

S O F T W A R E A G C O N N E C T I O N S

Let's begin by stating what is obvious to data processing professionals: Using fourth-generation language technology means being able to code faster and to develop code of a better quality. And that means that a programmer can be better equipped to tackle the applications backlog that plagues so many data processing departments.

What may not be so obvious is that a fourth-generation language actually gets technology out of the way, and this phenomenon is transforming the entire information processing industry.

No longer is it necessary for a programmer to worry about translating the user's requirements into terms that the old software tools could understand. The programmer can now concentrate more fully on the needs and requirements of the end user.

Along with fourth-generation languages come all the latest software developments in information management: the micro-to-mainframe links like NATURAL/CONNECTION, the menu-driven front-ends like SUPER NATURAL, and the office application solutions like CONNECTION. Products like these put up-to-the-minute corporate data and computing power into the hands of the end users—without these users having to understand how a particular computing function works. Without having to learn a program language, the

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS



Stuart J. Miller
President and CEO
Software AG

end users themselves are free to concentrate on the task at hand—making timely and informed decisions.

So we see that with fourth-generation language systems in place, programmers are better able to focus on end-user applications. And, in turn, end users are able to focus on their actual decision making responsibilities. Both groups, in short, are able to do their jobs better.

With technology “out of the way,” data processing professionals and end users are actually moving close together. The programmer becomes in a sense a “systems analyst” and the end users becomes a “programmer”.

We have learned many important lessons as we have moved through our short programming history from assembler language, to COBOL, and on to such advanced fourth-generation languages as NATURAL.

Making effective use of computing power no longer requires expertise in the use of the tools themselves—the tools only ease the way to developing information processing solutions. And, the future value of programmers will depend on how well they face the increasing challenge to understand the business decisions that end-users must make on a day-to-day basis. And, the success of organizations will depend on how effectively and efficiently they take on the challenge on managing information.

