



Guide to the Gary Morgenthaler collection

Creator: Gary Morgenthaler

Dates: 1970-2000, bulk 1980-1990

Extent: 3.75 linear feet, 3 record cartons

Collection number: X3708.2007

Catalog number: 102733952

Collection processed by: Bo Doub and Kim Hayden, 2015

Finding aid prepared by: Bo Doub, Kim Hayden, and Sara Chabino Lott, 2015

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Abstract

The Gary Morgenthaler collection consists of financial, marketing, and administrative records that primarily document the operation of Relational Technology, Inc., a database management system company that Morgenthaler co-founded and was CEO and chairman of from 1980 to 1989. The collection also has a small amount of material on the company after its name was changed to Ingres Corporation in 1989, and on Tymshare and Informix, two companies Morgenthaler was associated with. There is also a small amount of books and manuals related to relational database technology.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Morgenthaler identified the contents of box 2, folder 1 as sensitive material and requested those materials be closed to researchers until May 8, 2031. Otherwise, the collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Languages

Collection materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], [Date], Gary Morgenthaler collection, Lot X3708.2007, Box [#], Folder [#], Catalog [#], Computer History Museum.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Gary Morgenthaler, 2006.

Repository

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Biographical/Historical Note

Gary Morgenthaler was born in Erie, Pennsylvania on July 10, 1948. He attended college at Harvard University and received a BA in International Studies in 1970. After finishing at Harvard, Morgenthaler moved to California in 1970 and worked at Stanford University teaching and doing data analysis for Stanford's Institute for Math Studies in the Social Sciences. In 1973, Morgenthaler left Stanford and began work primarily as an operating systems designer at Tymshare, Inc., a company that provided popular timesharing services and third-party hardware maintenance.

Gary Morgenthaler co-founded Relational Technology, Inc. (later renamed Ingres Corporation) with Michael Stonebraker, Eugene Wong, and Lawrence A. Rowe in November of 1980, launching one of the earliest commercially supported, open-source SQL relational database management systems. Relational Technology, Inc's commercial version of Ingres grew out of a research project at the University of California, Berkeley. Stonebraker and Wong initiated this project in the mid 1970s, which they called University INGRES (for INTERactive Graphics RETrieval System) in its early stages. Morgenthaler joined them in 1980 and was integral in securing the funding to create commercial products from the University INGRES prototype and

building the company which would sell those products, Relational Technology, Inc. (RTI). Throughout the early 1980s, RTI and Oracle competed as the leading hardware-independent relational database management systems (RDBMs).

Morgenthaler became a key figure in RTI's success and began as its chief executive officer in 1983. In 1989 RTI changed its name to Ingres Corporation, and in 1990 the company was purchased by ASK Corporation. Morgenthaler left Ingres when it was purchased and started work as a venture capitalist, setting up the West Coast office of Morgenthaler Ventures, an investment firm founded by his father, David Morgenthaler, in Cleveland, Ohio. Gary Morgenthaler still works as a Partner at Morgenthaler Ventures, specializing in information technology investments.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The Gary Morgenthaler collection consists mainly of administrative and financial records related to Relational Technology, Inc., a company Morgenthaler co-founded in 1980 and of which he was CEO and chairman until 1989, when the company changed its name to Ingres Corporation. The bulk of the Relational Technology, Inc. material in the collection spans 1980 through 1990, and includes business plans and overviews, stock and investment records, financial reports, board meeting minutes and reports, promotional material, and human resources records. A very small portion of the collection relates to the company after its 1989 name change. Of note are product development notes and several reports that analyze the company's competition.

Two folders in this collection document other companies Morgenthaler was associated with, Tymshare and Informix. The Tymshare records document the company from 1970 to 1977, while the Informix records focus on problems the company had financially and legally from 1997 to 2000, after Morgenthaler sold his company Illustra Information Technology to them in 1996.

This collection also includes books and manuals about relational technology, several of which are INGRES database user manuals. Also included are manuals for other relational databases and languages, plus books about technology and business in general.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 3 series:

Series 1, Relational Technology, Inc. records, 1980-1996, bulk 1980-1990

Series 2, Tymshare and Informix records, 1970-2000

Series 3, Books and manuals, 1981-2000, bulk 1981-1988

Indexing Terms

Informix Software

Ingres Corporation

Morgenthaler, Gary, 1948-

Relational Technology, Inc.

Relational databases

Tymshare, Inc.

Related Collections at CHM

Morgenthaler, David oral history, 2005-12-08, Lot X6305.2012, Catalog number 102746212

Morgenthaler, Gary oral history, 2005-12-08, Lot X3654.2007, Catalog number 102658005

Collection Contents

Series 1, Relational Technology, Inc. records, 1980-1996, bulk 1980-1990

This series contains material that documents Relational Technology, Inc., from its founding in 1980, to its 1989 name change to Ingres Corporation, through 1996. It is primarily comprised of administrative and financial records, such as business plans and overviews, stock and investment records, board meeting minutes and reports, promotional material, and human resources records containing personnel documents and company policies and procedures. Of particular interest are reports that analyze Relational Technology's competition, particularly Oracle and Sybase. This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Series 2, Tymshare and Informix records, 1970-1977, 1997-2000

This series contains records related to Tymshare, a company at which Morgenthaler worked in the 1970s, and Informix, a company that acquired Morgenthaler's Illustra Information Technologies in 1996. The Tymshare folder contains stock and retirement plan documents, an organizational chart, and a five-year plan summary. The Informix folder contains a 1997 letter written by Morgenthaler to the Informix board of directors expressing his concerns as a shareholder over the company's poor performance. It also includes a 2000 SEC settlement with Informix over accounting fraud. This series is arranged chronologically.

Series 3, Books and manuals, 1981-2000, bulk 1981-1988

This series contains instructive books and manuals about relational database management systems. Three of the works are guides to INGRES – all from the late 1980s when it was a product owned by Relational Technology, Inc. Most of the other material covers other database management systems and standard relational languages, including SQL. Two exceptions that are not exclusively about databases include a book of technology-related cartoons from *The New Yorker* and a business work titled *What Not How: The Business Rules Approach to Application Development*. Four of the books are authored by C.J. Date, a specialist in relational database systems who, after leaving his job at IBM in 1983, became a consultant for Relational Technology, Inc. This series is arranged chronologically.

	<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Folder List			
Relational Technology, Inc. records			
Box 1	102686015	Administrative and personnel records	1983-1990; 1996
Box 1	102686008	Annual and quarterly reports	1987-1989
Box 1	102686018	Articles and clippings	1980-1991
Box 1	102686012	Board minutes and reports	1986-1988
Box 1	102655282	Business plans and overviews	1982-1989
Box 2	102734122	Chairman's report to the Relational Technology, Inc. board of directors	1988
Box 2	102734094	Competitive analysis reports	1985-1988
Box 2	102655283	Financial records	1983-1989
Box 2	102686005	Ingres Corp. press	1990
Box 2	102686019	Ingres Corp. stock records	1989-1990
Box 2	102686004	Market research	undated
Box 2	102655322	Presentations	1981-1988
Box 3	102655276	Product development, specifications, reports	1981-1988
Box 3	102686003	Promotional materials	1983-1990
Box 3	102734123	Stock and investments records	1989-1990
Box 3	102686006	Sybase litigation	1986
Box 3	102685999	User surveys	1980-1986
Tymshare and Informix records			
Box 3	102655320	Tymshare records	1970-1977
Box 3	102655323	Informix records	1997-2000

	<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
	Books and manuals		
Box 3	102734113	Evaluating data base management systems	1981
Box 3	102734117	A guide to DB2	1984
Box 3	102734118	A guide to INGRES	1987
Box 3	102734114	A guide to the SQL standard : a user's guide to the standard relational language SQL	1987
Box 3	102734121	Getting started in INGRES	1987
Box 1	102734120	INGRES training	1988
Box 1	102734119	Object-relational DBMSs : the next great wave	1996
Box 1	102734115	The New Yorker book of technology cartoons	2000
Box 1	102734116	What not how : the business rules approach to application development	2000
Box 3	102727387	The real story of Informix Software and Phil White: lessons in business and leadership for the executive team	2005