



Shell Canada Limited

Head Office
Box 400, Terminal 'A',
Toronto, Ontario M5W 1E1
Telephone (416) 597-7111

December 7, 1978

Dear Adabas User

For those of you who were unable to attend our last meeting, I would like to let you know what transpired. The first item on the agenda after the usual introductions was the Users Business Session.

In this session, we covered many important items. We postponed our next meeting until the end of February or beginning of March depending on Statistics Canada being able to reserve a room for the meeting. By holding the meeting later, we hope to be able to discuss the change/enhancement requests which we all should have received by then. Please note that the deadline for submitting requests is the first of January, 1979. You must send them in this month if you wish to have them answered in this years session. A small change in the procedure has also been implemented. All change enhancements will be sent to the chairmen of the special interest groups so that they or their group can comment further on the request.

We then moved on to the mailing problem. There still seems to be a lot of difficulty in knowing when an item has not been received. To alleviate this problem, I will send out at the first of each month, starting in January, a letter outlining what material has been sent out during the previous month. This letter will also have in it, when possible, any changes to product release schedules as well as notifications of any major outstanding problems. If you have not received my letter by the fifteenth of the month, call me or another user to determine its contents. We also discussed the problem of non-receipt of shipped software, the resolution that we came to was that Cliff Weitzel should be contacted if you need the software urgently. Cliff will attempt to make available to the user from either his resources or another user a copy of the needed material. If your need is not urgent, you are asked to advise Software AG in Reston of the non-arrival so that they may re-ship the material.

The subject of problem reporting was also touched upon. At the meeting in Reston on the 27th of October, it was announced that Software AG would not be able to implement its early warning system until March of 1979. To help fill the gap, we decided to re-implement the Adabug report. I have enclosed a copy for you to use as a master. Remember this only works if you participate in submitting reports. We have also decided to ask Software AG if they will consider making on line access to the problems data base that they are creating, available to the users. To this end, we will actively solicit support for this request from the other regional groups.

Shell Canada Limited

Because we were already discussing the area of problems, we then held a problems session. The following observations were made. There appears to be an unresolved problem with coupling large files. This problem has, to date, not been communicated to the user community at large, although it was initially reported in December, 1977. The main symptom is that the coupling indexes are not correct. Hopefully a resolution will be forthcoming from Germany in the near future. Another interesting situation is occurring with synchronous checkpoints. One user reports that if a program is issuing a large number of deletes that after about 10 synchronous checkpoints, no more checkpoints occur even though the program is still running. This does not seem to occur if other update commands are being issued simultaneously.

A rather unusual problem was brought up that was initially reported by the New York regional group. Range searches that exclude a value that has an odd number of 9's in it do not, in fact, exclude that value. This only happens if the value is all 9's and there is an odd number of them (i.e., 9, 999, 99999, etc.). One user reports that they discovered a variety of problems in version 3.2.1 when they recently converted to it from version 3.2.0. Hopefully, we will see several ADABUG reports about these problems. The purpose of these sessions is, of course, not to disparage the product, but rather to inform users of any potential problems that could prove embarrassing in a production environment. Generally speaking, the number of outstanding problems is satisfactorily low.

Interspersed with the problems I discussed, the results of the October 27 Adagroup executive meeting with Software AG. The major topics discussed at that meeting were release dates, problem resolution and reporting, and communications. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the release dates as of October 27. You will note that Adacom is not yet available. In order to improve this situation, Software AG will attempt to implement a new system of announcing these dates. One person within Software AG will be responsible for coordinating development information. Each quarterly newsletter will contain an updated status and an indication of where in the developmental cycle the product currently is. A monthly update will be sent to all Software AG staff if significant changes have occurred. Only time will tell if this new system will be an improvement.

The problem resolution and reporting system as announced at the fifth International Users Conference is being implemented. Note that it promises, for severity level 12 and 15 problems, that a specific technical support person will keep you informed of progress on the problem. Also note that there is no commitment to keep the user informed of progress on problems of lesser priority. The area of communications is one of considerable concern, but to date no effective solution has been found. Suggestions would be welcomed.

Shell Canada Limited

The next major item on the agenda was an Education workshop. I led off with a short overview of the programmers training course that we give here at Shell. Those people interested in having the complete manual should drop me a line or phone. This course is oriented towards an experienced programmer who has had an Adabas introduction. Also mentioned was the set of Adabas slides that Software AG has available. These are excellent and can be used for a variety of purposes. The next speaker was Ted Hillis of Consumers Gas Company. It was immediately obvious that Ted has spent considerable time developing an all encompassing set of courses. Ted reports that several of the courses are modularized so that they can be tailored for a specific audience fairly easily. Ted is willing to make copies of his courses available on request. His excellent handout describes the contents and type of audience that the courses are geared for. Please contact Ted for any further information. I have enclosed a copy of Ted's handout for those installations that were not represented at this meeting. Ralph Ghirozan spoke next and related the experiences he has had. He felt that 5 day workshops were too long, that 3 days was a more appropriate length. Ralph would like to see more audio-visual material from the vendor, it is rather expensive to develop this type of material in house. Ralph has created a programmed instruction format that he is using to good effect and he feels that more courses of this nature would be useful. Our last speaker on this topic was Steve Robinson. Steve is in the business of providing Adabas education and described the current courses that he is offering. I have enclosed a copy of Steve's handout for those installations that were not represented at the meeting. Several of the members of our users group have been recipients of Steve's training and can be contacted for references.

This completed our morning session and we then retired to lunch, courtesy of R.D. Nickel and Associates. I feel that everyone will join me in a thank you for this kindness. It was an excellent lunch. Before getting into the afternoon session, we discussed a possible agenda for the next meeting. The following were suggested as possibilities; the use of checkpoints, control and audit using the log tape, and lastly an overview of version 4.1. This last topic would be given by Jim Addis of Software AG if he is available. The preferred topic was, of course, the Adabas version 4.1 overview and we will attempt to have this session at the next meeting as well as a users business session and a problems session. The remainder of the afternoon was occupied by an interesting session on Complete - Software AG's TP monitor package given by Don Sickle of North American Life Assurance Company. Don was able to give us an on-line demonstration which was very informative. It certainly sounds like the package is superior to CICS and TSO, both of which it can replace. I can hardly wait for the MVS version which is due out in the new year. Don's presentation wrapped up the meeting.

Shell Canada Limited

I will be sending out an invitation and agenda for the next meeting once it is formalized and a date has been picked. Until then, keep those problem reports and change enhancement requests rolling. Remember the next International Conference is scheduled for June 13 - 15, 1979 in the San Diego area.

Yours very truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W.R. Taylor".

W.R. Taylor
Regional Adagroup Representative

Enclosures

WTcs

5th December, 1978 ADABUG Meeting

<u>Name</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Bob Taylor	Shell Canada Limited	(416)597-7073
W.R. Davis	North American Life	(416)362-6011 Ext. 520
Brent Carter	BMCS	(902)424-2700
Tom Okrainec	R.C.M.P.	(613)993-3667
Ralph Ghirozan	R.C.M.P.	(613)993-9740
Roy McSheffrey	ITC	(613)996-2042
Ernie Greco	Systemhouse Ltd.	(613)236-9734
Adam Jasek	Systemhouse Ltd.	(613)236-9734
John Gilchrist	Royal Trust	(613)237-4410
Paul Morin	Transport Canada	(613)995-3421
Jack Drawbridge	Industry, Trade & Commerce	(613)995-1107
Ted Hillis	Consumers' Gas	(416)492-5089
Jane Butler	Consumers' Gas	(416)492-5658
Stephen L. Robinson	S.L. Robinson & Associates	(215)295-3121
Colin Redwood	Public Service Commission	(613)995-6358
John M. Noble	Inco Metals Co.	(705)682-2843
Mary-Anne Mandia	Statistics Canada	(613)995-9960
Cliff Weitzel	R.D. Nickel & Associates	(613)829-2886
Don Sickle	North American Life	(416)362-6011 Ext. 444
Bob Nickel	R.D. Nickel & Associates	(519)653-6142
Art Smith	North American Life	(416)362-6011 Ext. 363



PRODUCT RELEASE DATES
AS OF 10-27-78

ADABAS V4.1

European Release to Tech. Rep. January 1979
North American Release to Tech. Rep. April 1979

ADABOMP V1.0

Available

ADACOM V1.0

OS Release to Tech. Rep. Released
OS General Release January 15, 1979
DOS Release to Tech. Rep. February 1, 1979
DOS General Release March 1, 1979
(Revised Dec. 15, 1979)

ADAMINT V1.3

Available

ADASCRIP+ V1.1

January, 1979

ADASCRIP+ V1.03

Available

ADAWRITER V1.2

December, 1978

DATA DICTIONARY V1.0

Available

DBMOD Reorder Associator Utility

January, 1979

MPM56

Available

Com-plete DOS version

May, 1979

Com-plete MVS version

July, 1979

Com-plete V3.0

November, 1978

Com-plete VTAM/SNA version

May, 1979

ADABAS-M V1.0

Selected Installation January, 1979
General Release April, 1979

Natural V1.0

OS Release to Tech. Rep. December 15, 1978
OS General Release January 15, 1979
DOS Release to Tech. Rep. January 15, 1979
DOS General Release February 15, 1979