeting, David Berg reviewed the minutes of the Executive Committee.

George Kamida of Software AG presented Software AG's On-Line Support, whereby an ADABAS file that contains fields to maintain problem information may be queried for a variety of reports.

John Weil of Software AG announced the availability of the Data Base Machine with an Externally Supported Processor (ESP36) and Channel-to-Channel Communications system.

Walt Hopkins led a discussion on ADABAS V4.1 usage and features. A round table discussion took place as to Change/Enhancement suggestions.

The next meeting was hosted by TICOR and Title Insurance and Trust. Bill Sanders, MISD manager of TICOR, provided users with an organizational overview of TICOR, which has an IBM 370/168 and is converting from VS1 to MVS. Max Stratton reviewed the Realty Tax System design as a relational data base application comprising three major data groupings: contracts and loans, tax information, and legal description.

Paul Keith and Max Stratton then presented the results of benchmark tests on the various approaches to the data base structuring of the Realty Tax logical design. The tests compared the loading and retrieval times for the Realty Tax data

(Continued)

when it was grouped in three different ways: as three separate ADABAS files of contracts, liens, and legal descriptions; as two separate files in which the contract and lien data were combined as one file with the legal description as the second file; and as one file with the contract data, lien data, and legal description information combined into a single record and single file with 1/8 of the file as redundant data.

The load time result showed that it required less time on the whole to load the data as a single file than as three separate files. (Keep in mind that separately the three data groupings required 11 descriptors, while as one file only 9 descriptors were needed.) Retrieval times also revealed a substantial savings using the single file approach. It was noted that once a certain large number of records is reached in data base files, then logical or physical coupling becomes a tremendous overhead. TICOR considers 500,000 ISNs to be a large file. TICOR has found it better to store redundant data in a single large file than to couple the same non-redundant data as separate files. TICOR also realized a 45-50% savings without the batchlog facility.

Myron Pullen discussed the heuristic design approach being employed at TICOR. First of all, he found it better to use more understandable wording with users, such as pragmatic or iterative approach. The advantages of the heuristic design process as explained by Myron Pullen are the early involvement on the part of end users and consequently the submission of better user requirements and specifications with earlier suc-

cessful results in being able to produce usable reports. The only disadvantage in capturing management attention through the use of heuristic development is the sudden increase in the demand for complex management reports. TICOR is training users in ADACOM and is encouraging a hands-on approach among the user community.

Midwestern Region

George White
West Publishing

The Midwestern Region met in St. Louis, Missouri on November 6, 1980 with NAVCO acting as host. A total of fifty people attended. The meeting was chaired by Mr. George White.

Mr. White presented the report of the Executive Committee and a preview of the next International Conference. The preview of the International Conference led to a discussion of education preferences. Data Dictionary and NATURAL courses were suggested as well as a NATURAL course for non-data processing personnel. This course would replace the current method of teaching them by having them read the *NATURAL Reference Manual*.

The Executive Committee had asked each regional users' group to appoint a Technical Problems Coordinator. Mr. Dave Antes of RAY-O-VAC Corporation was appointed.

Software AG's technical support structure and procedures were discussed. Some users voiced their concern that their "first line" of support is on a

special SAGNA project and is not directly available. These users felt that a technical representative should be available at all times so users can know who is accountable for their support. Others indicated that there is currently a line of communication when problems arise and that backup for procedures for support are in place.

The group passed a resolution that Software AG should provide users with a list of all known problems for software they are currently using or installing.

We also heard a brief overview of the Data Base Machine.

Jack Reitz of Evans Products gave a presentation of how their company is using the Data Dictionary. Using the standard file to describe all fields at the company, the DBA can create new files and DDMs with NATURAL programs. Jack has also written NATURAL programs to maintain and report the Data Dictionary.

Bob Becker of Foremost Insurance spoke on the new features of Version 4. He indicated the procedures that he would use in converting to Version 4. He will be able to make the conversion transparent to the application programs by changing the dynamically loaded interface program that the application programs use to access ADABAS and making the zaps to set all the correct defaults so that the ADARUN parameters are not required.

Ron Egger of NAVCO presented his experiences with converting to Version 4. He said that by using program stubs, it was very easy for them to convert programs. He also described his experiences with ADAM files.

Wade Peterson of West Publishing Co. gave a talk on a sys-

(Continued)

tem written in NATURAL used at West for scheduling and reporting their computer hardware equipment. Standards and programming techniques for NATURAL programs were presented.

Bruce Cochran of NAVCO described how their managers have been trained in the use of ADACOM and showed the complexity of some of the programs they have coded. He stated that this is just an example of the changing role of data processing departments to only the storing and custody of the data and not the dissemination of that data.

The next conference will be held in Indianapolis during the week of February 11, 1981.

Rocky Mountain Region

*Ellen Kasun
Hewlett-Packard Company*

A Rocky Mountain SAGGROUP meeting was held on September 24, 1980 in Denver with nineteen attendees representing twelve user sites.

During the business meeting, Mr. Jerry Schade of the General Government Computer Center was appointed to the position of Change/Enhancement Coordinator for our region. Jerry will compile all Change/Enhancement requests from our region and submit them to the SAGGROUP Committee by the December deadline.

Our Education Coordinator, Larry Watson of Hewlett-Packard, will send out questionnaires to determine both the interest of having Software AG classes taught to Rocky Moun-

tain users and the user priorities for these classes.

After discussion, we implemented the following procedure: If a user registers people for a class, thereby filling possibly limited spaces, and an invoice is sent to that user charging him for the number of people he indicated, that user is responsible to pay whether his people attend or not. If that user does not pay the amount charged, his organization will not be allowed to attend our locally organized classes in the future. The intent of this policy is to facilitate scheduling and billing, not to discourage class enrollment.

Dave Johnson of the State of Utah presented "Data Base Organization at the State of Utah". The State currently has a network consisting of one Amdahl and two Itels (soon to be three) linked together via two Com-ten Communication Controllers and a multitude of peripherals. Dave discussed his philosophy of system development using ADABAS

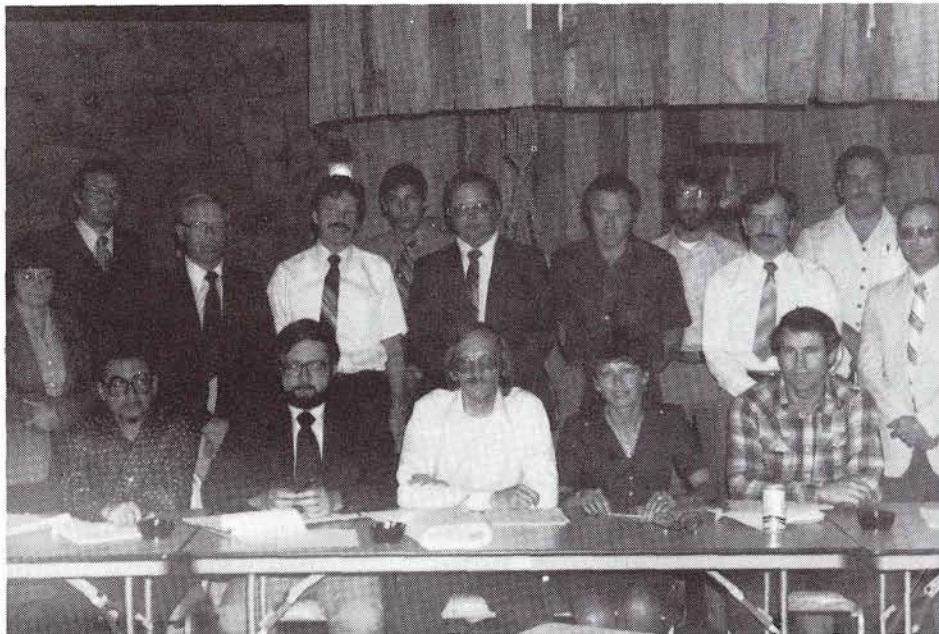
going into detail in numerous areas. He shared much useful information with us and did an excellent job of presenting it.

After lunch, Ron Tada of Software AG provided an update on Software AG news, informing us of some changes that have taken place at Software AG. Ron answered questions about the DOS release of Version 4.1.1 and availability of NATURAL fixes. While local users generally expressed satisfaction with technical support, we suggest that Software AG periodically distribute to each user a report containing that user's reported technical problems and the status of each.

Larry Watson of Hewlett-Packard concluded the meeting with a discussion of his experiences with Version 4.1.1 to date. In summary they are:

- Coding parameters properly is critical;
- Some of the documentation is unclear and confusing;

(Continued)



Rocky Mountain users pose for a photograph.

- Security and mass-update modules were not available in the initial release.

At our December 3rd meeting, we discussed reporting schemes for technical support problems that have been distributed by the Technical Support Committee. We debated whether we should coordinate our efforts and present problems to the Committee as a group or report on an individual basis. We decided to submit our concerns on an individual basis.

Cathy Vivona of Software AG outlined the technical agenda for the 1981 Users' Conference to be held at Innisbrook, Florida. She reviewed the status of the Users' Profile project and the Product Design Committee. She mentioned the formation of two new Special Interest Groups—DBA Staffing and NATURAL Features.

Our Education Coordinator, Larry Watson of Hewlett-Packard, distributed a turnaround form intended to determine the interest in holding local classes in the January-March 1981 time frame. Highlighted on the form were the following three (3) classes: NATURAL, Structured Data Base Design, COMPLETE Internals.

Jerry Schade of the General Government Computer Center then headed up a discussion of Change/Enhancement procedures. We have decided to act as a group with our Change/Enhancement requests. At the March 6 meeting we will vote as a group.

Paul Peterson of Software AG gave a presentation on the use of ADALOG as a means of troubleshooting ADABAS applications. He pointed out things to look for on the ADALOG Report

(excessive excps or CPU time) and explained that Version 4.1 gives us a user exit so that we can create ADALOG on an exception basis (that is, only print transactions in error). Paul strongly recommended the use of READONE = YES on FIND-SETs whenever possible.

After lunch Jim Engel and Sherman Bollinger of Jefferson County Schools conducted a demonstration of the Student Enrollment System and the Mark (grade reporting, student history, class scheduling) System, both up under CICS and ADABAS. The programs are written in PL/1 and Security by Value is used to control access to the data base. The Systems have been up for about a year and enable the schools in the Jefferson County School District to operate in an online environment.

Dan Filkins then brought us up to date on the latest happenings at Software AG, describing the new marketing structure and introducing Mike Ater as the new Vice President of Sales for the South Central region. Paul Peterson will be increasing the size of his Technical Support group in Denver by January 1, 1981.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 1981 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Southwestern Region

*Bob Holub
Superior Oil*

The Southwestern Region of SAGGROUP met October 23, 1980 in Houston, Texas.

Peter MacRoberts, the current Change/Enhancement Coordinator, gave us a report on the Software AG Executive Commit-

tee Meeting held on October 20-21. Discussed at this meeting were future Conference sites, the technical agenda for the 1981 Conference and documentation of and notification of fixes to ADABAS V4.1.

Bob Holub reviewed the newly formed Technical Support Committee. The Committee will try to quantify the degree of user technical support problems and to observe how and where the problems happen. Cleburne Fritz of Pioneer Corporation will collect this information for Committee use.

The Change/Enhancement procedure and deadlines were described by Peter MacRoberts.

Each of the Software AG users present discussed the use of ADABAS, NATURAL, and COMPLETE at his installation. Uses of the products, problems encountered and their solutions, and tools and techniques which have been developed were discussed.

Bob Holub agreed to work with Cleburne Fritz on a regional system whereby users in our area will document all fixes and problem solutions and make them available to all other regional users who participate.

As this system is developed, more information will be sent to each user.

Randy Ebeling and Greg Neunaber of the University of Texas at Austin gave an excellent presentation of their experiences with ADABAS Version 4.1 and their experiences in converting from TOTAL to ADABAS. This was featured in the last Newsletter.

The next meeting of the Southwestern Region Users' Group will be held in Dallas on February 26, 1981.

Southeastern Region

*Steve Froneberger
Duke Power*

On October 1, Southeastern SAGGROUP met in Atlanta. Twenty-five persons representing eight installations and Software AG were present. The major topics at the meeting were experiences with NATURAL and Version 4.1 of ADABAS. After brief introductions, Cathy Vivona provided information on the status and corrections of SM7 for NATURAL and planned for release 1.2 of NATURAL.

The next portion of our meeting was devoted to experiences with NATURAL from application programmers' viewpoints. George Painter highlighted NATURAL implementation at Bigelow Sanford on an IBM 370/168 system operating under OS/VS2. Together with his associate James Cheeks, George described their Total Operations Planning System (TOPS). George cited both advantages and the problems he had experienced during project development. Advantages included ease of learning, strong screen mapping facilities, elimination of the need for ADAMINT, overall interfacing capabilities with ADABAS, and faster coding (due to NATURAL's editing capabilities). Disadvantages or problems he encountered were difficulty in table handling, program size limitation, and confusion caused by misleading error messages. He also cited incompatibilities of NATURAL with structured programming design methodology. The overall opinion of NATURAL

as expressed by George is that NATURAL is very powerful and with some refinement has very good potential.

The next presentation was by James Cheeks, also of Bigelow Sanford. James had worked on the development of an order entry system using NATURAL and COM-LETE. The project had been developed in such a manner as to take advantage of the paging capabilities of COM-LETE. Data was stored in page format and any user had the ability to recall any page of data created by the NATURAL program. James was very optimistic concerning project development using NATURAL.

The third presentation was given by Steve Deese of Duke Power Company. Steve had developed a batch-update application using NATURAL. Steve expressed that he had experienced periods of frustration and optimism during the development of the project but that his general feeling was one of optimism. The problems he experienced were similar to the ones expressed by George earlier. He mentioned misleading error messages, program size limitation, and inconsistencies in documentation as his problems. Advantages he saw were ease of learning, ease of development, and ease of future maintenance. His project was developed using less time than was estimated originally despite changes and additions to the system.

Following these presentations, there was an informal discussion of the problems which had been experienced and the features needed by the users of NATURAL. These items have been forwarded to Software AG.

Al Wolfson of R. J. Reynolds

then presented his experiences in the testing of Version 4.1 of ADABAS. His overall experiences were favorable, but he had encountered problems regarding some of the new features of 4.1. Al gave suggestions for establishing parameter values if running a test and production data base, but noted that the establishment of the actual values to maximize efficiency was still mainly guesswork because the variables used in calculating the values of the parameters are often hard to obtain. Al also discussed some considerations to be taken when converting Version 3.2.1 applications to Version 4.1, ET data considerations, ADAMINT considerations, and restarting application programs.

Our next meeting will be held on February 4th in Atlanta.

Eastern Region

*Daniel Nolan
Civil Aeronautics Board*

The September, 1980 meeting was held at the National Education Association in Washington, D. C. Over 80 individuals attended, representing over 38 of the 57 clients in the area. The program began with the circulation of a master copy of the user's profiles for verification and correction. The data collected on the master is being entered into the enhanced profile system.

Regional business included a call for reformation into a more stable structure, with offices of Vice-President and Past President in addition to the Regional Representative, and selection of five Programme Directors to coordinate activities. The VP,

(Continued)

