

Steve - Nice article in CWD this week - GOOD SHOW!
Sincerely Jim W
3-14-78

ADABAS

the Adaptable DAta BAse System

NEWSLETTER

Published by the International ADABAS Users Group and software ag of North America, Inc.

Vol. 3 No. 4, March 1978

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by: Rob Macmillan
Department of Analytical Studies
Simon Fraser University

A tentative agenda for our Fifth International Users Conference has been prepared and a most interesting program is assured. I am particularly pleased that Leo Cohen has agreed to deliver the keynote address (see article in this Newsletter).

Some changes have been made to the Conference format placing an emphasis on user participation. We have, of course, retained the formal presentations, but have allotted more time to Special Interest Groups where all users have the opportunity to participate. S.I.G. chairmen are preparing programs for their session at the Conference. Contact them now with any suggestions for the S.I.G. sessions.

Alan Martin, from Simon Fraser University, has agreed to chair the DBA Tools Special Interest Group until the Boston Conference.

There has been some interest in creating a new S.I.G. to formulate suggestions for long range improvements to and directions for ADABAS and related products. While this can never become the precise science of change/enhancements, ideas generated may be valuable to software ag. Any ideas? Bring them to Boston.

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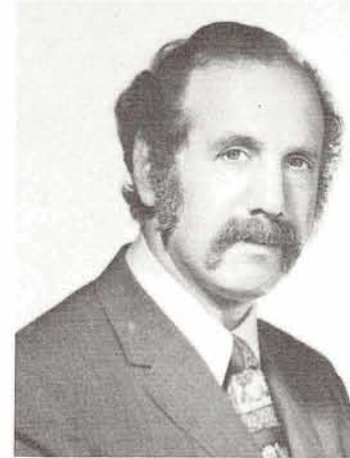
HAVE YOU HAD A DISASTER LATELY ?

by Gordon Cochran

If not, have you planned for one? This has been a tough winter for data centers. New disasters have replaced the standard ones such as fire and bombings. This winter we had floods, mud slides, and frozen plumbing on our 168's.

There are two solutions to the disaster situation. Mirror image systems at another location is one solution, but an expensive one. A reciprocal agreement with another company's computer center is a more cost effective solution.

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LEO COHEN KEYNOTE SPEAKER

5th International ADABAS Users Conference

by: Rob Macmillan

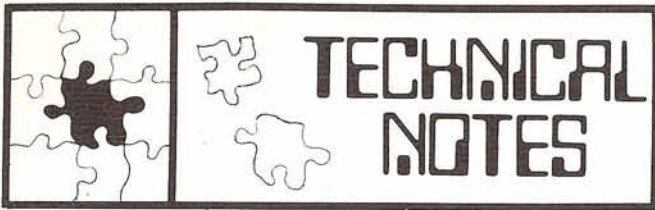
We are delighted that Mr. Cohen has agreed to address the ADABAS Users Group. His experience in the computing industry dates from 1953 with Doctors Eckert and Mauchly. He subsequently worked at Burroughs Corporation and was active in the area of software design. In 1963 he founded Leo J. Cohen Associates, subsequently renamed MetaSystems Corporation. He is currently President of Performance Development Corporation.

Mr. Cohen has designed compilers, operating systems, and data base systems and has lectured on each of

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by Roy Wood, software ag

A software ag corporate planning meeting was held the week of February 28th. The status of all products was discussed as well as documentation and change/enhancement requests. Version 4.1 of ADABAS was the major topic, with ADACOM, Data Dictionary, Com-plete/ADABAS integration, and ADAMINT V1.3 all being reviewed.

ADABAS Version 4.1 nucleus has been written and is in an alpha test phase. It was decided that Jim Addis of software ag of North America will lead the beta test effort. Jim will begin with source orientation in April. This means a formal source code review will be held in Reston, Virginia, at the end of April. As a result of the review, a beta test plan will be constructed, and Jim will build a test team to begin beta testing in May. Our current plan calls for the release of Version 4.1 in Europe during September and a worldwide release in December 1978.

Many new features will be available in this version but special emphasis has been placed on data protection and improved performance. The new ET/BT Restart/Recovery was operative for an early beta test and appears to be stable. Performance enhancements will be delivered in two forms: the ADAM and a multi-threaded nucleus. ADAM is a new randomization technique which has all the benefits (less than 1.3 I/O's for a single record) without the usual overhead of synonym chains and sequential file processing. Pure or heavy sequential processing applications will benefit significantly from the option of setting larger block sizes. The multi-thread feature should enhance the overall I/O performance. Statistics and timings will be presented at the Users Conference.

There are many secondary enhancements but one of special interest is "Security By Value". This will control the access to a file based on a password which has logical qualifiers. For example, people in a particular shipping department could be restricted to retrieving and maintaining only the inventory for the department though the inventory file would contain the inventory for products from all shipping departments.

It is important to note that all the new features will not require any more memory resources. The nucleus is actually smaller than Version 3.21.

A completely new set of documentation is being prepared for Version 4.1. A listing of the titles of the new manuals follows:

| <u>Document</u> | <u>Scheduled Completion Date</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| V4.1 Planning Guide | Available at the Users Conference |
| Data Base Administration | Draft in May |
| DBA General Procedures | |
| Data Dictionary Usage | |
| ADAMINT Macros | |
| Hnames Generation | |
| Cnames Generation | |
| Performance Optimization | |
| Utilities | May |
| Operations (OS and DOS) | Drafts in April |
| ADAMINT Programming | Drafts in May |
| Introduction | November |
| Command Reference Manual | May |

The documentation is being written to provide even greater detail for users and the data base administrator, but organized so that the information is readily referenced.

ADACOM is currently operational in Vienna at the International Atomic Energy Agency. This user will be at the Users Conference to provide a user's impressions and experiences. ADACOM is not simply a query language or a report writer, but can be used as an on-line programming language. It provides all the services of ADASCRIP+ and many more that are not available in ADASCRIP+. It surpasses ADAWRITER in most areas and provides on-line file maintenance in only 40k of fully reentrant code.

The Data Dictionary effort also nears completion. The first beta test site will be at the Leo Burnett Company in Chicago during March. They will begin their data base system with the installation of the Dictionary. We hope to hear about their experience at the Users Conference. The release of the Data Dictionary was held up so that it could incorporate Version 1.3 enhancements of ADAMINT.

Version 1.3 of ADAMINT has many new features but essentially it is an upgrade, so that ADAMINT and user programs can take full advantage of all the features of ADABAS. For example, this version of ADAMINT will support the S8 (compare ISN list) and S9 (sort ISN list) commands of ADABAS. The user will have full use of ISN's, such as reading ISN's and adding records with user supplied ISN's. A Find-Read function is provided for finding and reading a single record. The new ADAMINT version will produce a 20-30% reduction in the code generated.



California and Nevada
Steve Wright
Amdahl Corporation
1250 E. Arquest Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
408-735-4554

408 746-6000

The first meeting of the California/Nevada Users Group (ADAWEST) was held at Amdahl Corporation on February 28, 1978. There were 17 attendees representing 4 ADABAS installations. First on the agenda was a welcome by Steve Wright, Amdahl. This was followed with a brief presentation of the status of ADABAS at each user site.

After lunch, the group toured the Amdahl facility and observed the assembly of a 470 D/6. Next, Barry Lipsker of software ag previewed the ADABAS Data Dictionary which will be available in April 1978.

This first meeting was primarily a social one. The technical aspects of data base recovery will be discussed at the next ADAWEST meeting scheduled for April 21st.

Eastern Canada and Upper New York State
Bob Taylor (ADAGROUP Secretary/Treasurer)
I.&C.S.
Shell Canada Ltd.
505 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M1E 2H2
Canada
416-597-7073

The December 6th meeting was held in Ottawa at the Transport Canada Building. Twenty-seven people were in attendance, representing thirteen Users. The agenda included a presentation by Ted Hillis on the role of the DBA at Consumers Gas. The main presentation of the day was by Ken Rardin of software ag on Com-plete. In the Users business session, the Canadian mailing problem was discussed and resolved. All future mailings will include a reply card to be returned to software ag's Canadian office, so that it can be determined if all User installations have received the material sent to them.

The next meeting will be held in Toronto, March 7th.

It will be hosted by Consumers Gas. The agenda includes:

A Change/Enhancement Request Session

The Role of the DBA at Bureau of Management Consulting Services by Brent Carter

How to Change the FDT Without Unloading/Reloading Files by Ted Hillis, Consumers Gas

Security and Password Protection in ADABAS by Ted Hillis, Consumers Gas

Data Checks - How Not to Handle Them by Bob Taylor, I. & C. S.

Hawaii

Ken Kojima
Honolulu Federal Savings & Loan
P. O. Box 359
Honolulu, HI 96809
808-546-5049

&

Roger Angell
Management Systems Office
University of Hawaii
2425 Campus Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
808-948-8346

On January 24, 1978, members of ADAGROUP Hawaii, along with Mr. David Del Rio of software ag attended a demonstration of the State of Hawaii's court case and traffic ticket system at the State's Judiciary Building. Ernie Pakeuchi and Don Deryke of System Consultant's, Inc., provided details of the systems which consist of nine files using CICS, ADAMINT, and ADASCRIP+.

After the demonstration, a farewell luncheon was held for Mr. Scott Watanabe. Scott was one of the pioneers of ADAGROUP Hawaii and his enthusiasm, dedication, and professionalism will surely be missed. Good luck, Scott, in your new role as Manager of ADABAS Technical Operations at software ag.

East Coast Region

Bob Cole
National Education Association
1201 - 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202-833-4371

The third meeting of the East Coast Region will be held March 15, 1978, at 9:30 a.m. at the National Education Association in Washington, D.C. The agenda will include presentations on ADASCRIP+, Multiple Data Bases, and ADALOG, as well as Change/Enhancement discussions. All members are urged to contact Bob Cole and plan to attend this meeting.

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NEW ADABAS USERS

State of Arizona
Department of Public Safety
2010 W. Encanto Boulevard
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Various law enforcement applications are planned for this state agency. ADABAS was selected by an evaluation team which chose ADABAS over system 2K and DATACOM DB. ADABAS was initially installed on a 370/145 under DOS/VS with CICS. They plan to run ADABAS on an ITEL AS/4 under DOS/VS in the near future. The contact is Robert J. Edgren, 602-262-8431.

D.C. Department of Human Resources
Office of Information Systems
801 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20002

The Department of Human Resources selected ADABAS based upon the good experiences of the D.C. Share Computer Center and on benchmarks and other studies. Their first applications will be AFDC, a Food Stamps system, and a medicaid system with on-line inquiry and update. The system on which they are running is a 370/145 under OS/VS1 with CICS. The contact is Warren Spottswood, Computer Systems Administrator, 202-727-3364.

Codan Forsikring
Gamle Kongevef 60
DK-1899 Copenhagen V
Denmark

Codan is in the insurance business. They chose ADABAS after a paper evaluation and an ADABAS trial. Their hardware is a 370/145 under OS/VS1 with CICS. The contact is Mr. Jernberg, EDP Manager, telephone 01-212121.

DOW Chemical
9600 Zionsville Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268

This is the third DOW Chemical site to purchase ADABAS (two overseas sites). The first application under design is a materials management system to replace an existing DBOMP system. Future applications to be implemented include inventory, personnel, and research. The environment is 370/145, DOS/VS, 1 MEG using CICS. The DBA contact is Don McGovern at 317-873-7159.

Munsingwear, Inc.
718 Glenwood Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55440

Munsingwear, Inc., is a well-known clothing manufacturer (look for the Penguin) with many manufacturing oriented applications. The decision to use ADABAS came after using both TOTAL & DL/1 for several years. A need for greater adaptability, better data protection, and better manpower utilization led to a decision of ADABAS over IMS, IDMS, and DATACOM DB. The first three applications under way are reserve stock inventory management system, costing system, and engineering standards. The next applications planned are conversions from DL/1 files including open order applications, open accounts receivable, and customer sales. Their environment is 370/145, 768 K, DOS/VS, CICS/VS. The system programming and data base coordinator is Jerry Walsh at 612-340-4779.

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BOSTON POPS

Thirty tickets, front second balcony, have been reserved for attendees of the Users Conference, their companions, friends, and relatives for the May 19, 1978, performance of the Boston Pops Orchestra. If you are interested in attending this special event, we must have your check (\$5.00 per ticket) by April 14, 1978. Since this is a first come, first served offer, don't wait until the last minute! Make checks payable to software ag and send them with a note indicating the number of tickets requested to Barbara Futch, software ag, 11800 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091. We will have your tickets available at the Conference.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued

In our continued desire to build a truly distributed users group, we have allotted time for regional meetings early in the conference. Regional groups are encouraged to plan the coming year.

Change/enhancement requests are now in the voting stage. Dan Skwarcan has done an excellent job in keeping us on schedule this year despite an increased number of requests. We expect a complete prioritized list of change/enhancements together with software ag's responses to be in your hands by early May, before you leave for Boston.

I look forward to meeting you all once again at our fifth annual conference.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The latest word from Reston is that the ADABAS Dictionary will be released at the end of March, concurrent with the release of ADAMINT Version 1.3. The Dictionary's Reference Manual is being completely rewritten and will include support for the new features of ADAMINT, as well as enhanced facilities for describing how ADABAS files will be used with English-like statements. Also, Dictionary support for F-names used by ADASCRIP+ will be dropped.

Finally, please let us hear from you with any suggestions for action to be taken by the Special Interest Group at the Boston Conference.

Change/Enhancement Requests
Dan Skwarcan
Associates Computer Center
1720 Ruskin
South Bend, IN 46604
219-284-6203

Each ADABAS user has received a copy of the Change/Enhancement Requests for 1978. This package includes any Change/Enhancements received since the last Conference plus those items from the last Conference earmarked as "future" by software agents.

Any requests which software agents has committed to implement by a release number, was not listed in the current Change/Enhancement report. software agents has been asked to review these requests and update their responses as needed. The current status of each of these items will be presented in the form of a report similar to the Change/Enhancement report at the Boston Conference.

Please remember that the deadline for receipt of Change/Enhancement ballots is March 15, 1978. Ballots must be returned to:

Mr. Rob Macmillan
Department of Analytical Studies
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, B. C.
CANADA V5A 1S6

If you have not received a ballot, please contact Pete Webster of software agents immediately - (703) 860-5050.

DBA Tools
Alan Martin
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, B. C.
CANADA V5A 1S6
604-291-4898

As newly appointed chairman of the DBA Tools Special Interest Group, I must first construct a program for the session at the Boston Conference. For this, I need some suggestions and volunteers. What would you like to see discussed at our meeting? What are you prepared to present (informally)? Please contact me at the above address as soon as possible.

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Performance

Bob Becker
Foremost Insurance Co.
5800 Foremost Drive, S.E.
Grand Rapid, MI 49501
616-942-3364

The ADABAS Performance Special Interest Group meeting will be held Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. at the ADABAS Users Conference in Boston. There will be a panel of four people who will give their thoughts or experiences in testing and evaluating the performance within the ADABAS software. Bob Becker will be the chairman of the panel. The other members are Ted Leininger of E.I. duPont, Steve Robinson, an ADABAS consultant, and Jim Senechal of Mattel, Inc. After their informal presentation, the panel will be open to audience discussion. David Del Rio from software agents will be on hand to answer any questions directed to software agents on performance.

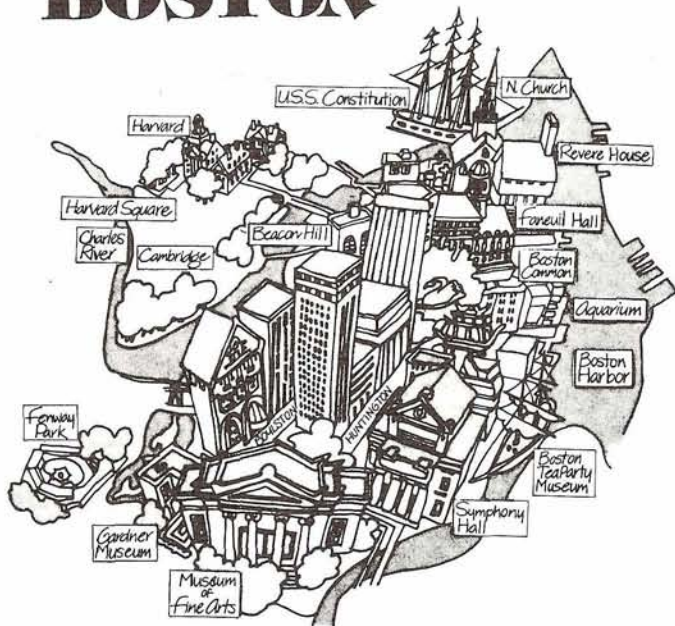
Data Dictionary

Richard Tannor
INCO
One New York Plaza
New York, NY 10004
212-742-4157

Certain to be one of the hot topics at the Boston Conference will be the Data Dictionary. Plan to spend all of the first afternoon investigating what is rapidly becoming an essential part of every data base installation.

The first half of the Wednesday afternoon session will be a presentation of software agents's new ADABAS Dictionary System. Following the presentation will be a meeting of the Special Interest Group on Data Dictionary. This will be your opportunity to criticize the ADABAS Dictionary, and compare its features to those in other vendor's dictionary systems, as well as user-developed dictionaries. In addition, attendees will get the first-hand impressions of the ADABAS Dictionary from representatives of the installations that beta tested it.

BOSTON



INVITATION TO COMPANIONS FOR THE BOSTON CONFERENCE

Tuesday, May 16

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Registration and Welcoming Reception.

Name tags and the latest maps of Boston will be handed out.

Wednesday, May 17

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast and Introduction to Boston.

At the breakfast, a speaker from "The Greater Boston Convention & Tourist Bureau" will show a film presentation of various attractions in and around Boston.

Gray Line bus service will have an information booth, answering questions and setting up tours for Thursday and Friday at group rates.

11:45 - until full! Lunch at Anthony's Pier IV.

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Tour of Boston & Cambridge.

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Reception.

7:30 p.m. Banquet.

Thursday, May 18 This day is yours!

Discover the sights in and around Boston. Take advantage of Gray Line's group rates for all of their tours including the John Hancock Observatory, the "Where's Boston" show, and the Faneuil Hall Marketplace (which also includes endless shops, boutiques, restaurants and food stores).

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Boston Tea Party.

7:30 p.m.

Clam Bake.

Friday, May 19

12:30 p.m.

Lunch with attendees.

Note to Companions:

Please send us your home address. In April, we plan to mail a brief note on the weather, the type of dress for each function, a sightseeing brochure, a list of shops, and a theater guide to those companions who have preregistered.

If you have any questions about our program or know of a place, event, or special spot in Boston, please call Carole Webster, 703-860-8381, or Emilie Szakach, 703-860-0407. We'll be glad to help. Hope to see you there!

NEW ADABAS USERS *Continued*

SO.GE.I. (Societa' Generale Di Informatica)
Via Del Giorgione 18
Roma, Italy

The company was formed in order to design and implement the centralized Italian Tax Information System for the Ministry of Finance. ADABAS was chosen because of the ease to interface with their home grown TP monitor. Their computer system includes a 370/168 and a 370/158 under MVS with JES2 and TSO. They plan to build huge data bases for their tax information system. The primary contact is Giancarlo Totone, telephone 5484.

HY. Bergerst-Monmoyeur ("HYBM")
20 BD De La Mulette
95 Garges-Les-Gonesse K
France

HYBM is a dealer of Caterpillar heavy equipment in France. They will use ADABAS on their 370/155 with OS/VS1 and CICS. The first application planned is a spare parts system. The contact is DP Manager, Jean Leray, telephone 986-96-49.

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COHEN Continued

these subjects over the past years for various organizations including the ACM, ADM, and DPMA. Mr. Cohen is also active in the Systems Performance Measurement field and has been a national lecturer for the ACM on this topic.

Mr. Cohen has written several books on operating systems, data base, and performance measurement, has published a video course and an audio course on the latter two topics, and has published numerous papers on related subjects. He is also the author of the Performance Development Data Base Newsletter and the Data Base Journal.

In the November issue of the Performance Development Data Base Newsletter, an article was published that addressed the subject of Distributed Data Base Systems. In his address at the Users Conference, Mr. Cohen will discuss Distributed Data Bases - Present and Future.

5th INTERNATIONAL USERS CONFERENCE

The Agenda for the Conference is starting to take shape. We still have room for informal presentations on user applications experiences. Please contact your Regional Representative, Rob Macmillan, or Pete Webster if you can contribute.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

TUESDAY, May 16

3:00-5:00pm ADAGROUP Executive Committee Meeting
6:00-9:00pm Registration and Welcoming Reception

WEDNESDAY, May 17

8:00-8:45am Speakers Breakfast
8:30-9:00am Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00-10:30am
Session 1 Introduction - Keynote Address
BREAK
11:00-12:30pm
Session 2 ADABAS Future Plans
by software ag
LUNCH
2:00-3:30pm
Session 3 ADABAS Data Dictionary
BREAK
4:00-5:30pm
Session 4A Data Dictionary Special Interest Group
Session 4B Performance Techniques
ADABOMP In a Manufacturing Environment
6:30-7:30pm Reception
7:30pm Banquet

THURSDAY, May 18

8:30-9:00pm Continental Breakfast
9:00-10:30am
Session 5A Performance Special Interest Group
Session 5B General Design
Relational Design
BREAK
11:00-12:30pm
Session 6A Education Special Interest Group
Session 6B INFO IV
Information Retrieval and Maintenance
Special Interfaces (ROBOT)
LUNCH
2:00-3:30pm
Session 7A Retrieval Interfaces
Special Interest Group
Session 7B How to Train Your DBA
How to Use ADAMINT
BREAK
4:00-5:30pm
Session 8 Change/Enhancement Requests
6:30-7:30pm Boston Tea Party
7:30pm New England Clam Bake

FRIDAY, May 19

8:30-9:00am Continental Breakfast
9:00-10:30am
Session 9A DBA Tools Special Interest Group
Session 9B Automatic Load Control Generation
(Need Additional Volunteers)
11:00-12:30pm
Session 10 Regional Meetings
ADAGROUP Business
Executive Committee Meeting
LUNCH
2:00-3:30pm Special Program

Don't forget to register. We have included the registration form in this Newsletter for your convenience. This is the last Newsletter before the Conference. April 15 is the deadline for preregistration. After that, you pay a late registration fee. Send the form now so you don't forget.

MUNICH USERS CONFERENCE

The 6th International ADABAS Users Conference will be held in Munich, Germany, September 12-15, 1978. Plan now to attend. The December Newsletter had several travel options as well as a registration form. For copies of this information, extra registration forms, plans to participate as a speaker, or general information, call Barbara Futch, (703) 860-5050. Further plans will be discussed in the June Newsletter.

DISASTER Continued

We, at R.T. French, feel that a reciprocal agreement is the way we want to go. If you agree, are interested in finding a compatible mate for your computer, and are interested in participating in such a program, contact:

Gordon Cochran
Data Processing Manager
R.T. French
1 Mustard Street
Rochester, New York 14609
(716) 482-8000, ext. 2469

Notice to ADABAS Users Who Also Have Com-plete

by Roy Decker
Manager of Technical Support
Foremost Insurance Co.

We are starting a Com-plete Users Group. We at Foremost Insurance have had Com-plete since last fall and have had ADABAS for several years. We've been an active participant in the ADABAS Users Group in the past and we're sold on the merits of a users' group. It's truly an effective way to establish a user dialogue and affect the future directions of a software package.

s o f t w a r e a g has generously reserved conference facilities for us at the '57' Park Plaza hotel in Boston on May 15 and 16 for the First International Com-plete Users Conference. This is the Monday and Tuesday preceding the Fifth International ADABAS Users Conference.

I hope this can be an opportunity for all of us to get together, establish a formal organization, develop communications paths between ourselves and begin to evolve our common interests and concerns. Plan to share your experiences in a presentation by giving us your topic by April 15. The agenda we have planned has room for you.

AGENDA

Monday, May 15

12:30-1:30pm Registration
1:30-2:30pm Introduction (Organization)
BREAK
3:00-4:00pm Future Plans of s o f t w a r e a g
Release 3, MVS, DOS, SNA
4:00-5:30pm User Experiences
6:00-7:00pm Reception
7:00pm Buffet Dinner

Tuesday, May 16

9:00-10:30am Log On-Log Off/Statistics/Com-plete
Terminal Independent Mapping System
BREAK
11:00-12:30pm User Experiences
12:30-2:00pm Lunch
2:00-3:00pm Com-plete Release 3.0
BREAK
3:30-4:30pm User Experiences
4:30-5:30pm Business Meeting
6:00-9:00pm Reception (with ADABAS Users)

Please contact Steve Greaves, our Com-plete Conference liaison at s o f t w a r e a g, (703) 860-5050, or me at the following address and telephone number:

Roy Decker
Foremost Insurance Company
5800 Foremost Drive, S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
(616) 942-03364

Hope to see you in Boston.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS Continued

Education
Dave Oldham
Shell Oil Company
P.O. Box 20239
Houston, TX 77025
713-795-3781

As indicated in the preliminary Users Conference agenda, the Education Special Interest Group is scheduled for one of the conference sessions Thursday morning (tentatively from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).

Early plans for this session include three major topic areas:

- Topic 1: s o f t w a r e a g Training:
"What's Available From The Vendor."
- Topic 2: Consideration for Internal Training Programs: "The Joys Of In-House Training."
- Topic 3: Specific Users Experiences:
"Here's What We Tried."

Please let Dave Oldham know if you have a suggestion for a discussion topic or want to present your user experiences.

Continued on page 9



**SPECIAL
INTEREST
GROUPS**

Continued

Retrieval Interfaces

Sal DiPaola
Shell Oil Company
P.O. Box 20329
Houston, TX 77025
713-795-1446

We are looking for contributions to the Retrieval Interfaces Special Interest Group session at the Users Conference. To date we have an offer for a short presentation on ADACOM and the use of Mark IV through ADAMINT. If you have an interface to any commercial software package or are looking for one, please let us know. Someone else may be working on that same interface problem.

Please contact me so that I can fit you into the program.



**REGIONAL
ROUNDUP**

Continued

Northwest U.S. & Western Canada
Rob Macmillan (ADAGROUP President)
Department of Analytical Studies
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, B. C. V5A 1S6
Canada
604-291-4525

The Northwest ADABAS Users Group held its second meeting of the year at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, B. C. on December 2, 1977. Nine installations were represented by sixteen conference attendees.

Alan Martin of S.F.U. coordinated the meeting which concentrated on backup and recovery procedures throughout the morning session. Mark Wilkens from MacMillan Bloedel discussed the work they have done in attempting to automate the process of restarting ADABAS and INTERCOMM after system failure. Their goal is to have the computer operator load the same job at all times regardless of whether or not a system crash has occurred previously. This goal has at least been partially realized.

Alan Martin presented S.F.U.'s approach to backup/recovery. Not surprisingly, their goals are not dissimilar to those of MacMillan Bloedel. Their environment is, however, quite different. S.F.U. has all TP jobs on a second machine and are quite happy to use the recovery facilities of ADABAS only (i.e., recovery to the last ET for each TP user). They, too, are aiming for one ADABAS job to be loaded by the operator in most circumstances. In solving this problem, S.F.U. addressed and developed a method of solving a second problem - that of separating test and production files and facilitating the movement from one to the other.

George Gosline from Seattle Public Schools led a group discussion on the Data Dictionary. The consensus of the meeting was that it is pleasing to see software agents considering the comments of users since the last annual Conference and improving the product considerably from the original proposal. It was hoped that users would have received the dictionary by the next meeting when a more detailed discussion would be held.

Rob Macmillan from S.F.U. led an informal discussion on ADACOM (remember that!!). It was really a case of the blind leading the blind as so little information is available on ADACOM. All agreed that a replacement for ADAWRITER is long overdue.

The N.W. ADABAS Users Group bids farewell to Steve Greaves, an active ADAGROUP participant, who has accepted a position with software agent as Manager of Marketing Communication.

The next meeting of the group will be in Olympia, Washington, on March 10, 1978. Joe Coogan will coordinate the meeting which will be our last before Boston.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Northwest ADAGROUP Members
FROM: Joe Coogan, March Conference Coordinator
SUBJECT: Northwest ADAGROUP Conference

The Northwest ADAGROUP Conference will be held in Olympia, Washington, on March 10, 1978, in Room 733, Highways-Licenses Building (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). You are cordially invited.

We are anxious to see you again as this looks like another informative meeting. If you have any questions, give me a call.

Far East
Kazuro Fujimoto
5-7 Yaesu
Chuo-Ku, Tokyo, 104
Japan

Great Britain
Robert Hall
ICI Plastics
P.O. Box 6
Bessemer Road
Welsyn Garden City
Hertfordshire AL7 1HD
England

South America
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Continued

West Central U.S.
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Shell Oil Company
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Houston, TX 77025
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The West Central ADAGROUP met on February 24th in Austin, Texas, at the Department of Highways and Public Transportation. There were 24 attendees representing 8 installations and 1 future installation. software ag was represented by Paul Peterson and Robert Thompson.

The morning session was a get acquainted meeting. User Profiles were distributed and collected. The floor was open for an ADABUG session. A number of current problem areas were discussed: Restart/Recovery, excess elapsed time for file load, and data base reorganization for large data bases. This was followed by a discussion focusing on the role of the DBA as viewed by various organizations. A round table comparison unveiled varying and contrasting philosophies and provided food for thought for all.

The afternoon session opened with Sal DiPaola reminding all participants that the deadline for papers for the Users Conference was quickly approaching. He had received another request for papers from ADAGROUP President, Rob Macmillan.

A brief discussion followed where the most salient enhancement requests for submission to software ag by ADAGROUP were reviewed for general consensus. The point was made to ask software ag for advance documentation on Release 4.1 to aid users in planning for future applications as well as to evaluate the impact on existing ones.

Two presentations were given in the following two periods: Dick Naylor, San Antonio Water Board, described the position of the DBA in his organization by giving an overview of the Water Board structure. He subsequently presented the COMPUTER ASSISTED DISPATCHING SERVICE, a very interesting application written for the San Antonio Police Department. In terms of techniques and efficiencies, it proved to be of great benefit to all of us.

Fred Kuhstoss, Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation, described how Restart/Recovery procedures were handled at his installation. Great value was added to the presentation by the many points he made in highlighting open-ended questions relating to potential problem areas not easily apparent to the less experienced person. He distributed an important paper where all of this was clearly outlined.

The next West Central U.S. Users Group meeting will be held in Houston on June 29th and will be hosted by Shell Oil Company.

New York City
Mike Berman
International Nickel Company
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New York, NY 10004
212-742-4180

The fourth New York City ADAUSERS Group meeting was held at Simon and Schuster, Inc., on January 11. The topic of the meeting was ADABAS performance and tuning.

Most installations did not do any formal performance testing but some interesting and informative observations were made. The following are some of the points raised.

The use of Algorithm 4 is slow and increases response time for TP systems. Ed Forman suggested that programs using this algorithm be changed to use Algorithms 1 or 2 and then issue an S8 to merge the ISN's.

A knowledge of the physical layout of the ASSO, DATA and WORK data sets can help improve performance. If the DATA data set is spread over more than one pack, the speed of information retrieval can be increased for multiple file data bases. A system was described in which two files used in one application are forced onto separate packs using the ALLOCATE parameter in ADALD1. The time taken to access information from both files is reduced because there is less need for arm movement from one file to another.

Most users have the ASSO and WORK data sets mounted on different packs. Only CUNY/UCC has WORK and DATA on different channels. During the discussion, it seemed that there is no obvious merit in using different channels, because of the ADABAS single thread. This seems to conflict with the ADABAS Systems Programmers Guide.

Preliminary tests at American Electric Power have shown that the worst possible size for the ADABUFFER in an MVS environment is 38K. At this size, ten times more EXCP's are issued than at 150K. Optimal buffer size is between 100K and 150K for an MVS system.

ADAICK, ADAPRE, and ADALOG are important tools for tuning and performance studies. ADAICK will indicate how fragmented the indices are. ADAPRE dumps the data blocks. Analysis of the ADALOG will disclose costly applications in terms of EXCP's and CPU time. Often the slow response is due not to ADABAS, but to the TP system used for communication.

The next ADABAS Users meeting will be on March 8, 1978, at 1:30 p.m. Our host will be Chase Manhattan Bank, One New York Plaza, New York City. The topic of discussion will be ADABAS interfaces with emphasis on ADAMINT.

East Central U.S.
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ADABAS Training

March 1978

software ag's ADABAS training staff has been on the go continuously since the publication of the last Newsletter. After all facts and figures had been analyzed for the 1977 training year, it was discovered that software ag had "spread the word" to more than 1000 programmers and analysts, in more than 70 different training sessions throughout the year.

Based upon the demand for training services in the first few months of this year, it is obvious that we will train an even larger number in 1978. Advance enrollment for our scheduled public classes is way ahead of last year's, so be sure to reserve your position well in advance.

As part of a continuing effort to improve our training programs, software ag will present a new course, the "Data Base Administration" course, on April 24th and 25th at the Americana City Squire Hotel in New York City. Due to popular demand, this course will be offered later this spring at the Dulles Airport Holiday Inn on June 15th and 16th. On June 14th at the Dulles Holiday Inn, there will be a special offering of the ADABAS "Direct Calls Programming" class. A brochure describing these June course offerings will be distributed soon. It will include details on how to enroll.

Another new course is in the development state: the often requested "ADABAS Design" course. This course will pull together design concepts and practical approaches, with emphasis on ADABAS file design, program design, and optimization techniques. A course outline and further details will be announced at the User's Conference in May, and will be included in the next issue of this Newsletter.

Currently we are working out the details of our public course offerings for the second half of this year. This schedule will be distributed to all users in April.

software ag is interested in hearing from users about their individual training needs. At any time, feel free to call Roy Wood or Gary Bowers at (703) 860-5050, and we will do our best to meet your training requirements.

NEW ADABAS USERS *Continued*

EG&G Idaho, Inc.
P.O. Box 1625
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

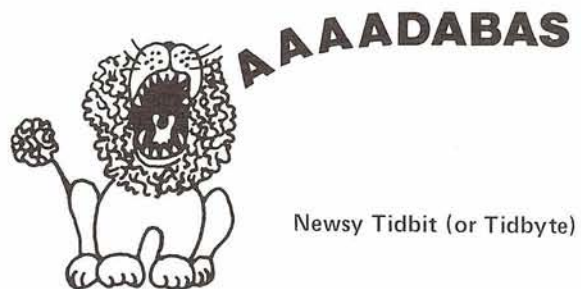
This is an ERDA facility for the U.S. Government. They have installed ADABAS and TASK/MASTER on their 360/75 under MVT. They will be developing a large number of applications including manufacturing, material, financial, and personnel systems. For additional information, contact Noel Julian at 208-526-9479.

National Aviation Underwriters, Inc.
Lambert Field, P.O. Box 10155
St. Louis, MO 63145

National Aviation has been engaged in the Commercial Aviation Insurance business since 1945, and in the last decade the Automobile and Homeowners Insurance business. President Ted Hume initiated a study team consisting of Jose Mora, Bruch Cochran, Lynn Carmichael, and Carl Carr that evaluated various DBMS's on and off for about a year and selected ADABAS over Datacom as the one most suited to their needs--flexibility being a prime criterion. Their hardware consists of IBM 360/50, 1/2 meg, DOS, 2314's. They are located directly across from St. Louis International Airport. The contacts are Jose Mora, V.P.D.P., 314-426-4000, ext. 238, and Pat Cravens, Computer System Manager, ext. 298.

Multnomah County Data Processing Authority
4747 East Burnside
Portland, OR 97215

The DPA provides data processing services for both the County and the City of Portland. ADABAS has been installed on their 370 under MVT. They will also be using Com-plete for their teleprocessing. The first applications will be an elections data base with an on-line voter registration function. A Water Bureau billing system is also being designed. A large Criminal Justice System which is operational under DL1, will be converted to ADABAS. For additional information, contact Don Dumont at 503-248-3749.



Newsy Tidbit (or Tidbyte)

The popularity of the name "ADABAS" grows. During my travels through the USA, I have come in contact with more and more people who use the name "ADABAS" when not referring to the software ag product. When last in California, I saw it used on a license plate. Most recently, while giving an ADABAS Internals Class in Pierre, South Dakota, it cropped up again. Mary Lautenschlager, who works for the State of South Dakota (they have ADABAS at several sites), uses "ADABAS" as her handle for her home base CB radio network. We believe ADABAS is a very versatile product and are interested in hearing of other ways to use it or its name. Keep us informed.

Roy Wood

Notes from the Editor

A graphic of a musical staff with a treble clef and several notes, including a quarter note, an eighth note, and a sixteenth note, with a bar line at the end.

This year the Newsletters were better than ever. They contained articles of general interest and those giving specific information.

A special thank you goes to all of those users who contributed to the Newsletter. Regional representatives, special interest group chairmen, and users with ADABAS experience to share made this year's Newsletters truly a users' forum.

Thanks also go to Barbara Futch and Pete Webster of software ag for all of their work to coordinate and edit the Newsletters and to distribute them on schedule.

Suzan L. Schultz

The Editors

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