

CONNECTIONS

VOL. 11 ■ NO. 4 ■ NOVEMBER, 1986

FALL ISSUE

Compact Discs and DB2



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It all started years ago. First we began with a receiver we felt was powerful and flexible enough to satisfy our then current needs and capable of anticipated growth and expansion consideration. As our listening needs changed, we would be able to add new devices, add power with an amplifier and the like. It was easy at first, since after all there was little to choose from. There was the economy and timeliness of 45s, the expanded listening pleasure and increased MIPS (Music Investment Per Song) of 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ s, and for those seeking high quality resolution and storage capacity, there was reel to reel. We started in monaural and soon stepped up to stereo. All in all, it was simple. Initial data processing systems and applications have followed much the same course. We bought computer systems thinking power and expansion capabilities would have them around much longer than they actually were and we used one or two of a number of relatively simple access methods or file management systems to implement basic applications.

Then the technology took over. First with the hardware in the audio world. The stereo components had more power, more features, with more integration and all of it available at better price performance ratios. Technology in the data world exploded with the 4300 family, 30XX models and even personal computers. In the audio world, after years of the same programmed music access methods we

were hit with a barrage of new options that made what to buy or even what to play a mind boggling thing. With AM and FM and FM stereo and 8 tracks and quadraphonic sound, and cassettes, and video (and with it the standards war, Beta and VHS), and yes still records or LPs, and the newest technology, compact discs. Through it all new audio generation advertising promoted each newest media as the wave of the future . . . better than the last. Ads confused and challenged the consumer and made new decisions on what to do difficult. When to buy, what to buy, how much to buy or

whether to buy at all or wait for the next generation made the decision process a challenge. Consumers were told to make new commitments to source music libraries and so we did, only until the next and newest generation. With it all we accumulated 8 track, record, cassette and video stock piles, each with the songs popular of that generation. Oh, some we converted, but by and large we held on to our precious investments and sought components and systems that supported it all. Will the compact disc change all of that? No! Although it
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Involvement: The Key To Progress



Carlo A. Scagnelli
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Reviewing the last Newsletter with over 1/6 of its contents devoted to the President's Message, the Executive Committee Meeting summary and a description of the Secretary's function,

the last thing you'll ever want to hear again is that '... I find myself at a loss for words ...'. That such a large portion of any issue results from one individual can be construed in two ways. The most obvious will not be mentioned. The other forms the basis for this article.

To paraphrase an old axiom '... Repetition is the Mother of Invention ...'. Each incoming president has noted the seeming apathy reflected by the lack of Newsletter contributions. Eliminating articles originating from the Executive Committee, regional representatives and Software AG personnel, only one article remained in the last issue to represent over 2,200 worldwide users. While the Newsletter, a major avenue of user communication between international conferences, is the most obvious, other opportunities for direct involvement are also ignored. During the months immediately preceding the conference, ballots for Executive Committee elections and Constitutional amendments were
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