

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL ADABAS USERS CONFERENCE



See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos from New Orleans.

Over 180 people and 35 spouses representing 95 organizations from 11 different countries attended the Fourth International ADABAS Users Conference in New Orleans April 13-15, 1977. A \$500.00 cash award was made to Mike Turner of ICI, England for the best formal presentation by a User. I think we can honestly say that we all went home a little richer for our experiences.

For those of you who were unable to attend and would like to find out what went on, a limited number of copies of the PROCEEDINGS are available from software ag. Write and order your copy. Or better yet, begin now to make your plans for the Fifth International ADABAS Users Conference to be held in Boston in mid May, 1978.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by: Rob Macmillan
Department of Analytical Studies
Simon Fraser University

If y'all enjoyed New Orleans as much as I did then we can conclude that the Fourth International Adabas Users Conference was a resounding success. All those who were responsible for organizing the conference deserve our sincere thanks. I want to especially thank Larry Bowman for his work in preparing for New Orleans and his efforts throughout the year. ADAGROUP has made considerable progress under his leadership.

We owe the success of the conference in large part to software

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by: **Ralph Partlow**
software ag of North America

In February of this year, we released OS Version 3.2.1 of ADABAS in North America. The success of this release has been most gratifying. Remarks such as "best release ever made", "documentation much improved", "most thorough installation procedures" are very rewarding to those who have spent so many hours and so much effort in getting the new version out. There is a firm commitment from **software ag** that all future releases will be as reliable as the Version 3.2.1 release.

We already have started planning for and working towards the release of Version 4.1 of ADABAS. The first draft of the 4.1 reference manual and utilities manual have already been completed and sent to the technical staff for their comment. We do expect to have a great deal of revision in these two manuals before they reach a final stage. The documentation for 4.1 will be thorough and complete when the new release is made. We have plans for significant changes in the area of documentation. The design guide, which is currently a section of the Systems Programmers Guide, will be greatly expanded and become a manual unto itself. We will be looking for a great deal of input from our users (based on their experiences) for the contents of this manual. We are also developing an Operations Guide to benefit the persons responsible for operating ADABAS and making restart/recovery decisions.

I think that the last two years have seen significant changes in the documentation area and we plan that over the next two years the improvement will continue at the same pace. We do need more constructive input from the users—the one additional ingredient that would help us better meet your needs. We would appreciate your comments in writing designating the areas that need improvement and suggestions for the ways in which they could be improved.

Immediately following the release of 3.2.1 for OS, we turned our attentions to putting the DOS Version into the same shape that the OS release is in. We are planning to release DOS Version 3.2.1 in June. We are using the same standards for installation procedures, documentation, testing and thoroughness of check-out for this release.

We have a very ambitious schedule for next year, but we are organized in such a fashion that I feel we will be able to achieve the results that we have promised.

ADAGROUP SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Now that the 4th International Users Conference is over, our organizational efforts must begin. Each Special Interest Group (SIG) is described briefly below. Included in each description are the SIG's plans for the coming year, the objectives of the SIG, and the need for information and/or assistance from the Users. These groups will take an active role in ADAGROUP this year and will be responsible, by the next User Conference, for a paper or a presentation. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Change/Enhancement Requests

Dan Skwarcan
Associates Computer Services
1720 Ruskin Street
South Bend, IN. 46624
219-284-6203

To facilitate the change/enhancement requests at the Boston Conference, I am asking all ADABAS Users to start submitting your requests now. In this Newsletter, a copy of the change/enhancement request form and the change/enhancement procedure can be found as an insert. Most ADABAS Users are now going through 3.2.1 implementation. During the implementation of a new release, many new ideas become apparent for future releases of ADABAS. What better time to start preparing the change/enhancement requests? All requests should be sent to me at the above address. If you want further information about change/enhancement requests, please see the enclosed article as well as the insert.

Retrieval Interface

Carl Garrison
Shell Oil Company
1500 Old Spanish Trail
P.O. Box 20329
Houston, TX. 77025
713-795-3970

General objectives of the Retrieval Interface Committee are to share knowledge of existing ADABAS retrieval interface techniques and to develop specifications for improved software products which would better meet the needs of the user community. We plan to develop material for one general session and one or more special interest group sessions at the 1978 ADABAS Users Conference. Active participation of several users will be necessary if we are to meet these objectives. By the end of May a letter which further explains these goals and requests active involvement will be sent to each user who attended the special interest group meeting at the 1977 conference. Others who are interested in contributing to committee activities are urged to contact the committee chairman.

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ADAGROUP 1976-1977 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Last year's hard-working ADAGROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE deserves a special thanks for their dedicated efforts toward making the 1976-1977 ADAGROUP and the 4th International ADABAS Users Conference so successful.

Presenting The 1977-1978 ADAGROUP Executive Committee

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

Rob is an Australian who took a wrong turn in San Francisco some years ago and finished up in Canada. He spent two years with a Canadian airline suffering the pains of developing systems using IMS. Enlightenment came when he joined Simon Fraser University and participated in the selection and implementation of ADABAS. He is now the Data Base Administrator at S.F.U.

The Northwest regional Users Group has scheduled its first meeting for September 9, 1977 at Seattle Public Schools. A tentative agenda includes presentations on Com-plete, check-pointing, Adamint and a PDP-11 ADABAS interface.

The group expects to meet at least twice this year. Meetings will concentrate on users getting to know each other through informal discussions and short presentations. Time will be allocated in each meeting to discuss change/enhancement requests. We will also be looking for at least one presentation to take to the Boston conference.

Our summer project is to build a current user profile for each

user in the region. This will be published before our September meeting.

Northeast Corridor
Jim Buckner (ADAGROUP Vice-President)
Commercial Union Assurance
One Beacon Street
Boston, Mass. 02050
617-725-6045

At the Fourth Annual Users Conference, the East Coast Regional Users attending decided to meet in Washington, D.C. on July 20, 1977. I mentioned that I felt that the three subjects of greatest interest to me, as an ADABAS user, were:

1. Analysis and resolution of the problems of data base administration.
2. A more detailed analysis of the data base backout/recovery problems.
3. The Data Dictionary. It is imperative that we become involved in the development of this dictionary and I urge all users to review the proposal made by software ag and to participate in the dictionary's development.

Any East Coast Region User interested in attending the July 20 meeting, please contact me.

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
416-597-7073

Our next meeting will be held in Toronto at Shell Canada Ltd. on the 13th of September from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The agenda includes a presentation on Data Manager, the Data Dictionary, by the supplier MSP Limited. There will also be an informal presentation on the role of the DBA as envisioned by Ralph Shirozan of the R.C.M.P.; this is an ongoing series. Each installation is invited to give a half hour talk on what they are doing in this area. There will also be a discussion on data base recovery—what to do when you have a head crash. In the User Group business session, we will discuss new change/enhancements, the trouble reports, any correspondence from ADAGROUP, and the agenda for our next meeting (to be held in Ottawa on the 6th of December). Our third meeting date remains undecided, but will probably be in March. If time permits, an informal discussion on 3.2.1 experiences will be held. All Eastern Canada and Upper New York ADABAS Users are encouraged to attend our meeting in September.

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