

ADABAS

the Adaptable DATA Base System

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rob Macmillan, ADAGROUP President
Simon Fraser University

By now you will have made or be making preparations for attending the Seventh International ADABAS Users' Conference in San Diego. The response for our CALL FOR PAPERS has been overwhelming and the quality of presentations promises to be extremely high. By receiving abstracts early, we have the opportunity to construct a comprehensive program that will have topics of interest for all attendees throughout the three days. While the formal program will have more structure than in past years, there will still be time for those informal get-togethers that usually prove to be so fruitful.

Special Interest Group Chairpersons are working on conference sessions that will combine formal papers and informal discussions. Contact a SIG Chairperson if you are interested in participating in the informal part of the program.

This year has been a productive one for the ADABAS Users' Group. Regional groups are meeting in many parts of the world, the most recent addition being the Rocky Mountain Region. Nick Gangwish has been instrumental in forming this new group to serve users who previously had to travel long distances to attend a regional meeting.



Rob Macmillan

We have improved the communication between all users of ADABAS. The Munich Conference helped to establish strong ties between European and North American users and gave us better insight into each others' problems and differences. As the users' community expands, European and North American Users must remember that there are many others with significant contributions to make to ADAGROUP. I was delighted to see the March Newsletter article submitted by John Baker of Standard Bank of South Africa.

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San Diego Conference Update

Steve Greaves, Users' Group Liaison
Software AG of North America, Inc.

Be sure to get some rest before you come to the Seventh International ADABAS Users' Conference. You'll need it! The conference, to be held June 12-15 at the Town & Country Hotel, San Diego, California, promises to be the most active and productive yet. Technical presentations and user experiences from ADABAS Users' around the world are highlighted, as well as guest speakers who will discuss distributed data bases and data base administration.

As in past years, the future plans of Software AG, encompassing the developmental, educational and documentation aspects of the products will be shared. Natural, Version 4.1, ADACOM, ADABAS-M and Data Dictionary are some of the key topics. Over twenty ADABAS user presentations are slated, including presentations by the first North American Version 4.1 and Natural users. Special Interest Group Panels will discuss with interested conferees such topics as Data Dictionary Usage, Recovery/Restart, DBA Tools, and Education/Documentation.

The '79 Change/Enhancement Requests will be the topic for an open discussion between users and designers.

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Com-plete

The International Com-plete
Users' Group Newsletter
begins on page 13.



Notes From The Editor

Suzan Schultz

As we end another year of Newsletters, it's time to reflect and consider how far we have come. From John's view at 30,000 feet and begging for user news . . . to reports of regional meetings around the world, Special Interest Group columns and application experiences. From the printer to the Vydec to Text 360 to another, but much more versatile printer. From four to sixteen pages plus more for the Complete Newsletter. From Software AG Technical Notes to regular contributions of timely information by SAG Technical and Marketing Staff including those elusive release date schedules.

So what is left? Lots of things. The Regional Reports and Special Interest Groups' columns need logos; you may have noticed we change them issue to issue. We might have a "Share Your Problem" column where somebody poses a question of "What do you do if...? And the next Newsletter has user responses. Sample questions are: What do you do about historical retention of files? How do you deal with Restart/Recovery? What's the best way to load a million record file that has to be changed frequently? Remember that outside of the Annual Conference, the only forum for worldwide exchange of user experience is your Newsletter.

Please think about recommendations that you have for the Newsletter. If you are not going to the Conference, send your recommendations to my address listed on the back cover. In San Diego, we will have a discussion of what you would like to see in the ADABAS Users' Newsletter, Volume 5.

Suzan Schultz



San Diego '79

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In addition, regional and international ADAGROUP business will be conducted, including the election of next year's officers and the consideration of a merger with the Complete Users' Group.

The "Best Speaker" of the Conference will be awarded \$1,000 on Friday, June 15th. Be there to see who wins.

Evenings promise excitement and variety! Wear your sombreros to the Fiesta Mexicana Welcome Reception on Tuesday evening, June 12. The Town & Country Room will be transformed into a little bit of Mexico for an evening of Mexican entertainment and getting reacquainted with old friends.

Wednesday, during the day, while conferees are informed of the future directions of ADABAS and Software AG, companions will be off on a visit, "south-of-the-border," for a day of shopping in Tijuana. The evening is spotlighted by the formal ADABAS Awards Reception and Banquet.

Thursday, after a day of technical presentations, conferees and companions will spend an informal evening at Sea World Park. "Shamu", the Killer Whale, dolphins, otters and seals will perform, followed by a Polynesian reception and luau.

On Friday, companions will join conferees for a "conference closing" luncheon. If the conference agenda permits, Friday afternoon features a special "Behind-the-Scenes" tour of the famous San Diego Zoo.

Register now by calling Ann Todd, Software AG, (703) 860-5050, immediately. See Agenda, Page 12.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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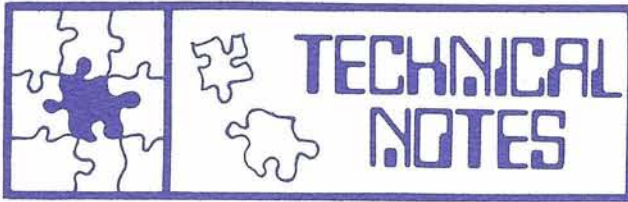
A new constitution which better describes how ADAGROUP presently operates should be in effect by the Annual Conference. Bob Cole has done a fine job in revising the constitution. I am sorry to report that, because of his workload at NEA, Bob has resigned his position as ADAGROUP Secretary and Regional Representative for the East Coast Region. Thanks for your contributions to ADAGROUP, Bob.

The Executive Committee meeting in October was very productive and should be scheduled annually. The meeting contributed significantly to the formation of the project scheduling system announced recently by Software AG. Ken Rardin should be commended for this system which will provide users with far greater visibility of development projects and, hopefully, more reliable release dates. The visibility improves immediately, the reliability in time.

Dan Skwarczan has developed a method of processing Change/Enhancement Requests with minimum effort. His system will benefit ADAGROUP and the Change/Enhancement Committee Chairperson for years to come. Your work is certainly appreciated, Dan.

ADAGROUP continues to be an effective communication between ADABAS Users and Software AG because of the work of ADAGROUP members and the support of Software AG. As my term of office comes to an end, I want to thank all those who have helped over the year, especially the Executive Committee Members who have managed to give ADAGROUP considerable time despite busy schedules. Software AG continued to support us well. Steve Greaves has done everything possible to keep up with the increasing demands of the Users' Group. We have not solved all our problems - but we've come a long way.

I look forward to renewing many friendships made over the years at the Annual Conference. See you all in San Diego.



Natural Update

Peter Pagé, Software AG, Darmstadt, and
Jim Forestell, Software AG of North America

The following features are to appear in the first version of Natural:

1. Teleprocessing support under Complete and CICS for both buffered (3270-Type) and unbuffered (TTY or 2741-Type) terminals.
2. New "SET GLOBALS" options
 - A. Zero Printing - Totally suppresses numeric fields containing all zeros.
 - B. Sound Alarm Option - Assuming the terminal hardware supports an alarm (or beep) capability, Natural will sound the alarm to prompt the user for input.
 - C. Decimal Character Substitution - The feature will allow for European edit mask notations.
 - D. Input Delimiter Character for data separation on nonbuffered terminals.
 - E. Input Assign Character for the assigning of values in keyword input mode on nonbuffered terminals.
3. Post-Selection Screening Limit

A search done with basic search criteria (against the inverted lists only) results in so many records being found. At this point, the user may determine that too many have been found to continue processing using extended search criteria (which reads each record). The user may, therefore, terminate the request before any physical read against the data has ever taken place.
4. Special Options of the "WHERE" Clause
 - A. SCAN - A numeric or alphanumeric field may be scanned for a string of characters. If the argument string appears anywhere in the field to be scanned, the record is returned.
 - B. MASK - The user may specify that certain characters are to appear in certain positions of the field to be masked. Any time the value of the mask matches the field to be masked, the record is returned.
 - C. Field Break - A subcomponent of a field may be used as a break key.

5. NO RECORDS FOUND Condition

In an ADACOM request involving multiple FIND and/or READ statements, if a "NO RECORDS FOUND" condition exists for the innermost loop, ADACOM simply returns the "REPORT DONE" message without printing any information which may have been desired from the outermost loop. Natural, however, will allow the user to display information under this condition.

6. Before Break Processing

The value prior to a break condition may now be used in a title line before a report rather than being printed out after the report, which is the current case in ADACOM. Additionally, variables accumulated prior to the break may now be included in the break processing.

7. Enhanced Arithmetic/Assign Support

- A. Support for binary.
- B. "ROUNDED" option may be used for arithmetic statements.
- C. A "MOVE" or "ASSIGN" statement which designates a range of occurrences within a numeric MU or PE field now equates to a "TOTAL FIRST, THEN MOVE" operation.
- D. Parentheses are now supported in both arithmetic operations and in building search criteria.
- E. Square root function now provided.

8. Update Functions

- A. DELETE - To delete records from the data base.
- B. STORE - To add records to the data base.
- C. UPDATE - To change records which exist in the data base.

NOTE: Unlike ADASCRIP+, Natural permits a mass delete and mass update capability.

9. Access to Periodic Group/Multiple Field Counts

This capability now allows the user to easily determine the highest non-null occurrence within the field or group. When used in combination with the new "GET SAME" and "FOR" statements, the count provides a logical end for a loop which may be used to determine the total number of occurrences of any one value within the field, determine the position of an occurrence within the field, etc.

10. Hexadecimal Constants

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