

# Software AG International Users' Group Newsletter

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## Users' Group News

### Registration Opens for the 1982 Users' Conference

Registration has officially begun for the Tenth International Software AG Users' Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Conference will be held May 9-13, 1982 at the Dunes Hotel.

This year's Conference, themed "Great Expectations", will have over 50 user presentations, numerous workshops, and ample ad-hoc meetings for attendees to exchange ideas, information and techniques both

among themselves and with the international Software AG community. Guest speakers, intensive tutorials and special "Software AG Presents" sessions complete the comprehensive four-day agenda. Additionally, informal one-to-one technical support and consulting services will be available with plenty of on-site terminals available for use.

The Conference will be held at the beautiful Dunes Hotel and

Country Club in downtown Las Vegas, just a few minutes from the Las Vegas airport. A complete companion program is also available for those bringing a companion to the Conference.

The response to this year's Call for Papers has been excellent, and Software AG promises to fulfill your "Great Expectations" by hosting a fantastic conference in a truly great conference facility.

## Who To Contact

### Conference Registration:

Software AG of North America, Inc.  
11800 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, Virginia 22091  
Attn: Conference Registrar  
(703) 860-5050—Telex 89-9122

### Hotel Registration:

Dunes Hotel and Country Club  
3650 Las Vegas Boulevard, South  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109  
Attn: Reservation Manager  
(800) 634-6688

### Air Transportation:

United Airlines  
Convention Desk  
Special Account Number 3208  
Michigan: 800-482-0243  
All locations: 800-521-0810

## How to Register

Conference and hotel registration forms are included in this issue of the Newsletter for those of you who have not received them in the mail. Early registration is encouraged. Please keep in mind that there is a late charge of \$100. for registering after April 15th. Also, those people wishing to attend must arrange their own transportation and hotel reservations. Be sure to indicate that you will be attending the Software AG Conference, as special arrangements have been made with the hotel.

**NOTE:** Due to the nature of the conference program and facilities, no provisions have been made for children and they will not be permitted to attend conference or companion functions.

### Companion Program:

Software AG of North America, Inc.  
11800 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, Virginia 22091  
Attn: Conference Registrar  
(703) 860-5050—Telex 89-9122

### Post Conference Trip:

USA Holidays Las Vegas  
5030 Paradise Road, Suite A201  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119  
800-634-6133.

# Great Expectations

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## Agendas

The preliminary agenda for the Las Vegas Conference will be mailed to all users on or around March 1st. The final agenda will be mailed to all users around April 1st. The final agenda will also be printed in the May issue of the Newsletter and distributed at the conference.

## Full Program for Companions Scheduled

Companions of all conferees will also have a complete agenda filled with a variety of activities.

A full American breakfast will be featured each day in a different location. Monday starts with breakfast and an audio visual presentation. The afternoon is free for optional sight-seeing tours of the area. A tour desk will be available for tour information and sign-up. Tuesday will feature a half-day seminar on color and wardrobe selection, conducted by the K.L.M. Institute of Eugene, Oregon. The seminar will be highlighted by actual demonstrations showing what colors and fabrics best complement skin and hair. Breakfast will start at the Top of the Dunes—a rooftop restaurant on the 24th floor. Lunch is also included following this seminar.

Wednesday's highlights will include breakfast at the Dunes Country Club, a shopping shuttle to Fashion Square which features Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus and Lord and Taylor, and

Wednesday night's banquet.

Thursday's breakfast will be served in the Dune's major showroom accompanied by a spectacular song and dance fashion show, titled "Great Expectations—What's Old is New Again." The show will present jewels, furs and evening wear for men and women. MGM Grand's lead singer from "Jubilee" will narrate the show. Merrill Douglas will present a session on Time Management after lunch. The entire companion program and all evening social activities are included in the \$250 companion registration fee.

## Workshops

The Special Interest Groups will be hosting sessions throughout the week for users with common interests to get together for learning workshops.

The following is a partial listing of the workshops that have been planned:

Change/Enhancements (All products)  
ADABAS Performance  
ADABAS Education/Documentation

ADABAS Data Administration  
ADABAS Retrievals/Interfaces  
ADABAS Large Data Bases  
ADABAS DBA Tools  
ADABAS DOS  
ADABAS-M

COM-LETE Tools

NATURAL Features  
NATURAL Techniques  
Managing the NATURAL Environment  
Teaching NATURAL to the User

## User Conference Events of Special Interest to ADABAS-M Users

Although the ADABAS-M users are currently outnumbered by mainframe users and the conference overall reflects this distribution, Software AG and SAGGROUP have developed a full and varied series of sessions for both the old and new ADABAS-M user. The schedule has been set up to allow ADABAS-M users to participate in sessions that they have in common with mainframe during the first two days. Also in those first two days will be ADABAS-M user presentations, an overview of ADABAS-M for non-DEC users, several DDP presentations, the ADABAS-M change and enhancements session and the special ADABAS-M sessions below:

- ADABAS-M Tuning and Optimization
- Restart/Recovery Tutorial/Panel (do-it-yourself ET/BT)
- ADABAS-M General Workshop

The second two days will be comprised of a condensed ADABAS-M Internals course. This course will provide the necessary knowledge and skills for an ADABAS-M user to better support users and better interface with technical support. Such internals knowledge alone justifies participation at the Conference for most ADABAS-M user organizations.

## Conference Tutorials

The following tutorials are being prepared for the 1982 Users' Conference. Selection of topics and intended audience was a result of last year's Conference questionnaire and input from the user community. These tutorials provide you with a unique opportunity to attend 1-1/2 hour, in-depth technical sessions taught by Software AG experts. The tutorials will be repeated during the conference to allow everyone a chance to attend.

### Conference Tutorials

**ADABAS Restart/Recovery**—This session will review the ADABAS facilities available to support Restart/Recovery. Example disaster situations for both Batch and Online applications will be discussed placing emphasis on technical detail and general considerations required to affect a full and complete recovery.

**ADABAS DEBUGGING TOOLS**—This session will highlight debugging tools available with specific emphasis on ADAPRI, LOG PARAMETERS, ADAICK, and SNAP DUMP/TEST options of ADAMINT. Sample LOGS/DUMPS will be explained. This session is designed for users who are familiar with ADABAS Direct Calls and/or who are involved in tuning programs or systems.

**ADABAS PERFORMANCE AND TUNING**—This tutorial addresses a broad range of factors to be considered in tuning the ADABAS programs, the operating environment in which ADABAS is used, the design of ADABAS files, and the logic of application programs. ADABAS subsystems included are the nucleus and MPM, utilities and ADAMINT, Data Dictionary, ADASCRIP + and NATURAL. The tuning considerations and process are presented from basics on through a range of levels of refinement. Familiarity with the products and concepts involved is assumed—no attempt will be made to provide introductory information about the products.

**NATURAL TECHNIQUES**—This presentation will be oriented to the newer user of NATURAL. It will cover selected areas of applying NATURAL capabilities to accomplish user objectives. Some of the representative topics include: looping, subroutines, data retrieval options, and screen design.

**ADVANCED NATURAL TECHNIQUES**—This presentation will be oriented to the interests of users who have mastered the basic application of NATURAL and desire additional insights into selected areas of NATURAL. These include: internal functioning, installation and configuration options, performance considerations, and more sophisticated logic and coding approaches.

**DOS—NATURAL**—This session will include NATURAL in a DOS CICS/VS environment with emphasis on the appropriate recovery procedures and methods, inter-program communication calls, and direct-

linking versus dynamic-linking of DDM's.

**DOS—ADABAS**—This session will be a discussion of the differences between OS and DOS features/facilities followed by tuning of DOS ADABAS, and ADABAS Direct Calls in a DOS CICS/VS environment.

**COM-PLETE PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND TUNING**—This tutorial addresses COM-PLETE tuning and will recommend areas to monitor and control. These areas include the COM-PLETE system area, the user area and the operating system area. Previous systems experience with COM-PLETE is assumed. The objective is to encourage standards for an installation's tuning methodology.

**ADABAS FILE DESIGN**—This presentation will review the various methods of file design with emphasis on the effects and tradeoffs in design strategies. Among the topics to be addressed are performance considerations, programming complexity, and design restrictions. This tutorial will be of most benefit to new users who are familiar with ADABAS concepts and are responsible for designing or reviewing ADABAS files.

**ADABAS-M RESTART/RECOVERY**—This tutorial and panel discussion will review the ADABAS-M facilities available for Restart/Recovery.



# Great Expectations

Tenth International  
Software AG  
Users' Conference  
May 9-13, 1982  
Las Vegas



11800 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, Virginia 22091  
(703) 860-5050

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

**PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO MAY 1, 1982**

**PLEASE FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY.**

CONFEREE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANION NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME (OR NICKNAME) FOR BADGE:

CONFEREE \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANION \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE CHECK:

USER  GUEST CONFEREE FEE \$495\_\_\_\_

CONSULTANT  AFFILIATE COMPANION FEE \$250\_\_\_\_

SAGNA EMPLOYEE CONSULTANT FEE \$795\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INVOICE  PAYMENT ENCLOSED LATE FEE \$100\_\_\_\_

P.O. NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ (after April 15, 1982)

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

SEND INVOICE TO:

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

ATTENTION: \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR SOFTWARE AG OF NORTH AMERICA, INC. USE ONLY

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Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Date Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

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if Mailed  
in the  
United States

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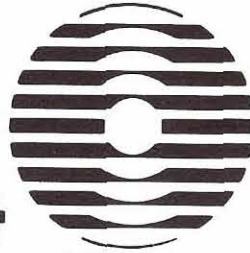
**SOFTWARE AG**  
OF NORTH AMERICA, INC  
Reston International Center  
11800 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, Virginia 22091



Attention: Conference Registrar

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Tenth International  
Software AG  
Users' Conference  
May 9-13, 1982  
Las Vegas



# Great Expectations

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## **Dunes** Room Reservations

HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB LAS VEGAS

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Name \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Make The Following Accommodations For Me.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ No. Room \_\_\_\_\_ Single  Double  Twin

Suite \_\_\_\_\_ *(Upon Availability)*

**RATES: \$45.00** single or double, plus 6% Clark County Room Tax.

Date of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Departure \_\_\_\_\_

Please do not anticipate guest room occupancy prior to 2:00 P.M.  
**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 10, 1982**  
*Upon receipt of confirmation, one night's deposit will be required.*

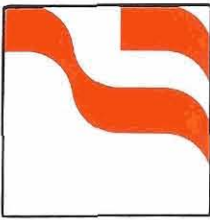
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**Reservation Manager**  
DUNES HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB  
3650 Las Vegas Blvd. South  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

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# Regional Reports

## Iberia Region

*Angel Jerez*

The Spanish and Portuguese Users met in Madrid on October 3, 1981 with Fraser Espanola (official representative of SAG for Spain) as host.

The objective of this reunion was the approval of the rules for this Users' Group and to elect the Board of Directors for 1982.

**President:** Mr. Angel Jerez (Dragados y Construcciones—Madrid)

**Vice President:** Mr. Correia Da Costa (Lisnave Margueira—Lisboa)

**Coordinator:** Mr. Pedro Patron (Automoviles Talbot—Madrid)

**Secretary:** Mr. Rafael Gomez Ruiz (Fraser Espanola—Madrid)

The next meeting will be in Madrid in May 1982.

## Northwestern Region

*Dian Odell  
Evans Products*

The Northwestern Region met on December 4 with 34 persons from 14 installations present.

The topic for the morning was "MPM Params"—what we currently use, suggestions and rules of thumb for selection of values, and symptoms relating to choosing values inappropriate to a particular environment. Large paper sheets were put up around the

room, each labelled with a different MPM parm name. Eight V4.1 ADABAS installations wrote their specific MPM parm values (as well as data about work dataset size, number of ADABAS commands per day, and operating system) on the appropriate sheets. This way we could quickly see the range of values used for each parm, and how many people used the defaults. Each installation used a different colored marking pen so we could also look around the room and see the full parm specifications for a particular installation. Several persons then volunteered to discuss their values, explaining the environment and evolution of certain values. It was interesting to note that usually 4 or 5 of the 8 recording installations used the defaults, because they assumed the defaults were reasonably determined numbers and because they did not know what else to do—the lack of monitoring and analysis tools for determining characteristics of your environment and proper parm values for it was commented upon by most persons as being a very large deficit in the operations of ADABAS. Improper use of MPM parms can cause significant system degradation and user problems (unnecessary non-zero response codes), but we have little to help us. Some users' suggestions and observations were: a) keep increasing the number of threads until in a normal MPM session the highest thread is barely used. There is little overhead in thread handling other than the 4K in memory it costs, but it helps in overlapping processing; b) NH and CT will be much larger in shops which run a lot of old 3.2.1 programs as pseudo-ET users which have not been rewritten to be true logical

transaction oriented; c) increasing significantly LBP can cause a dramatic improvement in online response time; d) a good performance concept is that of "buffer efficiency" (defined as number of logical I/O's divided by the number of physical I/O's—these numbers can be lifted from the MPM status which print at the end of an MPM session); the higher the 'buffer efficiency' the better—avoid real I/O; e) response code 88's may be signalling LWP too low; f) CT should be higher in MVS shops which allow MPM to be swapped out; g) if LI is too low, you will get response codes about 'no room for command ID's; h) response code 254 may be due to low NAB; i) no installations present have cluster or exclusive use users; j) there is no way to know the high water mark for maximum number of users.

Greg Lohman, SAG Education staff, then continued the discussion with some further guidelines and suggestions: a) NH will have to be increased in shops which do a lot of batch dictionary updates via DDUPDATE; b) if MPM is non-swappable, all utilities will also be non-swappable since everybody executes ADARUN (some easy ways to avoid this); c) ET data is written in the LP area of the work data set; d) TTAE is defined as from the first hold to ET, not as the time between ET's; e) some SET GLOBALS values are lost in CATALOG because they relate to session not to program—users need to know which are which; f) when tuning, change only one parm at a time to really determine effect; many are inter-related; g) NAT3021 really means response code 9 from previous command.

*(Continued)*

In the afternoon we switched to the topic of dictionary use. Mike Baller (Washington State Dept. of Personnel) discussed his process of using the dictionary for userviews, using UTIL02 for generating ADAMINTs, and using "pull forward" to keep his various userviews in sync when a change is made somewhere. Mike uses batch DDUPDATE for initial creation of userviews, uses an online system from Evans Products for most maintenance, and uses SAG online dictionary rarely because it has so many screens to accomplish a simple task. He used UTIL08 until he found a problem of improper output when there were more than 25 elements in a userview, and also when he realized most programmers were changing the generated COBOL code to their specs anyway.

Fin Park (Seattle Public Schools) discussed his use of a "global" file concept for storing everything during a logical design phase and then splitting out the elements when the physical design phase is reached and physical files and userviews are needed. He has developed an online system to allow end-users to update skeleton records with the information they have without being able to change certain other fields. This eliminates a lot of the delay and extra paper passing from user to DBA personnel during design, and puts the user more in control of "their" system definition.

In our discussions it becomes quickly apparent that each of us has a unique knowledge and awareness of problems and fixes that is not common knowledge to the rest of the group. "Early Warnings" are a help in this area (although they are not really warnings, but are fixes distrib-

uted between SM levels), and the one release of SAGUTILS has been a help (but its value is very limited now because it is not current; more frequent SMs and their associated SAGUTILS are desirable). In the meantime, in an effort to spread the awareness and save each other a little grief, problem/warning abstracts have been gathered from installations in the Northwest Region. If you want further information about any of them, please contact SAG Technical Support in Denver.



## United Kingdom Report

*Darrell West  
British United Provident  
Association*

The UK Users met at the offices of London and Manchester Assurance Company Ltd. in Exeter, on the 7th and 8th of September, 1981.

Twenty-seven Users from 21 installations attended the meeting of the NATURAL Special Interest Group on the 7th. The main feature of this meeting was a presentation given by Len Jenkinson and Mike Hollis of ADABAS Software Ltd., on the subject of NATURAL Future Development.

On the following day the full User Group meeting was attended by 37 users from 25 installations. Mick Wells of Midland Bank took the Chair.

As usual, any new Users were asked to introduce themselves, after being welcomed to the Group by the Chairman.

After reports on the activities of the Executive Committee and of the Special Interest Groups, the meeting received a fascinating presentation from Malcom Robinson, DBA at Commercial Union Assurance. Commercial Union is recognized as being NATURAL 'Pioneers' in the UK, and this insight into the environment at C.U. was most enlightening.

After lunch, Mick Wells outlined the purpose of the User Questionnaire now being circulated, then Len Jenkinson and Mike Hollis of ASL informed the group of recent developments by SAGNA, SAG and ASL themselves. Much literature was distributed by them to all Users before the meeting was closed by the Chairman.

It is hoped that the next meeting will be hosted by the Avon and Bristol Computer Unit at their Bristol offices in early January 1982.



## Southeastern Region

*Larry Goodman  
American Family Life Assurance*

The Southeastern Users met on September 16, 1981 at Dunfeys Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. Thirty-eight representatives from 16 organizations participated.

(Continued)

Larry Goodman, from American Family Life Assurance Company, discussed Strategic Data Planning methodologies. Emphasis was made on top management's involvement in the Corporate Information Architecture. IBM's "Business Systems Planning" and Martin's Strategic Data Planning were introduced as techniques for classifying business functions and processes for the development of subject data bases. Stress was placed on development of subject data bases versus application oriented data bases to satisfy the unanticipated request from management.

Jim Forestell, from SAG, presented a summary on the NATURAL tutorial and techniques presentation he gave at Innisbrook. Emphasis was placed on looping, array processing, and use of PE and MU defined fields. Specific questions concerning the presentation followed.

Jim Bagby, also from SAG, was requested to present an overview of ADAMINT in a CICS environment. This was of particular interest for new Southeastern Users addressing one entry point modules and access modules. Jim addressed the problems new Users usually have on zaps which were presently available that would be released on SMT.

Bob Taylor, from Evans Products, was our guest speaker. Bob addressed the recent technical survey distributed prior to the Innisbrook Conference. The findings addressed the satisfaction level of SAG users with technical support from Software AG. These findings are presently being reviewed and will be made public at a later date. Bob also discussed restart/recovery under Version 4.0 of ADABAS, "ET" "BT" logic, exclusive use, clusters, and checkpoint usage.

He emphasized the establishment of recovery procedures and testing these procedures under various circumstances. Users requested presentations from various sites on recovery procedures.

Group business followed with the following summary of activities:

- SAG requested input, via a questionnaire, as to topics which Users would like addressed at the Las Vegas Conference. Please mail those in ASAP.
- Due to geographical reasons, the majority of Southeast Users requested the session be expanded to 1½ days beginning at 1:00 p.m. on day 1 and ending at 4:00 p.m. on day 2. This would also allow more time for informal discussions and special interest to be pursued.
- Due to poor service and a 99% request from our User Group, we will be moving our meetings to another hotel. Suggestions at this time include Peachtree Plaza and the Airport Marriott.
- The next meeting will be held on December 9th and 10th at one of the above-mentioned hotels. As arrangements are finalized, they will be relayed to you.
- Suggestions for topics for the next meeting are as follows
  - Data Modeling
  - Performance and Tuning
  - Restart/Recovery Procedures (onsite)
  - DBA Procedures
  - User Exits

I appreciate the support and input all of you have given in the

past months. If I can assist you, or you have input regarding our December meeting, please don't hesitate to call.

The Southeastern Users met on December 17th, 1981, at Peachtree Plaza Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. Fourteen representatives from six organizations participated.

Due to some last minute cancellations, the attendance was smaller than usual; however, the meeting took an informal tone and participation from all parties made the meeting highly beneficial.

The topics of discussion were as follows: Standards and Procedures, Performance and Tuning, Group Business, and Open Session.

Pete Smith, from the Center for Disease Control, outlined the procedures and standards for use at their organization. CDC supports over 80 systems using ADABAS primarily developed in NATURAL. Emphasis was placed on formal training session for the NATURAL users. End users design, develop, and implement production oriented systems with the assistance of the DBA staff at CDC.

Backup/Recovery procedures should be documented and tested. Monitoring of the data base should be a regular occurrence. System accounting/SMT data should be logged and analyzed. Formal review of projects using ADABAS and the physical design of ADABAS records is essential for a well engineered system. Security, passwords, security by value should be emphasized.

(Continued)

Norris Barnes from R.J. Reynolds covered the functional attributes of their DBA positions. Norris emphasized training for persons responsible for the DBMS. This included both corporate and subsidiary DBA's, and systems development project and team personnel which are responsible for the DBMS project. More than 2,000,000 transactions daily are processed against the R.J. Reynolds' data base. R.J. Reynolds also has an internal Users' Group which meets regularly to address issues and problems in the R.J. Reynolds' data base community.

Special Interests are also pursued in projects analyzing performance and tuning requirements, etc.

Norris also emphasized the use of "NATURAL" and prototyping on Demos during the design phases of a system. This is easily done and is very effective when communicating with the end user.

Group business followed:

- The Peachtree Plaza Hotel and the services they offered were well liked by most.
- We will have our next users' meeting March 17, 1982, at the Peachtree Plaza.
- Suggestions for topics of interest would be appreciated.
- Participation in special interest projects for the Southeastern Users' Group is encouraged.
- Be thinking about the election for the 1982 Southeastern Representative for our Users' Group.

Software AG was represented in force with both Marketing and Technical Staff participating. Jim Crawford, the new Users' Group Liaison, was introduced and discussed briefly his upcoming activities.

Larry Potter hosted a panel discussion on performance and tuning. Questions were addressed, however, I feel this area is very grey and not enough material is available on this topic.

Jesse McKinney from American Family Life, presented the DBA function and procedures at AFL from the eyes of a new DBA. The presentation emphasized the areas which need the most emphasis as the roll of the DBA is assumed.

The presentation included:

- The logical order in which the manuals should be read
- Understanding the components of the data base
- Firm grasp on the utilities used to manage the data base
- The emphasis of a test and production DBMS

Jesse also pointed out the understanding of direct calls vs. ADAMINT and organizational impact of their usage among the system development staff. Emphasis was also placed on both internal as well as external procedures to be developed. This included procedures on the use of utilities through the service request to the DBA.

An open discussion followed identifying problems and solutions.

You should begin making preparations for the March meeting as soon as possible. The effectiveness of the Southeastern Users' Group depends heavily upon your participation.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the March meeting. If I can assist you, or if you have input regarding our March meeting, please don't hesitate to call.

## Sierra Pacific Region

*Alan Routhier  
County of Sacramento*

This was by far our largest representation!

The meeting began with opening remarks by the President, Alan Routhier. Our special guests Steve Carter from Software AG—Seattle and Larry Hagg from MPS, Inc. (DATA-MANAGER) were then introduced.

The first presentation was given by Mr. Steve Carter on the status of the SAG Data Dictionary.

The present Data Dictionary still leaves much to be desired. Obviously SAG had not given it a very high priority in the beginning. Therefore, we are going to have to make do for awhile.

Dr. Richard Meyer is now in charge of producing the next generation of the SAG Data Dictionary. We were told not to expect the first 'cut' for at least two years. When it does become available, it will definitely be upward compatible to what we now have. We were also informed that it will be a separately priced package.

The second presentation was given by Mr. Larry Hagg on the DATAMANAGER.

His company, MSP, Inc., has dedicated itself to the production of a documentation package called DATAMANAGER. It has been widely used by the DP industry since 1975.

Mr. Hagg offered DATA-MANAGER as an alternative to SAG's present Data Dictionary,

*(Continued)*

since it already interfaces quite well with ADABAS. One of the notable features of DATA-MANAGER is that up to 255 bytes per comment line can be accommodated as compared to the present 30 bytes per comment limit in SAG's Data Dictionary.

A question and answer period was moderated by Mr. Steve Clark, DBA for Sacramento County.

Steve told us that DATA-MANAGER is extremely powerful and warned that we had best plan well before putting it to use.

He also commented that the present SAG Data Dictionary is fine for use as a simple repository for documentation in the beginning; however, he said that any Data Dictionary package must be interactive to be useful.

Alan Routhier read a letter from the Asian Development Bank located in Manila, the Philippines, expressing the desire to join our User Group.

There followed a discussion on a variety of ADABAS related subjects.

Our next meeting will be hosted by the County of Sacramento in Sacramento on Tuesday, December 8, 1981 at 9:00 a.m.

The theme will be "NATURAL."

## Pacific Southwest Region

*David Berg  
Hughes Aircraft Company*

Our September meeting was hosted by Jennifer Lee at the Aerospace Corporation and fea-

tured an excellent, informative, and useful presentation by Jim Reiner of the County of Sacramento on NATURAL Techniques. Jim's presentation was in the format of the inhouse class on this subject that he gives to the County and addressed the specific concerns and questions of our region. We are grateful to Jim and the County of Sacramento for his time and effort.

The October meeting was hosted by Linda Simon and Tom Potts of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The minutes of the September meeting were accepted, following which John Weil introduced Jacqueline Gilliam, a new marketing rep for ADABAS-M.

David Berg then distributed the minutes of the SAGGROUP Executive Committee Meeting and discussed the events of that meeting.

Tom Potts followed with a presentation of GENIE, UCSB's GENERAL Interactive Entry program. GENIE was developed to enable the decentralization of data entry for batch applications to the user departments. It satisfies the needs of independent data entry, data editing upon entry, multiple transaction types, user security, application independence from other applications data and concurrent entry of data to the same applications data, and concurrent entry of data to the same application by multiple users. The system operates under COM-PLETE, using one ADABAS file with multiple record types (called subfiles) for data storage. It is written in PL/1 with ADAMINT. Security is provided using COM-PLETE's GETCHR feature and restricting access to records on the ADABAS file based on USERID. Format, prompt and exit tables for each transaction format are

stored on the same ADABAS file with their own identifying record type. Tom demonstrated GENIE to the group following lunch.

Change/Enhancement requests were discussed, with a review of some of those discussed at the Midwest Users' meeting as an introduction. The annual question of differentiating a Change/Enhancement request from a fix to a bug was brought up with the annual response that sometimes the only way a bug gets fixed is via a popular C/E request. John Weil replied that any user encountering difficulty in communicating or transacting with Software AG should contact him to work through the problem.

Jennifer Lee commented that she felt that NATURAL was not user friendly enough to be handed over to end users. In the ensuing discussion two points were generally agreed upon: 1) it does take some degree of programming knowledge to use NATURAL and 2) the NATURAL documentation should include a tutorial in logical, top down sequence, on how to use the NATURAL language.

On the subject of documentation, David Berg noted that the COM-PLETE SYSPARM parameters and ADABAS ADARUN parameters are insufficiently documented to make an intelligent decision on setting them. The documentation lacks information on the effects of varying the parameter values and is insufficient with regard to the impacts of parameters on each other. David indicated he would write a C/E request on all these documentation comments.

A very brief discussion of ADABAS Version 4 ended the morning session. Linda Simon indicated that all of USCB's update

(Continued)

programs, including batch, are ET programs. Most of the batch programs issue an ET every 20 updates, and one issues an ET after every update so a duplicate record check can be made. Linda said there was very little degradation due to the ET's.

#### *Minutes—December 4, 1981*

The meeting was held at the Software AG Newport Beach office. Jennifer Lee, President, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., and made the following announcements:

1. Software AG confirmed their support, in a letter to users, with the ADABAS Version 4.1 conversion.
2. Las Vegas Users' Conference May 9-13, 1982. Start now to make plans for sending people. Call for papers, abstracts on COM-LETE, NATURAL, and ADABAS are due December 18. Refer to November's Users' Group Newsletter for information.
3. Software AG Staff Update. Jim Crawford—Software AG User Group Liaison, Cathy Vivona—Software AG Technical Assistant, Allen Shue—Conference papers reviewer, and Paul Barbuto—Conference Workshop Coordinator.
4. The Sierra Pacific Region SAGGROUP users meeting will be held in Sacramento on December 8th. Jim Reiner will give a tutorial on NATURAL techniques.
5. Change/Enhancements are due December 7, 1981.

Edie Carroll, Aerospace Corporation's Data Dictionary Analyst, demonstrated the Online Data Dictionary. Using handouts taken from the Online Data Dictionary Reference Manual, Edie

explained screen descriptions, module descriptions, functional capabilities, and the difference between the batch and the online data dictionary methods and results. She also stated that she preferred the online over the batch method. In addition to going through each Data Dictionary screen at a terminal and explaining its purpose, Edie pointed out product bugs and how to deal with them. She informed the group that NATURAL source code for the Online Data Dictionary is available on tape; which gives users the option to make modifications to the system. Edie is writing an article on her experiences for the Users' Group Newsletter.

The next SAGGROUP Users' Meeting will be held at NISSAN, with Walt Hopkins hosting, on January 22, 1982.

Steve Carter, Software AG, attended the meeting to discuss education issues with the users. A request was made by the users to have regional area classes, customized to their needs, in ADABAS performance, and advanced NATURAL techniques. It was suggested that a 'live case' format be used with cases generalized according to the most common user environments, i.e., MVS, COM-LETE, CICS, and NATURAL. Enough modeling should be given to cover most users. It was agreed that classes should start in March 1982, after ADABAS 4.1 has been installed by most users. Also, Steve handed out a Customer Training Scheduling Preference Survey for 1982 and a tentative class schedule which is being mailed to Western Region SAGGROUP users.

Responding to users' questions, John Weil of Software AG said he had no new information on the NATURAL 1.2 release or

the SM4 SAGUTILS but will research and report on them at the next SAGGROUP users meeting.

## New England Region

*Bob Meyers  
The Boston Company*

The New England Region met on December 17. At the meeting, Joe Gilley addressed several questions which the Software AG Users' Group of New England had sent to him. He mentioned that ADABAS 4.2 would probably have a verb to retrieve all occurrences of a PE or MU.

- That the NATURAL Security package which comes gratis was very skeletal and the separately priced security system would be much better.
- Password security can be obtained by typing /\* and the next line to print will be invisible.
- Redefines data type in the Dictionary applies only to COBOL Copy code.
- Currently only Algorithm 1 & 2 work. Algorithm 4 in vrs. 4 uses fewer I/O's and more core.
- If you include only your system file code in the OPRB parameter in NATURAL, all other files will receive the benefits of OPRB.

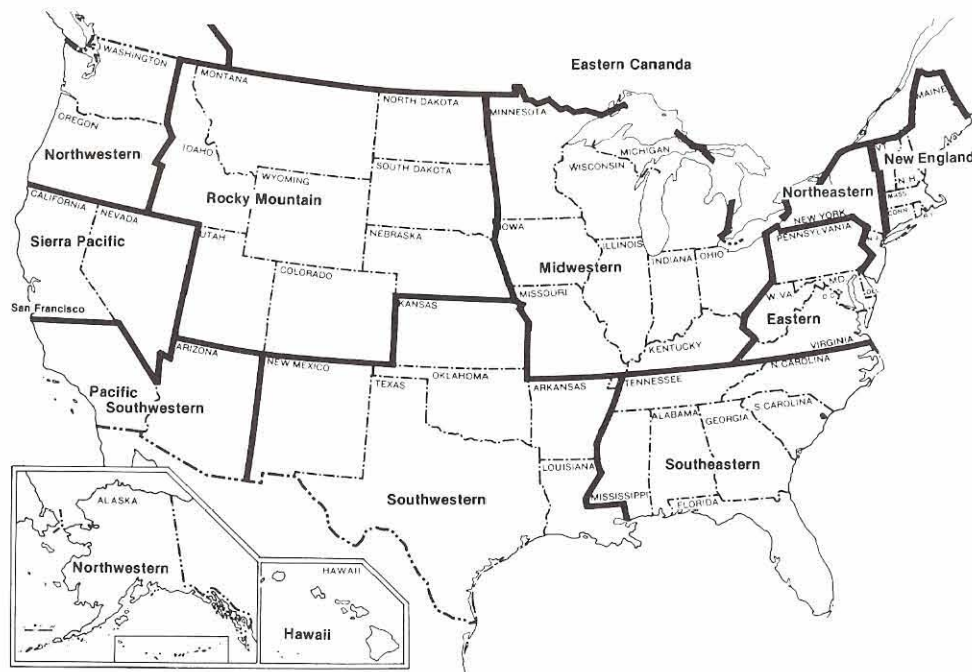
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Bob Meyers of the Boston Company presented how they use the Online Data Dictionary. Overall he felt that if a corporation was willing to make the compromise between perfection

and speed in favor of just speed, the Online Data Dictionary is a great productivity tool. Some incorrect documentation in Data Dictionary Reference manual: field BH, - sequence, is a

descriptor and it is really (U5) field not (U3) or (N3) as defined in the DDM or the Util 03 cards. (This causes an abend of a program in the Online Dictionary.) Peter Kim of Boston University gave a talk on COM-LETE Tuning tips.

## Software AG Users' Group Regions in the United States



This map represents changes made in the United States regional Users' Group boundaries at the International Conference.

































































