Join 1300+ Users for Software AG's 17th Annual Users' Conference

To date over 1,300 people from over 500 companies have registered for the 17th Annual Users' Conference in Miami, Florida from November 1-5. This year there will be more international representatives than ever before representing countries from all over the world including Canada, Mexico, Singapore, Venezuela and Australia.

The Monday morning General Session will be hosted by the executives of Software AG of North America, Software AG of Darmstadt, and Software AG's SAGGROUP. Stuart Miller will give a year in review on Software AG. Peter Pagé will present on the strategic product directions of the next four years. As well as the General Sessions there will be technical presentations, workshops, and product demonstrations. Once again this year Software AG will host an Open Forum session. Users are welcomed to come and meet, ask questions, and make recommendations to the senior management of Software AG.

Software AG users will be presenting working papers on their own experiences with Software AG products. Also, users will be getting together for Business/Industry Group Sessions (BIGS) and Special Interest Group Sessions (SIGS).

This years' conference offers over 30 hours of product workshops, demonstrations and presentations uniquely designed to address your information management needs. However, four days of intense orientation will be accompanied by opportunities for relaxation and entertainment. The conference kicks

ADABAS 5 . . . Beginning the New Era

Mark Milne
Product Manager

Its been talked about! Its been read about! But November 1–5 at the Miami User's Conference, see it for yourself! Although it is difficult to "see" a data base, we will be demonstrating ADABAS 5 through ADABAS Online Services, user experiences and Software AG presentations.

Status

Testing on ADABAS 5 began as early as mid-1986. Most of this was done internally and really concentrated on component testing. We then went to Alpha testing which involved customer testing and was designed to stabilize the software. Some initial problems existed but

President's Message "Changes"

Carlo A. Scagnelli
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation

With the conference coming up in November, there'll be enough information flowing in all directions to keep this short. Please note the following change to the Executive Committee. Other matters will be discussed in Miami.

Tom Bradbury has resigned as PREDICT Product Representative as a result of a promotion out of the data base environment. We wish Tom well in all his future endeavors. Succeeding him in that position through November 1988 will be Ms. Frances Osteen of Du-Pont (her address is on the back page of this issue). She brings with her a new enthusiasm and definite ideas about the direction of PREDICT. Get in touch with her and offer your assistance.

During the past several months, Bob Becker has been working with several volunteers in an attempt to develop a proposal for the possible reorganization of SAGGROUP and especially the Executive Committee to more accurately and effectively reflect the environment in which we operate. The multiplicity of operating systems, mainframes and products mixes has strained the current product orientation and reduced the level of support SAG-GROUP has been able to provide while increasing the work load of the individuals involved. Bob's group is working hard on finalizing their plan and hopes to have a presentation ready for the conference. As always, the key to its success is a high degree of involvement from you, the user.

It has been gratifying to review CONNECTIONS these past several months as each issue has reflected a renewed level of activity at all levels of our group. The number of articles, tips, suggestions and applications has increased dramatically. If this is a reflection of the quality and quantity of information to be available in Miami, the conference promises to surpass all expectations.

See you there ! ! !

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Business Development at Software AG

Andrew C. Ford
Vice President

Since this is the first time we've had the chance to tell you about Business Development, we'd like to give you an overview of who we are, what we do, why and how we work with third party organizations like application software vendors and consultants.

We are Business Development and our mission is to contribute to our customers' success by making sure that there are high quality Software AG compatible application solutions and professional services available to them. We do this in a variety of ways: we establish partnerships with application software companies, often participating in Software AG compatible implementations. We set the stage for professional services companies to keep current and proficient in our growing product line by offering various training opportunities to them. Also, we look into new products and/or services which might enhance Software AG's products or services.

Many of you are already aware of the commercially-available packages which are ADABAS and/or NATURAL compatible. We have ongoing relationships with over 30 companies who produce all types of application software: banking, utility, education, general financials, insurance, transportation, manufacturing, government, human resources, sales information and tracking, and OSHA monitoring. We continue to pursue application compatibility in an aggressive fashion. We'll be using the newsletter as a vehicle to let you know about these relationships. In the meantime, if you would like specifics, please call me at 703-648-2446.

Echoing your concern over quality, we have recently initiated an application certification program. This program is available to vendors whose products work with ADABAS. Our Professional Service

Team reviews file design, analyzes performance, determines ease of use with NATURAL, PREDICT and SUPER NATURAL, and makes recommendations for greater efficiency and performance. We verify that recommendations have been executed before issuing certification. Some application vendors have already started the certification process, so you may be coming across this soon when you evaluate software.

Our Consultant Liaison program was established to provide a means for consultants to get technical information about our products directly from Software AG. The program is based on our interest in

your having well-qualified consultants to help you develop business solutions. We believe that it is done best through education. In addition to the regularly scheduled Software AG classes, we will be presenting product information to consultants (and application vendors) through special classes and seminars. The net result is better service for you.

That's Business Development in a nutshell. We'll be keeping you updated regularly in CONNECTIONS. In the meantime, if you would like to know more about us and our programs, or would know any candidates for our application or professional service programs, please contact us at 703-648-2446.

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What's New with NATURAL ELITE?

Maggie Geiser
Supervisor of Instructional Technology Customer Service Division

NATURAL ELITE, Software AG's computer-based-training product, has gained many new customers and is now offering more courses than ever before. Currently, there are seven on-line courses available, with more than fifteen new courses planned for this fiscal year.

Software AG customers will have an opportunity to attend two ELITE presentations at our Annual Users' Conference in November, as well as sign up at the demonstration booth to view ELITE courses and upcoming changes to the Authoring system. Hope to see you there!

New ELITE Courses on NATURAL 2

On July 20, 1987, the *NATURAL 2 Enhancements* course was released. This course is written for the experienced NATURAL V1.2 programmer who needs to learn NATURAL 2. The course highlights the new editors, new statements and commands, and structured mode syntax. Additionally, it points out enhancements to statements and commands which have been used regularly by NATURAL V1.2 programmers. This is a great way to train your programmers quickly, or to use the on-line instruction as a review of other training they may have received.

For our new NATURAL customers who are training beginning NATURAL programmers, we have a new course which teaches NATURAL 2

NATURAL ELITE

from the ground up. This course, called *NATURAL 2 Introduction*, will be released in September. All customers who currently have the NATURAL V1.2 Introduction course will get this upgrade free of charge. The new course begins with an overview of the NATURAL language, system, and programming philosophy, then moves into step-by-step descriptions of NATURAL syntax and statement processing.

In development are three additional NATURAL 2 courses which deal exclusively with Structured Mode. These courses are:

- *NATURAL Structured Mode Design Concepts*
- *Advanced Mapping Using NATURAL Structured Mode*
- *Advanced NATURAL Programming Techniques*

This series is expected to be available at the end of the year.

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NATURAL ELITE ADABAS Series in Development

It's almost here! The series of ADABAS courses which many customers have requested is scheduled for release at the Annual Users' Conference in November. Why November? Because we are incorporating information about ADABAS 5, and want it to be as up-to-date as possible.

The ADABAS series will consist of three courses. In this way, it will be easy to identify the correct course for each special audience. The courses are:

ADABAS Fundamentals: This introductory course covers ADABAS features, general architecture, simple data base access methods, and the basic concepts associated with ADABAS file modification.

ADABAS Program Design Concepts: This advanced course describes the components necessary to incorporate ADABAS into programs through the use of direct

calls for on-line programs and JCL for batch programs. In addition, a brief overview of NATURAL, ADASQL, and PREDICT will be discussed as they relate to ADABAS.

ADABAS File Design and Utilities Usage: The final course in this series will focus on basic ADABAS file design and general DBA utilities. The primary utilities discussed include: file modification, restart/recovery, and disk space management.

NATURAL ELITE at the Annual Users' Conference

In November, we will be looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Users' Conference. Two NATURAL ELITE presentations will be available to attend, each designed for a different audience.

"Integrating ELITE Into an Effective Training Strategy" is a presentation which will include highlights on product directions, training statistics, and cost justification analysis. The presentation will clarify a methodology for creation, development, and completion of a fully integrated training program. Special attention will be given to such universal problems as: employee "down" time, building internal product experts, life cycle management, cost projection and control, and training motivation. Case studies of current ELITE customers will be presented, illustrating the variety of training options available through the use of NATURAL ELITE and its impact on project management and employee resource management.

"NATURAL/ELITE Authoring Tips and Techniques" is a presentation designed for customers who are actively involved in, or planning, their own course development using the ELITE Authoring System. The focus of the seminar will be to identify and demonstrate how to incorporate effective instruction in a computer-based-training environment. The three primary areas of concentration will be: (1) Do-it-yourself tools for initial design and development; (2) Better screen design; and (3) Using creative answer-checking to build better interactions. Anyone who is working with the ELITE Authoring System to build in-house training should not

miss this presentation. Bring your problems, victories, ideas, and questions to the Conference. Let us help you get a great start on your next course!

Would you like an opportunity to see the courses on-line and find out more about what's available? Then come to the ELITE demonstration booth at the Conference. We will be demonstrating sample lessons from all of the NATURAL courses, as well as the ADABAS series currently under development.

Better yet, get an advance look at some of these courses by contacting Software AG's Telemarketing or your Account Representative now. They can get a demonstration tape with sample lessons for you right away!

ADABAS 5

preliminary results have been very encouraging. Our next phase is the Beta testing cycle in which we analyze the quality and functionality of the software. At the User's Conference there will be presentations by both Software AG and test sites in which we discuss our preliminary impressions and results. Release is targeted for first quarter 1988. Realize that testing a data base is very complex. Companies depend on ADABAS's abilities and functions. We will take as much time as necessary in testing, so that we can help ensure ADABAS's continued high quality and reliability.

New Technologies

You will hear much about the product, ADABAS 5, at the User's Conference. As a customer the new features and functions will be important. They will help in your day-to-day jobs. But Data Processing must look for new ways to help a company. Again, look to ADABAS 5.

ADABAS 5 is important to you and to Software AG because it is the foundation for new technologies to be introduced. These include technologies such as:

- RELATIONAL—Further expansion of ADABAS's relational processing in support of the RELATIONAL model. But where the RELATIONAL model is not suitable for all of organizations information processing needs there are other technologies. . . .;

- TEXT—Direct call-level support of text and document-based processing;

- E-R-A—Support of more complex data structures and the basis of new technologies (CASE, Encyclopedias, etc. . .);

- KBMS—The ability to store 'information' as opposed to just data;

- DISTRIBUTION—True distributed data base processing with support for logical files spread across multiple physical data bases

To support these new areas, many new features and functions have been added to the ADABAS 5 nucleus. For example, ADABAS now supports both keyed and non-keyed searches. This is an important as-

NATURAL 2			
R E L	T E X T	E / R / I / A	K B M S
DISTRIBUTION			
ADABAS 5			

pect of the RELATIONAL technology. Another function is the hyper-descriptor which supports TEXT processing. The Preliminary ET command is involved in DISTRIBUTED Processing. These are just a few of the new functions ADABAS has to offer.

So you can begin to see, that ADABAS is important on several levels. As customers, ADABAS 5, the product, allows you to do a better job today. ADABAS 5, the foundation, opens the door for new technologies to be built on top of existing technology. It becomes the basis on which to extend your data processing environment. We look forward to seeing you at the Miami Users' Conference.

Conference

off Sunday evening with the President's reception hosted by Carlo Scagnelli. This gives you a chance to get reacquainted with old friends. Monday and Wednesday evenings also feature fine food and entertainment.

The host hotel for the conference is the world famous Fountainebleau Hilton Resort. The recently remodeled hotel boasts more than $50 million of refinements giving it an exciting World Class status. A host of new restaurants, lounges, public areas, tropical gardens, waterfalls and a half-acre swimming lagoon have been added to the list of new items.

Come join Software AG and the other users for Software AG's best conference yet. To register call: 703-648-2486.

17th Annual Software AG Users' Conference

November 1–5
Miami, Florida

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER CALL
703-648-2486

Customer Training Schedule
October–December 1987

Software AG's Customer Training Schedule for October to December 1987 follows, including a brief description, date(s) and location(s) for each course.

To register, or to have your name added to our Customer Training Schedule mailing list, please call our Training Registrars at *(703) 648-2482.*

ADABAS Concepts & Facilities: Introductory course on concepts and features of ADABAS inverted list architecture, relational-like processing, access possibilities, and data structures. This course is a prerequisite for all other Software AG courses. Prerequisite: A technical data processing background.

October 5-6	Washington, D.C.
October 12-13	Dallas
October 19-20	New York
October 26-27	Los Angeles
November 9-10	Washington, D.C.
November 16-17	New York
Nov 30—Dec 1	Denver
December 7-8	Washington, D.C.
December 14-15	New York

NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop: Introductory course designed to provide students with a working knowledge of NATURAL 2 programming with primary concentration on NATURAL's "report" mode. Combination lecture/workshop allows hands-on experience. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, as well as basic data processing concepts, are essential in order to gain the most from this class.

October 7-9	Washington, D.C.
October 14-16	Dallas
October 21-23	New York
October 28-30	Los Angeles
November 11-13	Washington, D.C.
November 18-20	New York
December 2-4	Denver
December 9-11	Washington, D.C.
December 16-18	New York

NATURAL Programming 2 Workshop: Second course in the NATURAL programming series designed to build upon student's knowledge of NATURAL. Has strong focus on NATURAL's "structured" mode. During the five days, students will use knowledge learned in lectures to develop a sample NATURAL application in the daily workshops. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities and NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop, unless experienced in NATURAL V1.2 and knowledgeable in new features and functionality of NATURAL 2.

October 5-9	Los Angeles
October 12-16	Washington, D.C.
October 19-23	Denver
October 26-30	Washington, D.C.
December 7-11	Los Angeles
December 14-18	New York

NATURAL 2 Programming Enhancements Workshop: Enhancement training for NATURAL V1.2 Programmers who want to learn to use what is new in NATURAL 2. Topics include environment overview, basic array definition, MU and PE processing, global, parameter, and local data areas, and data area editor. After completing this course, students will be ready to take

NATURAL Programming 2 Workshop. Prerequisite: NATURAL V1.2 programming experience.

October 1-2	Los Angeles
October 5-6	New York
October 12-13	Denver
October 19-20	Washington, D.C.
October 21-22	Dallas
October 29-30	Washington, D.C.
November 9-10	Denver
November 16-17	Los Angeles
December 3-4	Washington, D.C.
December 9-10	New York

NATURAL Security System Workshop: Designed to give Security Administrators a comprehensive view of NATURAL Security System (NSS). Covers full security environment provided by NSS, a practical procedure for designing your own security environment and the use of the maintenance tools provided in NSS. All Security Administrators will benefit from this course. If you do not have NSS, but are considering it, this course will also be useful. Prerequisite: NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop, or similar experience in managing NATURAL environment or maintaining a security environment.

October 5	Washington, D.C.
November 9	Dallas
November 30	New York

NATURAL Administration Workshop: Presents system information useful in the effective management of the NATURAL environment. Topics include logical system file usage, installation options, including related subsystems and buffer pool management. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop.

October 6-9	Washington, D.C.
November 10-13	Dallas
December 1-4	New York

NATURAL V1.2 Advanced Techniques Workshop: An advanced NATURAL course covering the more complex NATURAL facilities by using innovative programming techniques in pragmatic examples, as well as program tuning and performance. Highly recommended for experienced NATURAL Programmers, DBAs, NATURAL Administrators, and NATURAL System Designers. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop, or equivalent experience.

October 13-15	Washington, D.C.

ADABAS DBA Skills Workshop: An intensive five day course covering all basic tools needed by Data Base Administrators. Combination lecture/workshop allows hands-on experience typical in the day-to-day activities of an ADABAS DBA. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities and some NATURAL programming experience.

October 12-16	New York
October 19-23	Washington, D.C.
November 9-13	Los Angeles
November 16-20	Washington, D.C.
Nov 30—Dec 4	New York
December 7-11	Dallas

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ADABAS Direct Call Programming: Provides students with detailed information on access to ADABAS using direct call commands. This course is a prerequisite for ADABAS Internals. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, or equivalent experience.

October 12	Los Angeles
October 19	New York
October 26	Dallas
November 9	Washington, D.C.
November 16	Denver
November 30	Los Angeles
December 7	New York
December 14	Washington, D.C.

ADABAS Internals: Presents students with the internal, behind-the-scenes information about ADABAS. This course is a necessity for DBAs and System Programmers to further their effective use of ADABAS, and is a prerequisite for ADABAS Performance and Tuning. Prerequisites: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, ADABAS DBA Skills, and ADABAS Direct Call Programming, or equivalent experience.

October 13-14	Los Angeles
October 20-21	New York
October 27-28	Dallas
November 10-11	Washington, D.C.
November 17-18	Denver
December 1-2	Los Angeles
December 8-9	New York
December 15-16	Washington, D.C.

ADABAS Performance & Tuning: Presents an in-depth understanding of the factors and areas that influence ADABAS performance and the means that can be used to gather, analyze, and react on available information. An enlightening course for those directly involved in ADABAS performance. Prerequisite: ADABAS Internals.

October 15-16	Los Angeles
October 22-23	New York
October 29-30	Dallas
November 12-13	Washington, D.C.
November 19-20	Denver
December 3-4	Los Angeles
December 10-11	New York
December 17-18	Washington, D.C.

ADABAS Physical File Design: Presents basic techniques of ADABAS physical file design with emphasis on trade-offs in alternative design strategies. Single versus multiple files, field placement, and descriptor selection are among the topics covered. The course is intended to follow ADABAS Concepts or ADABAS DBA Skills. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop.

October 5	Dallas
October 12	New York
October 26	Denver
November 16	New York
November 30	Washington, D.C.
December 14	Los Angeles

PREDICT Concepts & Facilities Workshop: Introductory course designed to provide students with the background information necessary to become an effective user of PREDICT. This course is a prerequisite for the advanced level PREDICT and Data Dictionary Usage. ADABAS DBA Skills graduates should not attend this course. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts & Facilities, NATURAL Programming 1 Workshop.

October 6	Dallas
October 13	New York

October 27	Denver
November 17	New York
December 1	Washington, D.C.
December 15	Los Angeles

PREDICT & Data Dictionary Usage Workshop: Designed to explore the concepts, capabilities, and usage of the data dictionary and PREDICT system. Information will help students to utilize the system fully, including extending system's functionality to meet the unique needs of an organization. Designed for Data Administrators, Data Base Administrators, and NATURAL Administrators. Prerequisite: Sound knowledge of ADABAS, NATURAL, and PREDICT.

October 7-9	Dallas
October 14-16	New York
October 28-30	Denver
November 18-20	New York
December 2-4	Washington, D.C.
December 16-18	Los Angeles

ADASQL Programming Workshop: Forms the basic training for all programmers working with ADASQL in a conventional programming language on ADABAS. Prerequisite: ADABAS Concepts and Facilities, or equivalent experience.

October 19-20	Dallas
Nov 30—Dec 1	Washington, D.C.
December 7-8	New York
December 14-15	Denver

SPL's 4th Generation System Design: Provides students with a design methodology for applications which are to be developed using the NATURAL 4th generation programming system. Course was developed and is instructed by members of Systems Programming, Ltd., and is targeted toward System Analysts and System Designers. Prerequisite: ADABAS and NATURAL knowledge is recommended.

December 14-18	Dallas

NATURAL ELITE Author's Workshop: In-depth course for computer-based training (CBT) authors which provides students with the necessary knowledge for building self-paced instructional courseware. Provides current CBT course development techniques and integrates them through use of NATURAL ELITE Authoring System. Prerequisite: None.

December 1-3	Dallas

COM-PLETE Concepts & Facilities Workshop: Introductory course designed to give Programmers or DBAs a working knowledge of COM-PLETE and its facilities. Course covers COM-PLETE's features as a TP monitor, program development and execution under COM-PLETE, and utilities for program development and system information. Prerequisite: Sound knowledge of data processing programming and concepts.

October 26-27	Washington, D.C.

COM-PLETE Systems Programming: Provides System Programmers with information needed to initiate, manage, and maintain COM-PLETE environment. Explores internals in-depth and many system-oriented utilities. Intended for Systems Programmers with working knowledge of COM-PLETE and ASSEMBLER. Prerequisite: COM-PLETE Concepts and Facilities, or equivalent experience.

November 16-20	Washington, D.C.

VMS Public Training Schedule

ADABAS (VMS) Fundamentals: Introductory course on concepts and features of ADABAS (VMS) inverted list architecture, relational-like processing, access possibilities, and data structures. This course is a prerequisite for all Software AG courses for the VAX/VMS products. Prerequisite: Technical data processing background.

November 16-17   Washington, D.C.

NATURAL (VMS) Programming 1 Workshop: Introductory course designed to provide students with a solid working knowledge of NATURAL (VMS) programming. Combination lecture/workshops allow students hands-on experience with the VAX/VMS product. Prerequisite: Knowledge of ADABAS (VMS) concepts, as well as basic data processing concepts.

November 18-20   Washington, D.C.

NATURAL (VMS) Advanced Techniques Workshop: Covers the more complex NATURAL (VMS) facilities by using innovative programming techniques in pragmatic examples, as well as program tuning and performance. This course is highly recommended for experienced NATURAL (VMS) programmers, DBAs for VAX/VMS products, NATURAL (VMS) Administrators, and NATURAL (VMS) System Designers. Prerequisite: Thorough knowledge of NATURAL (VMS), combined with some NATURAL (VMS) programming experience.

October 20-21   Washington, D.C.

VMS Data Base Administration 1 Workshop: Week *One* of the nine-day VMS DBA training series. During this week, students will learn to plan, install, and control ADABAS (VMS), NATURAL (VMS), and PREDICT (VMS). Extensive workshops on dedicated DEC VAX equipment will include product installations, PREDICT (VMS) usage, and ADABAS (VMS) file loading. Students are encouraged to take the VMS Data Base Administration 2 Workshop immediately after successful completion of this course. Prerequisite: ADABAS (VMS) Fundamentals and NATURAL (VMS) Programming 1 Workshop, or equivalent knowledge.

December 7-11   Washington, D.C.

VMS Data Base Administration 2 Workshop: Week *Two* of the nine-day VMS DBA training series. During this week, students will learn to manage the NATURAL (VMS) environment, learn the basics of data base physical file design, data base restart/recovery, performance tuning and ADABAS (VMS) security. Frequent terminal workshops will be used to reinforce learning retention. Prerequisite: VMS Data Base Administration 1 Workshop is required; ADABAS (VMS) Fundamentals and NATURAL (VMS) Programming 1 Workshop, or equivalent experience.

October 5-8   Washington, D.C.
December 14-17   Washington, D.C.

ADABAS (VMS) Direct Call Programming: Provides students with detailed information on access to ADABAS (VMS) using direct call commands. Prerequisite: ADABAS (VMS) Fundamentals, or equivalent knowledge.

October 19   Washington, D.C.

New Special Interest Group— Using Relational Concepts in The Software AG Product Environment

David Dornbusch

Relational concepts promise to create data environments that are both highly stable and adaptable while also providing inherent data integrity. It is the intent of this SIG to address two areas:

First, to enhance the pragmatic "how to" ability of implementing relational concepts in today's real world operational systems using the Software AG family of products. ADABAS, NATURAL, PREDICT and DBA tools in the IBM/MVS CICS environment will be of special interest. Although ad-hoc inquiries will receive some attention, the primary emphasis will be on routine production processing (both on-line and batch). This is expected to be accomplished by the sharing of experiences and by group participation in formal educational sessions that are organized by the SIG.

Secondly, to serve as a communication focal point between Software AG and its relational user community. The intent is to foster mutually beneficial two way communications. We anticipate requesting that Software AG address today's immediate needs on a product feature basis. Tomorrow's needs would be approached via much broader functionality requests. Strong emphasis is expected to be placed on the longer term direction and functionality concerns. This is expected to be accomplished by having SIG participants determine and prioritize their requests to Software AG, and by requesting that Software AG make presentations and provide information to the SIG.

The intent is to have an active SIG with either two or three meetings per year in addition to the Software AG International Users' Group Conference. We seek members who are willing to commit time and effort as active participants. In return we expect to have a SIG that provides real impact on the success of relational concepts in the Software AG product environment.

We plan to have an organizational SIG "workshop" session in Miami at the 1987 International Users' Conference. Please stop by and provide your input, and/or drop me a note now to let me know of your interests and concerns.

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Midland, MI 48674
(517) 636-2016; Telex: 22-7455

REGIONAL REPORTS

Boston University Hosts Performance Workshops

Mary C. Albano
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Election of Officers for 1987-1988

Congratulations to the following people:

President—Jim Wisdom, Boston University
Vice-President—Terri-Lynn Thayer, Aquidneck Management Associates
Vice-President—Mary Albano, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Secretary—Ginger Wright, Network Solutions Incorporated

Customer sites attending the NATURAL 2.1 Capabilities class will be billed. Update training is not included in maintenance contracts.

Connections will now contain a list of all SIG's and BIG's and the chairperson of each.

On July 30th Boston University will host the first (hopefully of many) group of performance workshops. There will be a total of three: TP considerations (COM-PLETE, CICS, CMS, TSO), ADABAS performance and tuning and Programming (NATURAL, Direct calls, ADAMINT and ADASQL). Software AG representatives will be present at each. Watch for an agenda. . .

Larry Jayne, Software AG's Manager of Customer Relations, spoke about the upcoming conference and future conference sites. The 17th International Software AG Users' Conference will be held November 1-5 at the Fountainebleau Hilton Hotel, in Miami Beach, Florida.

This conference promises to be an exciting one with 5-6 concurrent sessions and approximately 50 user presentations.

Upcoming conferences will be as follows:
1988   Nashville, Tennessee, September 25-29, 1988
1989   Anaheim, California, October 22-26, 1989

Buck Shaw, vice-president International SAGGROUP, talked about some of the material discussed at the May SAGGROUP Executive meeting held in Denver.

General Announcements:

—There were no new developments on SERVICE CONNECTION.

—Software AG is developing a new Customer Service database. Contact the Braintree Office to make sure your information is up to date.

—Software AG is undertaking a new advertising and marketing campaign. Watch for better and more timely advertising.

—John McAra will be addressing the documentation and future upward compatibility of user exits.

—Additional copies of SM10 documentation are available for purchase.

—Licensed sites will be required to request in writing the authorization to copy documentation and training material.

Product Futures and Tools:

—New ADABAS, NATURAL and COM-PLETE tools tapes will be available soon, watch for them in Connections.

—There is not currently a tools tape for PREDICT.

—A tool on the ADABAS DBA tools tape allows NATURAL programs to be recovered from a adafix dump.

—SAGUTILS will no longer exist.

Carlo Scagnelli Talks About User Involvement

Charlie London

The June 10, 1987 meeting was called to order at 9:00 by President John Tomashunas. There were 74 people in attendance representing 43 companies.

John introduced our special guest Carlo Scagnelli. Carlo is President of the SAGGROUP Executive Committee.

He then had representatives from companies new to the regional group introduce themselves. Petitions for guest membership were presented by Computer Task Group, Wilmington, DE and Complete Computer Consulting, Downingtown, PA. All of the petitions for guest membership were accepted by the board.

There was no Old Business to be covered.

New Business was opened up for nominations for 1987-88 Officers. There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations and the election will be held at the next meeting.

Tom Bradbury, Hay Group, reported on the last Executive Committee meeting. Tom covered the makeup and purpose of the Executive Committee. He also talked about the "Connections" magazine and upcoming customer training in NATURAL 2.

Larry Jayne, Software AG, then talked about his activities at Software AG. Larry is responsible for the newsletter and the International Conference. Larry also reviewed and clarified the competition and participation policy for the User Groups. If you have any questions

regarding the quarterly "Connections" magazine or need more information about the upcoming International Conference, give Larry a call at Software AG in Reston at (703) 860-5050.

The competition and participation policy prohibits the attendance, participation, and giving of presentations at user group meetings by any non-licensed group or persons who compete with Software AG. If your organization is not a licensed user of a Software AG product, then your organization must participate in the Cooperative Consultants Program with Software AG. Contact Andrew Ford in Reston at (703) 648-2446 to obtain the information necessary to sign-up. Andrew is sending the Region a list of participants if you aren't sure of your company's status.

As part of the new business at the next meeting, we will discuss the details of how our local policy will be implemented.

Carlo then talked to us about increasing participation in the User Group. He suggested taking the time to write up hints and tips. Another suggestion was to make a presentation at a meeting.

10 After the break, Jon Ebert, Software AG, spoke to us about Software AG's communication products. These products included the COMPLETE product family, NET-PASS, and NATURAL PROCESS.

The final presentation was by John Church, Software AG. He talked about some of the new features and processing concepts with NATURAL 2.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9th, in the Frederick the Great Ballroom of the Holiday Inn—King of Prussia.

Secretary's Note
Apologies are extended to our Vice President Jim Bell. In the past two sets of minutes I incorrectly referred to him as John Bell.

Jonathan Kinberg Speaks on REVIEW Version 2

Bill Hirons

The meeting was on June 9, 1987 at the Marriott Hotel in Syracuse and opened at 9:30 by Laura Jacobs with the introduction of 32 attendees representing 15 organizations. The central theme was large data bases.

Jonathan B. Kinberg led off the day's events with a presentation on REVIEW Version 2, Software AG's realtime monitor, which offers online and batch performance reporting for ADABAS, NATURAL, COMPLETE and COMPOSE. He emphasized that poor response time can be attributed, in most cases, to poor application design. REVIEW provides the tools to gain control of the data base by pointing out "problem" jobs that tend to degrade overall system performance.

Larry Jayne then spoke about the User's Conference which will be held November 1st thru the 5th in Miami, Florida. He stated that there will actually be two conferences held concurrently. A technical one which, like previous conferences, will be directed towards DP Management, DBAs, analysts and an executive one which will be directed towards the "upper" management of an organization. Larry emphasized to register early if you are planning on going, since the Fountainebleau Hotel has 1150 rooms and he's expecting an enrollment of 1700 attendees.

He also sought comments and suggestions from the group on how to enhance the Software AG periodical "CONNECTIONS."

The afternoon session began with the business meeting. Laura asked the group to start thinking about running for office in the upcoming elections at the November meeting.

Eric Seifert from Citibank, then gave a presentation on "Performance of Large Databases." The environment, requiring 24

hour availability, mandates optimum performance. Eric provided a list of things that can be done to maximize ADABAS performance.

A round table discussion on large volume files closed the day's activities.

Future Meetings:
September 15—CTG Buffalo
    Users Presentations
        Third Generation Languages vs NATURAL 2
    Election of Officers

November 18—Rochester Gas and Electric
    Security
    Post Converence reports

Owen Plaster Talks About His Experiences with NET-PASS

Joe Leighty
State of Colorado

The Summer Regional meeting of the Rocky Mountain East SAG Users was held August 21, 1987 at the State of Colorado General Government Computer Center in Lakewood.

Annual elections were held with Jim Keebaugh of TRW being named Regional Rep. Dave Ritter of Metropolitan State College was elected Program Coordinator and Gene Fisher of Jefferson County Schools was chosen Secretary/Treasurer. We extend our congratulations and thanks to these men for their willingness to serve.

Larry Jayne of Software AG was in attendance and helped clarify the Software AG policy and guidelines on Regional meetings. The group vigorously affirmed its affiliation to Software AG, but also expressed the desire to hear presentations from third party sources. The consensus appeared to be that, at the discretion of the Regional officers, we should set aside one or more of our quarterly meetings for third parties with the remainder reserved for Software AG.

✑ SOFTWARE AG   # INFORMATION REQUEST CARD

YES, Please send me additional information on:

☐ NET-PASS

☐ 17th International Software AG Users' Conference Registration Kit

☐ NATURAL ELITE Computer Based Training

☐ SUPER NATURAL Courseware

☐ NATURAL PRODUCTIVITY CENTER

☐ Software AG Professional Services

☐ Software AG Custom Solutions

☐ Please Include me on the Customer Training Mailing List

☐ Other _____

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Reston, VA 22091
Attn: Ken Anderson

Following the business meeting, Larry Jayne asked the group for feedback on Connections. A few cosmetic improvements were suggested, but compliments far outweighed criticism. Recent trends in user and product manager articles were seen as particularly encouraging.

Larry then spoke about the upcoming Conference and the new Executive Track. The benefits of having a better informed management were apparent to many of the technical types present.

After the break, Owen Plaster, of the Colorado Department of Revenue, gave a presentation on NET-PASS. Owen had been involved in the alpha and beta tests since September, 1986. Owen was very complimentary about the product's wealth of features, reliability and documentation. By permitting multiple concurrent VTAM application sessions, NET-PASS lowers system overhead by reducing logon activity. The transmission optimizer feature and the ability to pre-position users into VTAM applications (e.g. CICS or TSO) reduce network overhead. Subjectively, Owen felt that productivity would be enhanced because people could think like people instead of compartmentalizing and batching their work as they had done in single session environments.

Mickey Trujillo of Fashion Bar capped the session by sharing his experiences installing NATURAL 2. His presentation was punctuated with some much appreciated humor. The message was encouraging. NATURAL 2 installs easily, the source conversion utilities work well and the buffer pool manager seems to work in all environments. Mickey found that the NATURAL 1.2 TSO driver (NATTSO) could be used successfully with NATURAL 2 (at least in his environment). He identified a couple of run time anomalies to watch out for. First, the INPUT NOERASE statement appears to behave differently; and, second, there are occasional NAT0954 errors which occur on arithmetic operations.

The next Regional meeting will be held at a time and place to be announced by our newly elected officers.

Sue Karlin Discusses ADABAS 5 Features

The June 25, 1987 meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at Red Lion Riverside in Boise, ID.

New Business—Leo W. Schutter, Chairperson

Call from the Chairperson for topic ideas. Some suggestions were:
—NATURAL 2 class/workshop
—Distributive Processing

Call from the Chairperson for meeting locations. Some recommendations were:
—Jackpot, Nevada
—Sun Valley, Idaho
—alternate between Boise, Idaho and Salt Lake City, Utah
—Idaho Falls, Idaho

Request for a designated contact person per organization—none received at meeting. Asked to send names, etc., when one appointed.

ADABAS 5—Sue Karlin, Software AG

Software AG has been conducting intensive testing on ADABAS 5 for the last one and one-half years in Reston, VA. Also it has been in user alpha testing in Europe for the past nine months.

ADABAS 5 is based on the concept of Distributed Data Base Management (DDBM). This is a philosophy where the files in the data base are logically configured rather than physically, i.e., you can have one logical file that is actually made up of several physical files. This would be transparent to the application. This would also allow for remote data base processing. In our current data base environment (with ADABAS Version 4.1) the applications must be sensitive to the location of the data—whether it is remote or local. A DDBM doesn't care about how many data bases there are or what their physical loctions are—logical rather than physical. So far no vendor has come up with a solution to this quandary. This is mainly due to the problem of dealing with update or retrieval of data from multiple physical locations.

To address these obstacles, Software AG's DDBM has four components:

1. DBMS—Process the PET (ie., two phase commit protocol), create and maintain distributed files, and on-line utilities.

2. ADANET—Key functions are: translation of logical ID's to physical ID's, distributed search management, and distributed transaction management and recovery.

3. NETWORK—Provides capability to distribute data storage and processing using a variety of different communication protocols using network addressing, route selection, communication with neighboring nodes using appropriate protocols, routing table synchronization.

4. PREDICT—Will provide capability to define and maintain a distributed data base and distributed file directory.

All calls to ADABAS in the Version 5.1 environment will be considered logical not physical.

No changes to Data Storage will be required; however, there will have to be changes to the Associator—conversion will be automatically done by the nucleus. This would not mean a larger space requirement for the Associator. Buffers will be processed through cross-memory services instead of the SVC, leaving SVC's function merely that of a traffic cop.

There will be sharing of the IFB via global use—no duplication of this information. Also, the IFB will be translated in the work pool rather than the FBP. This should reduce the number of overwrites. Thread processing will be done in the work pool instead of the work dataset. The end result of both of these changes will be less I/O.

ADAMINT will be a "frozen" product—will not be considered in any new enhancements.

Multi-thread update, will replace the single update through thread 1. The limit of twenty threads will still exist—the user may assign the threads for update or simply command processing as necessary.

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Software AG does suggest a maximum number of update threads of three to five.

In Version 5.1, when an ET is issued, the nucleus will scan the command queue and process all ETs at that time. Only one write to Work will then be done, instead of one for each ET.

For other enhancements, please see attached list (Exhibit 'A").

Also, with ADABAS 5, an online menu driven DBA assistance system will be available—ADABAS ONLINE SERVICES. This system will allow processing of these areas:

1. ADABAS session communication

2. ET data/checkpoints

3. File maintenance

4. Data base maintenance

5. Data base report

6. Space calculation

These would be well received in the DBA community! They would eliminate the need to create and execute our own JCL when running utilities, and would also give us the ability to process certain operator commands.

UTILITY CHANGES:

1. All two-step utilities will be one-step

2. JCL changes (not expounded upon)

3. Restart checkpoints for large utilities

4. Logs utility execution to checkpoint

5. Can restore from tape housing needed file, rather than searching through all tapes for needed file.

International Conference—Larry Jayne, Manager, Customer Relations

This year Software AG is going to be offering an "Executive Track" at their International Conference in Miami, Florida.

The Executive Track will be seminars designed specifically for upper management personnel. It will be held on Monday and Tuesday only.

The other side of the coin will be the "Technical Track" which will be composed of seminars similar to those held in previous years—aimed at the technical users. It will run Monday through Thursday.

Future conferences are scheduled as follows:

| 1988 | Nashville, TN |
| 1989 | Anaheim, CA |

ADASQL User Presentation—Ruth Pacheco, State of Utah

Ruth's presentation was on 'Converting from ADAMINT to ADASQL'. She talked on her experiences encountered while trying to implement a system they received from another state. The system was written in ADAPREP. After reviewing this system, they decided to purchase and use ADASQL to accomplish the conversion.

Structured Query Language (SQL) is a data base retrieval language developed by IBM. ADASQL is based on that language.

ADASQL can retrieve one or more records based on search criteria. These records are stored in a 'table' fashion and processed from there. Cursors are used to position yourself within the table while processing records.

When converting from ADAMINT to ADASQL these suggestions were made:

1. Analyze ADAMINT macros:
   a) Check for ADABAS passwords
   b) Check for single and paired macros
   c) Pull off search criteria
   d) Pull off field names
   e) Decide on when to declare cursors and name them

2. Modify COBOL program:
   a) Build ADASQL selection statements
   b) Modify LOOP processing
   c) Convert other commands

3. General suggestions:
   a) Watch out for conditional statements—cannot do calls in conditional statement, must change to performs

   b) Avoid duplicating control blocks and buffers—put all single record processing in separate paragraphs, so program does not generate duplicate information
   c) Mixing ADAMINT and ADASQL
      • Maintain correct command sequences,
      • Possible conflicts with command ID's.

NOTE: We do have extensive backup documentation from Ruth, for future reference.

NATURAL CONNECTION Demo—John Martin, Software AG SSR

NATURAL CONNECTION is a PC-based application with the following features:

1. multi-task, menu-driven processor,

2. allows for toggling between mainframe and PC,

3. can invoke procedures for delay starting, and

4. can schedule invoking of PC applications for later execution.

The next meeting will be held on October 8th in Salt Lake City, Utah. Gordon Wood volunteered to coordinate the meeting location arrangements.

We will strive to have NATURAL 2 and Distributive Processing as the main items on that agenda.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Mark Milne Presents ADABAS 5 Highlights

The June meeting was called to order by President Ted Dumetz. There were about 30 people in attendance.

Ted reminded those in attendance that election of officers is coming up soon. He announced that hand-

outs were available from the latest SAGGROUP Executive Committee meeting.

Mark Ambrose of TICOR announced an early warning for ADAMINT users with ADABAS SM10.

Jon Ebert, Product Manager of the COM-PLETE family of products, presented a slide presentation.

The base system products include:

—the nucleus (COM-PLETE, COM-POSE)

—COM-PASS for customizing user profiles, providing start-up transactions, and managing up to 9 concurrent sessions

—Advanced NATURAL Services for online printing, graphics, online workfiles, and RJE submission from online NATURAL

—Program development utilities

—System management utilities.

Add-on charge products include:

—COM-PLETE security system

—REVIEW—interactive performance monitoring

—ACCESS—can attach any TP monitor to COM-PLETE.

He then compared and contrasted COM-PLETE and COM-POSE, and also discussed ADABAS HPE (High Performance Option). Jon then reviewed the general status of the products and possible release dates.

NET-PASS, Software AG's session manager, was discussed which is installed as a VTAM application and has 4 functions:

—Session management (multiple simultaneous sessions in multiple TP monitors)

—Screen management, including windows

—Session control (session portability and multiple CPU's)

—Operator control facilities

Jon also gave an overview of NATURAL PROCESS which runs NATURAL against a pre-defined DDM of operating system data. Reports can be made on all aspects of the operating and spooling systems. This can be a replacement for TSO/ISPF functions.

Mark Milne, Product Manager for ADABAS, ADASQL, and 4 other products presented a slide presentation.

ADAMINT will continue to be supported, but not enhanced. ADASQL should be the choice for use with 3rd generation languages.

Some aspects of SQL are the following: data manipulation, data definition, data security, adhoc query, portability, standard, industry accepted.

Some extensions for ADASQL are: better use of ADABAS, sorted processing, histogram, centralized error handling, automatic cross referencing with PREDICT, transaction commitment/roll back.

ADASQL commands are embedded in the 3GL code, run through a preprocessor which uses PREDICT and populates it, and outputs source code with direct calls. This source is then compiled. It gives high productivity because it is simple and uses PREDICT. It is efficient because it generates direct calls.

Mark then discussed ADABAS 5. This version is a complete rewrite of the product. The product will be in alpha test in July. It will be in test for 60-90 days, will be modified based on the test results, and be released for beta testing. When generally available it will be released in phases similar to the release of NATURAL 2.

Mark highlighted 5 areas of change in the product:

—Performance: buffer pool above 16MB, multi-thread update, internal modifications for efficiency, adds another search algorithm, buffered ET's, and others

—Relational support: non-keyed search, soft coupling

—Utilities: utilities rewritten, new functions, some functions in nucleus (meaning ADABAS online services now possible), batch utilities still available

—Internal Changes: SVC versus cross-memory services

—Distribution: ADANET add-on software to extend ADABAS across multiple files on multiple CPU's.

Following Mark's presentation there was then an extensive question and answer period.

Jeff Schmidt Demonstrates PREDICT Verification Rules

Laurie Hanley
Southwest Regional SAGGROUP

The June 5, 1987 meeting was called to order by Larry Godec, the Interim Southwest Regional Representative. The following items of business were covered:

1. Elections for the SAG Southwest Region Users' Group

2. General discussion concerning vendors—Larry Jayne, Software AG

3. Recovering ADABAS FROM Hardware Failures—Bill Wagner, UT

4. Human Resources Application for ADABAS/NATURAL Environment—John Cailloux, ISI

5. Year in Review—Jon Hoaldridge, Software AG

6. Discussion concerning the Software AG International Conference—Larry Jayne

7. PREDICT Verification Rules—Jeff Schmidt, Software AG

8. Open Forum

ELECTIONS:

The First order of business was to hold elections for the SW Region users' group. The results were as follows:

Larry Godec (Computer Language Research)—Regional Rep
Kerrie Meyler (T.G.I. Friday's)—Program Coordinator
Laurie Hanley (T.G.I. Friday's)—Secretary/Treasurer

Persons who wish to make contributions and/or suggestions for future meetings, please contact one of the above representatives. All input is appreciated!

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GENERAL DISCUSSION CONCERNING COMPETING VENDORS:

The discussion as to whether competing vendors should attend Software AG user group meetings aired many concerns of both Software AG and the users' group. It is the policy of Software AG that consultants, who are not a part of the Business Development Division Program, as well as competitors, are not allowed to attend, participate in or give presentations at SAGGROUP meetings.

RECOVERING ADABAS FROM HARDWARE ERRORS: A COOKBOOK: (I.E. "The Rocky Hardware Picture Show")

The discussion centered around the very important and informational topic of recovering ADABAS from hardware errors. Recovery of the following ADABAS components were discussed in detail:

Data Storage
Associator
Work
Temp
Sort
Protection Log
Command Log

Anyone interested in copies of Bill Wagner's foils should contact Larry Godec or Kerrie Meyler.

HUMAN RESOURCES APPLICATION FOR ADABAS/ NATURAL:

John Cailloux, Regional Sales Manager for INTEGRAL SYSTEMS, presented a human resources software package for ADABAS. Some brief highlights of this package are:

- Package is written in environment's native language (NATURAL)

- the entire system is in table form

- interfaces with many other vendors' software packages

- fully customized within a system upon installation

- reporting capabilities use SUPER NATURAL

- uses NATURAL and ADABAS security packages

- multiple tax entity reporting possible

For more complete information concerning this package, contact John Cailloux of INTEGRATED SYSTEMS at (214) 470-0550.

YEAR IN REVIEW:

Jon Hoaldridge of Software AG discussed the 1987 fiscal year current product distribution mix. The results are attached.

SOFTWARE AG INTERNATIONAL USERS' CONFERENCE:

The 1987 Users' Conference will be held in Miami, Florida from November 1-5. This year's conference will have two tracks: a technical track and an executive management track.

The technical track will be subdivided for IBM and DEC/VAX users. This track will include 111 + sessions, a demo hall to demo new products, and an open forum Monday evening to talk directly with the Software AG product designers and technical staff.

The executive management track will follow a slightly different format. This track will run from November 1-3 and will include several informative speakers discussing subjects such as: conceptual thinking, 2nd generation applications and concepts, Software AG future directions, etc.

Because the management executive track is by invitation only, executives are urged to inform Software AG if they wish to attend. For additional information contact the Users' Conference Registrar at (703) 648-2486.

Also, sites for the 1988 and 1989 conference were announced:

1988 Nashville, Tennessee at Opryland
1989 Anaheim, California at the Hilton

PREDICT VERIFICATION RULES:

Along with the new release of NATURAL 2, is PREDICT V2.2. Jeff Schmidt, of Software AG, demonstrated how the PREDICT verification rules work under this new release. Some of the highlights of his discussion follow:

There are four basic types of verification rules:

1. CONCEPTUAL—these rules are used in the planning stages

2. INLINE—this type of rule is stored in a MAP, not in PREDICT

3. FREE—these rules are stored in PREDICT and are available to the programmers

4. AUTOMATIC—these rules are tied to fields through the DDM (a rule is considered free until a DDM is generated then it is an automatic rule)

- The PREDICT verification rules provide for standardized editing rules and error messages, checked automatically

- You can have up to fifty verification rules tied to an ADABAS file

- Overall performance should increase (less overhead since reinputs in MAPS don't have to switch control back and forth between the program and the map)

- The verification rules work only with MAPS.

OPEN FORUM (Important Notes):

Several important points were brought up in a general discussion at the close of the meeting.

1. A ZAP was announced (#NT273902) which will return a condition code in Batch NATURAL under DOS VSE/SP2.

2. A conversion utility is available for NATURAL 2 which will clean up global variables by removing format and length specifications and defining them in the Global Data Area. A tape will be distributed to all account reps in the near future.

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Washington State University Shares Their Experiences with NATURAL 2

Paul Brogger

The June 5th, 1987 meeting of the Northwest Region was attended by 42 members from 21 organizations, and featured NATURAL 2 presentations, including a beta test demo.

Bill Anderson opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the first item on the agenda: when should the next SAGGROUP Northwest regional meeting be held? After some discussion, the region voted to hold an extra meeting in September and quarterly thereafter. Justifications for the extra meeting included the increased level of product activity around NATURAL 2 and ADABAS 5.

Bill Anderson summarized the Executive Committee notes, reporting that Software AG's SERVICE CONNECTION is "not dead", but will probably be delayed by NATURAL 2 and ADABAS 5. Word should be available at the 1987 International Users' Conference.

Bill also wanted to compliment Bill Linker and Ken Torri for their help with a COM-PLETE benchmark at Service Center I.

Jerry Maioli of Western Library Network presented on their CDROM desktop database product, "Lasercat".

Jerry began by summarizing the nature of the Western Library Network, a division of the Washington State Library. Its charter is to provide bibliographic cataloging services to Northwest area libraries. From the Library of Congress and participant input, WLN has built an ADABAS database of 4 + million logical records. These records are lengthy textual summaries of information about books (author, title, publisher, subject, etc.) This database is made accessible online by a variety of keyword and other descriptors with a large PL/I and Assembler application system, and is used as source data in batch mode for the creation of a variety of hardcopy products.

The focus of Jerry's presentation, however, was WLN's use of the new CDROM technology to offload the 2 million most-used records from this database to a PC-based desktop inquiry/reporting system. Using batch mainframe software, the selected records are read, inverted, and compressed, creating a number of data and access key files. These are concatenated on tape in a specified format and sent to a vendor for creation of CDROM laser disks. Finally, a PC with CDROM drives and access software (written in C) are used by librarians to perform local searching and reporting on this desktop database. The three disks used in the current implementation allow over 1.5 gigabytes of compressed data and indexes to be searched and read from the menu-driven PC application. Augmentation of the read-only CDROM database with floppy disks enables eventual update of the mainframe (source) data after communication to the host via TP linkup.

While not strictly a presentation of an ADABAS-related product or service, LaserCat provides an example of one use of the emerging technology of CDROM laser disks. Jerry stayed on with a demonstration setup of LaserCat, which received much interest during breaks.

Jim Hill was introduced for a presentation of Washington State University's experiences as a beta test site for NATURAL 2. Jim began with an overview of WSU's NATURAL environment and many applications, and went on to the topic of WSU's experiences with installation of the beta tape.

Installation of NATURAL 2 at WSU began on January 27, took only 2-3 hours, and went essentially smooth. In general, the product seemed to work, the new features were there, but some new features exhibited problems. Jim recommended attending Software AG's "road show" on NATURAL 2 capabilities for a better understanding of the differences between the older and newer versions. Important points include:

- INPL changes—
  NATMAINT has been eliminated. INPL is now part of the nucleus, and INPL recognizes FSEC, FNAT and FUSER. The System file is protected under Version 2 because the nucleus recognizes N.S.S. files.

- Buffer Pool Manager—
  Use of the Buffer Pool available and required for all environments (including CMS, TSO & batch), NATURAL programs are now fully reentrant and are shared/executed directly from the Buffer Pool. One Buffer Pool is used per region, the Buffer Pool Manager employs an aging algorithm to make space utilization more efficient, and statistics on use are available through SYSTAT. NATURAL 1.2 nuclei and buffers can be run concurrently with Version 2.1 nuclei and buffers. Version 2.1 can load both 1.2 and 2.1 object code.

- TP Interface—
  One interface will be used for all subsystems (CON-NECT, SECURITY, etc.), the CICS interface is now written in Command Level and the CICS MSIZE limit of 64k has been removed (while the USIZE limit is still at 32k).

- CICS Storage Handling—
  Dynamic storage organization has been made contiguous and GETMAIN/FREEMAIN usage eliminated because Version 2.1 manages its own space in single large area GETMAINed from CICS. Available space is divided into "threads" for management purposes, and parameters determine the number and size of threads.

- Storage Control Program—
  NATURAL temp storage under CICS can be segregated from non-NATURAL applications' storage, and either CICS temporary storge or a VSAM file can be used for the Roll File.

- CICS Configuration—
  NATURAL manages its portion of the DSA, which is divided into threads and utilized as needed. This storage apparently can be located "somewhere else" to avoid 512k limit on Buffer Pool implied by operation under CICS.

- Distribution Tape—
  A documentation file is found at the front of the distribution tape with lots of good information, and drafts of the documentation were made available early. WSU has been receiving fix tapes at a rate of about one each week.

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Darrell Davenport of WSU took the floor to highlight important new or changed installation parameters for NATURAL 2.

- ESIZE—up to 64k, even in CICS environment
- DSIZE—debug buffer for ADALOG, up to 64K
- SORTSIZE—sort buffer area
- MADIO—maximum ADABAS I/O between screens—this needs to be set high when DBA is SYSMAINing many programs, for STO, etc.
- RI—release hold on records (using "where")
- MENU—main menu on or off
- SM—structured mode on or off
- DTFORM—default form for date
- INTENS—intensify report lines specified in MAP
- MAINPR—default report number
- PC—NATURAL CONNECTION to PC's
- TD—time differential for different time zones
- XSORT—extra sort parameters

Dave Ostrom, Administrative Computing Systems Manager at WSU, talked about some intricacies of the conversion process. Dave began with a summary of the WSU hardware and software environment. Then he summarized the known requirements for conversion to NATURAL 2 operation:

- "OBTAIN pe $(1-n)$" should be changed to "OBTAIN pe (1:n)" (The old syntax seems to work, but has been called "unpredictable" by Software AG—this conversion is an established goal at WSU.)
- maps must be recataloged
- Global Data Area must be built for each application utilizing shared data
- "DEFINE DATA GLOBAL" and "END DEFINE" must be added to all programs sharing global entities
- "DEFINE subroutine—name" must be changed to "DEFINE SUBROUTINE subroutine-name"

- numeric field definitions of the type "(N.4)" and "(N4.)" must be changed to "(N0.4)" and "(N4)" or "(N4.0)" respectively.

Next Dave listed some optional conversion items. Expanded use of maps, MOVE INDEXED to utilize array handling capabilities of NATURAL 2, HELP utilization, Structured Mode programming, use of EXTERNAL subroutines, SORT, and REINPUT using HELP are all seen as possible enhancements. Also, cleanup of WSU's large programs which currently are split into multiple source modules and combined at compile time is desirable. Finally, conversion of numeric data to packed fields to gain CPU efficiency is an option.

Given the above, and because of a desire to minimize problems, the WSU conversion plan was summarized as follows:

- no enhancement of converted applications/programs will be allowed (during the conversion process)
- no optional conversion changes will be allowed
- conversion will be made (initially) to Reporting Mode only
- conversion will begin when a clean version of NATURAL 2 is available, and is scheduled to finish 4 months later (except for applications using NATURAL CONNECTION, which will wait until NATURAL 2 and NATURAL CONNECTION are working together)

Next came a summary of design issues to be considered by analysts when working for NATURAL 2. There are more objects to be dealt with (Local and Global Data Areas and subprograms), there's a new freedom from some size limitations, and SETUP/RETURN can be used to call other application programs. New systems will be "more COBOL-like", array processing is enhanced, error message handling is simplified, and enhanced map facilities are available for prototyping.

NATURAL 2 programmers will need to deal with enhanced editors, Structured Mode programming, HELP and processing rules. New or modified forms of subroutine linkage are embodied in PERFORMs of EXTERNAL subrou-

tines, FETCH/RETURN and CALLNAT. Enhanced ESCAPE, screen maps and report maps will be available.

Tentative standards for WSU's future development include the mandatory use of Structured Mode, use of their own CICSHELP package (rather than NATURAL HELP), use of SYSERR for application error messages, and use of report maps. The question of use of a Local Data Area for each DDM is unresolved. LDA's will require management effort, but should be better than current situation.

Darrell Davenport took the floor again to talk about upward incompatibility and demonstrate the conversion process. Known differences between NATURAL 1.2 and 2.1 include:

- "DIVIDE 5 BY 3 GIVING #ANSR (N5.2)" NATURAL Version 1.2 gives integer part only, NATURAL Version 2.1 gives fraction as well.
- "IF NOT mu$(1-10)$" works properly under Version 2 (using AND logic)
- "LOGON" in editor clears globals
- "P" in editor PURGES (not split screen)
- "S" in editor splits screen (not SCAN)
- "L M" in editor lists maps, not modules

Major current problems to be fixed by the production release include:

- packed fields
  - —sign is x'C', not x'F'
  - —work files have wrong lengths
  - —MOVE INDEXED has problems
- AT BREAK
  - —numeric 8 fields don't work with BREAK
  - —won't accept syntax in READ WORK FILE
- READ WORK N . . . AT END OF FILE
  (won't compile inside REPEAT loop)
- GET SAME
  gets first occurrence only

- READ LOGICAL

    sometimes needs "STARTING FROM"

- SORT

    cannot access SYNCSORT yet

Darrell then demonstrated the conversion of two simple programs and a map from Version 1.2 to 2.1. The procedure effectively demonstrated that NATURAL 2 is a reality.

Bill Linker took the floor for "SAG Time". He began by announcing that Software AG's new product ADASQL is available and is meant to serve as an introduction of Software AG products to the SQL world. ADASQL is basically a precompiler for SQL syntax in COBOL, PL/1, and Ada environments, generating Direct Calls in the target languages.

Bill encouraged us to put his name in the appropriate place on registration forms for the upcoming International Conference. Also, he advised us to register early to obtain rooms in the host hotel, as the nearest other hotel is six blocks away.

Bill is now apparently the only account rep. in the area for Software AG products, having added all area VAX accounts to his portfolio.

Bill wanted to announce that NATURAL 2 is well tested, but admittedly not "bug-free". Software AG is planning a phased release to minimize impact on support people. Bill encouraged users with major developments on the horizon to call if they need to be considered for an early release of NATURAL 2.

Next, Jerry Kinder of Software AG announced the availability of COM-PLETE and COM-POSE handouts, and asked for feedback on the SM10 manuals. Most comments were very positive, especially with respect to the rewritten ADABAS Internals manual.

Jerry then suggested that the Region might consider scheduling Software AG training at some user's site with attendees splitting Software AG's fee and perhaps saving on travel and lodging (compared to training at a Software AG training site). This suggestion was well received, and during the fol-

lowing round of attendees' introductions, comments on desired training were solicited. The most often mentioned courses included NATURAL 2 and ADABAS Version 5 Capabilities, ADABAS Internals and File Design, Performance and Tuning For ADABAS/NATURAL, and (a nonexistent course in) NATURAL Internals. Mike Marrah then enhanced interest with a generous offer of some free training if the Region could provide an appropriate facility. Bill Anderson asked attendees to consider whether they could offer such a site and enable the Region to take advantage of this opportunity.

Steve Baker gave notice that the ADABAS SM10 tape contains modified ADAMINT modules, despite previous announcements of discontinued support for that product.

Jim Hill then passed around drafts of the rewritten NATURAL 2 manuals, which he characterized as "much improved". When asked how does a shop "learn" Structured Mode programming, Jim suggested that the programmers use the reference manuals and some experimentation, while senior applications people should probably attend Software AG's NATURAL 2 Capabilities presentation.

Darrel Davenport then got online to demonstrate the NATURAL HELP facility. He showed a window invoked by HELP question marks ("?") in fields of a screen. The editor provides a window with scrolling up/down and left/right through a 250 line by 250 column logical screen.

A panel was convened consisting of attendees who'd been to WSU for an introduction to Version 2 and the Capabilities course. The panel participants were asked to summarize their reactions to what they saw at WSU, and what they plan for their organizations.

- Phil Bergh and Kristen Misocky, Weyerhauser:
  A lengthy conversion process is expected, as is difficulty in convincing users to convert "working" applications. The major unanswered question is "When is SUPER NATURAL going to generate Version 2 Code?"

- Dave Ostrom, Washington State University:
  WSU is anxious to implement changeover quickly. Dave

reviewed WSU's conversion plan (which is detailed above).

- Ken Howard, University of Victoria:
  Ken's goal is a quick conversion after product appears stable. He sees training of programmers as The issue in a small shop. He's concerned about installation with a Buffer Pool, and separation of FNAT, FDIC and user files. Rather than convert "as needed", he wants to get the conversion done, with all programmers fully involved. He hopes his people will look at the conversion as an opportunity to clean up code. As an adjunct to the conversion process, and consistent with long-term goals, he plans to install some new program librarian software, which will be implemented in NATURAL/ADABAS as the first Version 2 development project. This will be an internal project designed to facilitate learning Version 2 and deciding upon standards. He's concerned about conversion of two-character field names, and plans formal in-house training after the conversion is done.

- Frans Arnold, Washington State Department of Transportation:
  DOT is faced with a library of 2500 programs which were implemented some minimal standardization, but 90% of which employ two-character field names. In addition, program libraries tend to be segregated along departmental lines rather than by application. This will complicate conversion, given NATURAL 2's application orientation. DOT estimates a ½ million dollar conversion effort. Frans expects training to be a big part of the effort, and said that standards are to be reexamined during the process. Frans hopes to educate management on potential gains in efficiency to be had by conversion.

- Bill Anderson, Washington State Department of Labor and Industries:
  L & I is faced with some "renegade" applications sharing single libraries and Global Data Areas. He expects that standards regarding GDA's will simplify conversion.

Bill likes the fact that data will be managed separate from programs, but finds it frustrating

that none of this new separation will be embodied in PREDICT yet. The NATURAL cross-reference generator will not be enough for administration of the more complex environment implied by NATURAL 2. The editors are a definite plus, but Bill thinks that PREDICT should be the sole repository for information about data. Initial values for elements in Global Data Areas will be helpful, but limit of one GDA per program will pose difficulties.

With regard to conversion, L & I expects to keep it simple at first, and get it over with. Enhancement can come later. Bill suggested that it's time to start NOW, by documenting global variables. Bill is afraid of the "administrative nightmare" threatened by the multiplicity of data and program types and capabilities, and hopes that more standards will help alleviate this burden.

The new subroutine and array capabilities will reduce reliance upon COBOL subroutines, but Bill doesn't expect complete conversion to external mapping except where screen maps are shared extensively. The SEPARATE and DECIDE statements look good. Bill also sees training as the major issue, with the conversion itself not posing any major threat.

- Bob Hartsell, Service Center 1: SC1 expects a long test period, and they'll wait for releases to settle down before converting. It's apparent that there's much to learn, much that's new, and he hopes his organization will gradually reach consensus on approaches to the main issues. Once conversion is undertaken, he expects a quick conversion to Reporting Mode, the gradual rewrites to Structured Mode. Bob sees no reason to establish Structured Mode as a standard or push for it in all applications. He sees conversion itself as not difficult, but management of the conversion process will be complex in large environments.

At the close of the meeting, a general "thank you" was offered to Jim Hill and the people from WSU for having given the Region the opportunity to see NATURAL 2 in ac-

tion. Jim emphasized that despite the negative things brought up in their beta test, NATURAL 2 is a REAL product, and is steadily improving.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for the second or third Friday in September.

VMS Special Interest Group

The special interest group met on June 4th with 14 users attending and 3 Software AG staff members. The meeting was hosted by Software AG at the Cambridge head office.

The first topic was a presentation on Software AG's NETWORK product by Andy Coutts. Andy discussed the present components of NETWORK including the implementation in the VMS environment using HYPERCHANNEL, Interlink or ETHERNET. He also explained that NETWORK represented distributed processing whereas ADANET (a future product) will handle distributed data. Andy discussed NETWORK functions and explained there are some network issues that users must be aware of. Mark Grenier and Ed de Groot from Dofasco (who have installed NETWORK) pointed out that in their testing they realized that you can't run local utilities against a remote database since the utilities require direct access to the database.

The next subject was a discussion of performance and tuning issues, which started with a presentation from Andy on the various ADARUN parameters. Also discussed were how to modify the various parameters and to monitor their effectiveness. This topic concluded with a discussion of some of the problems some organizations were experiencing and how to resolve them.

Gerry Holmes from CNCP discussed how they developed their Computerized Logging and Outage Control System on ADABAS as a

replacement for their CINCOM system which was having performance problems. The system involves a large network of approximately 200 offices with 350-400 terminals. The system itself consists of 2500 (NATURAL and FORTRAN) modules which were developed at the rate of about 65 lines/day/programmer. The methodology used involved a very structured approach including high level analysis and design with technical and quality reviews. The program specifications were done using pseudo code. This process ensured less than 50 changes required due to errors and only 3 or 4 of these were design errors. Gerry also discussed their method of managing the source programs was through DEC's CMS and he felt this greatly assisted them during the development and maintenance phases.

The final topic of the day was Technical Problem Reporting Procedures. Andy explained how the current process worked and although it was working well it was felt that users could gain by being aware of the problems being experienced by others. After discussing some of the difficulties in implementing such a procedure it was agreed that Software AG will provide a regular report (monthly to start) of common problems, eliminating areas due to human error, documentation, omissions or outdated versions of software.

The meeting concluded with agreement on a tentative agenda for the next meeting which will be held on September 17, 1987 at Software AG's head office in Cambridge.

Kevin Heimbaugh Discusses ADABAS 5 and ADANET

The Eastern Canada Region met on June 5th in Cambridge with 29 users attending. The meeting was

hosted by Software AG in their Cambridge head office.

The meeting began with two presentations by Kevin Heimbaugh from Software AG of North America. The first one was an ADABAS 5. Kevin concentrated on the operational differences with version 4 including the Control Block, the link routine, install procedure, a migration aid for COM-PLETE and CICS customers, as well as the operation in the MVS environment (in particular, the use of Cross Memory Services).

Kevin's second presentation was about ADANET and how it is different from the current product NETWORK (VM, VTAM and CTCS). Kevin discussed the three different types of distributed data that would be supported: Partitioned, Replicated and Concatenated. The presentation was well received, and a number of users commented that this is a product they need right now.

Jan Warren from Consumers Gas gave a presentation on her experiences with NATURAL 2. Jan explained that she had brought a tape containing test programs to Software AG in Cambridge. The programs which were in 1.2 object form were loaded into a version 2.1 system file. The programs were then executed under a V2.1 nucleus. The one problem which occurred was related to the MENU = ON when programs do STACKS instead of STACK TOP since the MENU program stacks itself. Jan also discussed some of the implementation concerns as covered in the ''V2 Capabilities'' seminar, which she indicated were numerous and varied according to the individual organization.

Ted Hillis, also from Consumers Gas, started the next topic with a discussion of their emergency planning procedures. Ted outlined the various steps involved in their recovery plan as well as the preparation required to enable the process to work. This involves testing the procedure as well. To recover the database Ted pointed out you may need the PLOG tapes as well as records of various utilities that were run. Consumers have developed their own ''DBAUDIT'' trail utility which records JCL etc. on an ADABAS file.

Before adjourning a tentative agenda was discussed for the next meeting which will be held October 1st in Ottawa.

Gene Miklovich Illustrates Features of SUPER NATURAL Version 2

The Eastern Canada Users Group met on March 4th in Ottawa. The meeting was hosted by the Department of Regional and Industrial Expansion (DRIE) with Roy Mc-Sheffrey acting as host. There were 35 people in attendance, including 5 from Software AG.

The meeting started with Bob Davis announcing that due to work demands he was resigning as User Group Representative (Note: any user interested in the position is asked to contact Bob Davis at Royal Trust (416) 860-8210 or Gene Miklovich at Software AG (519) 622-0889.

A discussion followed on the role of consultants within the user group. It was pointed out and agreed that client lists should not be sent to consultants, rather lists of consultants should be sent to the users.

The meeting continued with a presentation from Jon Ebert (Communications Product Manager from Software AG of North America); Jon gave an overview of the various communications products, including COM-PLETE, COM-PLETE SECURITY, NATURAL PROCESS, NETWORK, ADANET and ADABAS HPE. However, he concentrated on the products COM-POSE, ACCESS and NET-PASS.

The next presentation was about NATURAL 2 (from Gene Miklovich, Manager User Services SAGCDA) changes and enhancements. The presentation included discussions on the impact of version 2 for the administrators and programmers. Ted Hillis indicated that Consumers Gas would be sending Jan Warren to Cambridge to do some more compatibility testing (Jan has already visited once) and

would be able to report on her findings at the next meeting.

After lunch Gene Miklovich gave another presentation illustrating the new features of SUPER NATURAL Version 2. These included user files, maintenance transactions, defining report layouts and generating NATURAL programs. Gene indicated that SUPER NATURAL Version 2 had been released in the U.S., however the tapes and documentation had not arrived in Cambridge yet, although they should be arriving soon and, all existing customers could expect their copy shortly.

NOTE: Next meetings:
June 4th VMS special interest group—Cambridge
June 5th Regular user group meeting—Cambridge

Susan Brooks Discussed Managing ADABAS File Security

Karen Kolach

The June 5, 1987 meeting of the Western Canadian Region was attended by approximately 40 members and visitors, and included presentations on Managing ADABAS File Security, DOS to MVS Conversion, and ADABAS Performance Measurement under IMS.

Wayne McKay opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. He reminded everyone that the ''empty'' suggestion box was anxiously awaiting ideas on changes/improvements/topics and volunteer speakers. The Open Forum concept was briefly discussed, as it is hoped that a small portion of each meeting can be set aside to share common problems and solutions. Wayne raised an item of interest to all members regarding an alternate avenue for problem resolution from Software AG. Canadian Utilities Ltd. has had a long outstanding NATURAL SECURITY problem that

was reported to Software AG over two and one half years ago. Since Software AG did not acknowledge this as a problem, it was raised with the SAG Executive Committee with resolution forthcoming in the next SM of NATURAL SECURITY. Wayne suggested that if the group agrees about a particular problem that is not being rectified by Software AG (for example, the lack of MPM security in SYSMAIN), then perhaps we should take it as a group to the SAG Executive Committee. Charles West of Nova mentioned that the route he took was to write a letter directly to Software AG in Germany. His particular problem is fixed in NATURAL 2.

Susan Brooks presented Managing ADABAS File Security at Nova. Susan began by reviewing the security Software AG provides (ADABAS File Security, NATURAL System Security, and File Ciphering). Nova uses ACF2, accesses ADABAS files using both NATURAL and un-NATURAL programs, and executes programs under CICS, TSO and batch. Nova's objective was to identify authorized users through a single user logon and to ensure that only authorized users were accessing files via transparent passwords. The problem in achieving this was threefold—an unmanageable number of objects (300+ passwords, 200+ files, 600+ fields, with field level security, Security by Value, and 600+ NATURAL SECURITY profiles), the lack of a link between ADABAS and NATURAL SECURITY, and the time required to make frequent password changes. All were contributing factors in the desire to make a change. The solution was to create an encrypted shadow password file. Although there is some redundancy, the link is now provided. Susan explained that they can now easily identify authorized users and ensure that only authorized users are accessing files. DBA productivity has been improved by providing on-request functions and scheduling password changes in hours vs days. Scheduled exception reporting on unauthorized users and an integrity checker to verify redundant data are also provided. Susan concluded by saying that future Software AG releases were considered in the decision to go this route, and the benefits far outweighed the workload.

Our next speaker, Alex Morrell of the Alberta Wheat Pool, gave a delightful presentation on his experiences with DOS to MVS Conversion.

Warren Matthews of Software AG had numerous announcements to make. Warren informed everyone that all IBM sites should have received ADABAS SM10 and all newly released documentation. This is the last SM level for ADABAS V4.1 for IBM. ADABAS V5 should be released sometime in 1988.

General announcements:

- COM-PLETE Version 4.4 should be available this summer. New features and enhancements will include: new security interface for RACF, Top Secret, and ACF2; threads will be expanded to 1 MG; utilities are fully conversational; full GDDM, PGF/ICU support under COMPLETE; extended storage of CA will be taken advantage of.

- ADABAS V1.4 for the VAX will be released in June.

- PREDICT 2.2.2 will provide links to the processing rules as they relate to NATURAL 2.

- All sites should have received a letter from Gene Miklovich, Manager of User Services in Cambridge, outlining: only vanilla NATURAL 2 is available— no security, no PREDICT, no SUPER NATURAL, no NATURAL CONNECTION; not available for COM-PLETE and CICS; DOS and MVS shops only; the interfaces for other TP monitors (CMS, TSO, IMS/DC) are not ready yet; a form should have been included to request your NATURAL 2 tape.

- Software AG recommends that you understand what NATURAL 2 is about and what is available: use it for training; do not install in Production

- Software AG strongly recommends that you take the NATURAL 2 Capabilities Course (at best, one person from each shop).

- NATURAL 1.1 object code will not run under NATURAL 2. The source must be recatalogued under NATURAL 1.2 first.

- The NATURAL 2 Capabilities course is being held in: Calgary, June 1-2/87, Westin Hotel Edmonton, July 6-7/87, Chateau Lacombe

- Before you can have vanilla NATURAL 2, you must attend the Capabilities course.

- Distribution of vanilla NATURAL 2 will be: 10 sites each month during June/July; 10 sites every two weeks after that.

- Special offer—If you rent NATURAL ELITE for three months (Cost—$3000) it includes the Elite NATURAL 2 Capabilities Course.

- NATURAL 2 Courses: Capabilities Seminar; NATURAL 1 Programming (Reporting Mode); NATURAL 2 Programming (Structured Mode); NATURAL 3 Programming (Advanced NATURAL).

- For NATURAL 2: NATURAL SECURITY—available late August; PREDICT 2.2.2—next couple of weeks; IMS/DC—October timeframe; VS/CMS—hopefully before October.

- The NATURAL Buffer Pool, which is currently optional, will be mandatory for all environments within NATURAL 2.

- SM2 of NATURAL 2 is scheduled for November. This will introduce the Global Buffer Pool for XA.

- ACM feature is not available with PREDICT 2.2.2. It will be available in PREDICT 2.3 which should be released around the same time as NATURAL V2.2.

- Software AG does not recommend giving NATURAL 2 to programmers. Instead, DBAs should use it to experiment with and develop standards.

- NATURAL SECURITY will have a user exit.

- In NATURAL 2 manuals, the bottom of the page says "DRAFT". The final version should be available late August. As well, the documentation for NATURAL 2 manuals is being restructured.

After a short break, Alex Ignacz of Canadian Utilities Limited presented ADABAS Performance Measurement under IMS. Alex be-

gan by explaining that there are currently three IMS Message Processing Regions running under ADABAS at CUL. IMS log data is captured continually, and at the end of each day, MICS (the MVS Integrated Control System package) processes this data and creates SAS files. Through these SAS files, Alex can determine the user, region, transaction arrival time, queue time, start time, residency time, CPU time and end time. Concurrently, ADABAS log data is captured via ADA EXIT 4. This information is passed to SAS as well, to create history files and an extensive array of reports. For example, graphs with associated reports can be generated to show queue build-up by user. The response time objective at CUL is six seconds, but on average, the response time is two seconds or less. Six seconds was selected due to the variability in the type of NATURAL transactions running. Through the information that Alex collects, a NATURAL Response Time Report is sent to all responsible parties for action. This report lists all programs that ran internally for 15 seconds or longer (so that only exceptional transactions are captured). Identified by the report are the problem program, the number of times it was run that day, the number of other users the program affected (queue build-up), the longest elapsed time and the highest residency time. This is just one example of a report that is used to determine the bad performers. In summing it all up, Alex recommended that all NATURAL Applications should be designed with performance in mind.

Our meeting closed with an Open Forum. The group would really like to see some discussions on NATURAL 2. Warren Matthews said that he would try and get someone to speak at our next meeting. Warren also suggested that we should create a "VMS Special Interest Group", since we seem to tailor our meetings to OS shops. It was felt that this group is still struggling and in addition, we have some shops that support both environments. Instead, we will have more presentations with the VAX in mind. Some topics suggested were the VMS mainframe compatibility issue and hyper channel activity. Warren mentioned that he may be able to get someone from Software AG. If anyone would like to give a presentation on the VAX, or any presentation for that matter, please contact Susan at 427-6959.

It should be noted that even new mainframe users experience difficulties in following discussions on the various products. However, as experience is gained, the presentations become more meaningful.

Andy Coutts Presents ADABAS on the VAX

The March 13, 1987 meeting was hosted by the Workers' Compensation Board in Edmonton, Alberta. There were approximately 65 attendees.

Wayne McKay opened the meeting by thanking the past executive for a job well done. He also announced that beginning with the next meeting, a certain portion will be devoted to an open forum, where we can discuss and share common problems and solutions.

Our first speaker, Bill Scollard of DKW Systems Inc., presented "NATURAL 2". Bill reviewed the new features that will be introduced in NATURAL 2, including new functional enhancements, enhancements to the program and map editors, improved program communication, new system variables, and new NATURAL syntax. Of special interest were the conversion and migration considerations. Bill's final message was to plan for NATURAL 2 now!

Andy Coutts of Software AG in Cambridge followed the NATURAL 2 session with a presentation on ADABAS on the VAX. Andy began his talk by giving a brief history on the evolution of the ADABAS family of products. He then discussed the ways in which ADABAS/NATURAL (IBM) are identical and different to ADABAS/NATURAL (VMS). Additional VMS products available on the VAX were touched upon, as well as future developments in this area. Andy reviewed ADABAS performance statistics as of V1.1 for the Loader and Nucleus FINDs, READs and UPDATEs. He then outlined the new and enhanced utilities and new features of ADABAS 1.4 (VMS) and NATURAL 1.2 (VMS). Andy closed his talk by answering the questions—Why ADABAS? Why NATURAL?

In closing, Software AG announced that the NATURAL SM7 tapes should be out, as well as the SM7 fixes. If you have not received them, please contact your local Software AG representative. You should have also received a letter regarding the toll-free numbers to call both Cambridge and Denver.

THE 48TH JAPAN REGION ASSIGN

Tadaharu Yanai
Taisei Corporation

The 48th Japan Region ASSIGN (ADABAS Special Interest Group of Nippon) meeting was held in Tokyo on May 8, 1987 with 87 attendees from 40 organizations.

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Mr. Ookoba, vice president of ASSIGN, reported on the ASSIGN's activities in 1986 and The 4th Joint Conference which was held in March.

The attendees agreed on the activities planned for ASSIGN and research groups for 1987 that I proposed. The groups and the research subject of each group are as follows:

- NATURAL (A): To realize an efficient management of NATURAL including NATURAL SECURITY

- NATURAL (B): To research on NATURAL 2

- NATURAL (C): To research on standardizations of programming

- Tool: To provide specification of ADABAS/NATURAL supporting tool

- Performance (A): To draw a guide of "ADABAS Tunning"

- Performance (B): To research on performance from the file layout point of view

- End users-computing: To research on end users tools based on SOAR-SQ and INTES (supported by Software AG of Far East)

- Dictionary: To research on ADABAS resource management by PREDICT

- ADABAS operation: To research on efficient operation of ADABAS under CTCS.

On the other hand, Kansai District also had the 14th ASSIGN meeting on the same day as Kanto District. Three research groups of this year are as follows:

- Multi-Database: To research on the efficient operation under multi-DB and multi-CPU

- Database Design: To draw a guide and points of considerations during database design

- NATURAL: To research on standardizations of programming.

Each group chose a group-leader, the date of the first research meeting, and plans for this year. Their result of research will be reported at The 5th Joint Conference the next year.

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THE 49TH JAPAN REGION ASSIGN

Tadaharu Yanai
Taisei Corporation

The 49th Japan region ASSIGN (ADABAS Special Interest Group of Nippon) meeting was held in Tokyo on June 30, 1987 with 49 attendees from 33 organizations after the General Meeting for the Japan Region User's Group.

The user's presentation was entitled "The ADABAS usage in Nichi Group" given by Mr. Shiozaki from Nichi Co., LTD, which explained the constitutions of the computer, the process of bringing in ADABAS, and the ideas about end user computing.

Software AG presented "NATSPOOL". Mr. Ishizaka explained the outline and functions of NATSPOOL.

Software AG announced the release of NATURAL 2. Abroad, it has been released, but now in Japan we're developing on the Chinese character and planning the limited release in September.

THE 26TH COM-PLETE USER'S GROUP MEETING

Yuzou Fukumoto
Isetan Data Center

The 26th COM-PLETE SIG (Special Interest Group) meeting was held in Tokyo on June 30, 1986, after the General Meeting for the Japan Region User's Group.

This year, we'll have the conference for COM-PLETE quarterly, including the presentation from Toyo Sash Co., Ltd.; Nissho-Iwai Infocom Systems Co., Ltd.; The Souka-Gakkai and American Family Life Assurance Company.

New research groups of SIG were decided by the demand of the users. Group name and research themes are as follows:

- NET-WORK capacity planning and NET-WORK capacity management group:
  To research and draw a guide of the methods to establish network and network capacity planning tool.

- Documents management group:
  To research what kind of software is needed to manage the documents.

And we'll arrange another meeting with a special theme: to visit companies and have a lecture.

After decision on SIG plans, Mr. Nozawa from Showa Computer System Ltd., explained the functions of COM-VAN V1.0 which is the network system based on COM-PLETE.

14th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Goichi Yoshizawa
Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.

Software AG Users' Group of JAPAN was organized in 1977. At the beginning, its members were few and were mostly composed of ADABAS users. We have grown up since then, so that we are now composed of 170 organizations and have organized 5 groups;

- Special Interest Groups
  ASSIGN (ADABAS Special Interest Group of Nippon)
  COM-PLETE
  A-AUTO (Advanced *AUTOmatic* computer operation system sold by Software AG of Far East)

- Studying Groups
  CROSS-OVER
  MANAGEMENT

ASSIGN, COM-PLETE, and A-AUTO groups study products of Software AG CROSS-OVER group studies subjects beyond the products. And MANAGEMENT group studies general subjects for managers.

All members will attend the annual General Meeting in June and the Joint Conference in March where they read papers.

The 14th Annual General Meeting

The 14th annual general meeting was held on June 23, 1987 in Tokyo. In attendance were 134 members from 120 organizations.

This year executive members were elected for two years to serve. The members are as follows:

President—Goichi Yosizawa, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.
Vice-President—Sadayuki Takehana, Nippon Kougaku K.K.
Vice-President—*Haruo Yamaguchi, Konebo Co., Ltd.
Finance—Sadao Amino, JGC Information System Corporation; Shunichi Murata, Taisei Corporation; Masayosi Uetaka, Isetan Deta Center; Yuuji Yato, Shionogi & Co., Ltd.; *Shiro Suemasu, Software AG of Far East
*New Members

For topics, we decided to give prizes for people who will have

executed remarkable activities for users' group in each year.

President's Message

I think the importance of software and total systems which combines computer networks and application systems increases on business. We require to build application systems quickly and to give appropriate information to persons who need them timely.

I think it is important to use Software AG products effectively since they are an independent software vendor in order to improve our company activities. We interchange technical ideas and concepts between various users in users' group activities. At the same time, we look for information of better quality. Importance of such activities have increased more than before.

After the general meeting, the lecture on "Ethnology of Body Action" was given by Mr. M. Nomura, assistant Professor of National Ethnology Museum. The presentation on "Status of Software AG products usage and future object of Software AG" was given by Mr. Ishii, president, and Mr. Miyadai, executive of Software AG of Far East.

THE 4TH SOFTWARE AG JOINT CONFERENCE

Yuzou Fukumoto
Isetan Data Center

The 4th Software AG of Far East Joint Conference was held at Chatâu-tel Akanezaki near Tokyo from March 12-14, 1987 with 266 attendees of 113 organizations.

This Software AG users' meeting has been organized since 1977 for interchanging and discussing of technical ideas, concerns and concepts between various users.

Users are separated into Special Interest Group Workshops. Joint Conference is the place to report the result of one year studies of the research groups. And the importance of this conference increases year by year. This year, the conference included the following topics.

LECTURE—"THE WOMEN IN ASIA"

On the first day of the conference Ms. Tomoko Yamazaki, women historian, gave us a lecture called "KARAYUKI-SAN" about the hardships that women encountered who went to Asia for work in the beginning of this century. This lecture wasn't on computers, but left a deep impression on the mind of the users.

PRESENTATIONS OF FOUR USERS' APPLICATION

Users were greatly interested in the following four presentations:

- Integrated information management system—automatization from systems development to production run

- Storage management

- Effect and problems to operate A-AUTO (Advanced *AUTO*matic Computer Operation System supported by Software AG of Far East)

- The use of in-house Patent Information retrieval system; SOARSQ.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP WORKSHOPS

ASSIGN (ADABAS Special Interest Group of Nippon)

- DBA group: Role of DBA for system development

- Distributed database group: A guide to distribution

- NATURAL (A) group: Outline of NATURAL management-user's examples

- NATURAL (B) group: The point of processing efficiency on NATURAL

- Prototyping Method group: Patternize the NATURAL programming

- Database Security group: Consideration and use of Database Security

- Tool group: Research and analysis for in-house developed tool and demanded tool

- Performance group: Considerable point of database division

- Database Design group: Examples of file design consideration

- NATURAL group: A method to use NATURAL from processing efficiency in the point of view

COM-PLETE

- Communications between different companies: The expectancy for communications between different companies

- Communications between Mainframe and PCs: Communications between Main-frame and PCs

NEW STUDYING GROUPS

1. Cross-Over

This group was organized in the beginning of this year to discuss problems that happen in each information department from a viewpoint of middle position. This was the first time to join this conference. This time there was a panel discussion about "Office Automatization in the DP department" by two people: Mr. Uetaka from Isetan Data Center and Mr. Katada from Tokyo Sangyo Credit Association.

第 14 回 総会

2. Management

This was also a new group to discuss company's problems from a viewpoint of managerial officers. Three themes which met the demands of time of Japan were the following:

- Fellowships and productivity
- Present situation and direction of DB in Japan
- The sales tax

SAGFE (Software AG of Far East) PRESENTATIONS

- Decision Support System; SYSTEM W
- Integrated System for System Development and Maintenance; PFIT
- ADABAS (VMS)/NATURAL (VMS)

According to the user's questionnaire, most attendees did enjoy lectures, presentations and the parties. Especially the party the second night, where Mr. Watabe from Fuji Television Network, inc. entertained us with wonderful chairmanship, funny games and music, like a TV show. Attendees wanted to meet again at the next conference: The 5th Joint Conference. And the curtain of the conference closed.

Software AG Product Status Report

Software AG offers this Product Status Report, updated quarterly, as a regular feature of Connections in order to advise our customers which products we have released recently and which are scheduled for release in the near future.

Our goal is to provide you with products that perform as you expect them to perform, and that can sometimes mean a delay in release while last-minute bugs are fixed or changes are incorporated. It is, therefore, important to note that all target release dates are as accurate as possible at press time, but are subject to change without notice.

Released: October 1986 to August 1987

Product	Date of Release
SUPER NATURAL ELITE	
Advanced Functions V1.1.1	April 1987
Administration V1.1.0	April 1987
Fundamentals V1.1.1	April 1987
ADASQL (DOS) V1.1.1	May 1987
NET-PASS (OS) V1.5.1	July 1987

Versions

REVIEW V2.1.0	November 1987
SUPER NATURAL V2.1.0	January 1987
NATURAL (OS, DOS) V2.1.1	May 1987
PREDICT (OS) V2.2.2	May 1987
PREDICT (DOS) V2.2.2	July 1987
PREDICT (CMS) V2.2.2	September 1987

System Maintenance Releases

ADABAS Early Warning 021	November 1986
NATURAL V1.2.7	November 1986

NATURAL AF V1.2.3	November 1986
ADABAS Early Warnings 022-023	December 1986
ADABAS VSAM Bridge (OS) V2.1.1	March 1987
ADABAS VSAM Bridge (DOS) V2.1.1	April 1987
ADABAS V4.1.10 (OS, XA, CPO/OS, CPO/XA)	April 1987
ADABAS (CMS) V4.1.10	May 1987
PREDICT Early Warning	July 1987
NATURAL (OS/DOS) V2.1.1 Fix Tape #1	July 1987
NATURAL (OS/DOS) V2.1.1 Fix Tape #2	August 1987
ADABAS V4.1.10	
VSE/SP1	September 1987
VSE/SP2.1	September 1987

VMS

ADABAS (VMS) V1.3.1	May 1987
NATURAL (VMS) V1.2.1	May 1987
NETWORK (VMS) V1.3.0	May 1987
ADABAS Early Warning (VMS) 28-30	May 1987
NATURAL (VMS) V1.2.2	July 1987
ADASQL (VMS) V1.0	July 1987
ADABAS (VMS) V1.3.2 (Install Kit)	July 1987
ADABAS (VMS) V1.3.2 (Update Kit)	July 1987
ADABAS (VMS) V1.4.0	August 1987

Scheduled for Release: September 1987 to January 1988

Products

NET-PASS (DOS) V1.5.1
 In internal test
 Target release date: January 1988

Versions

NATURAL V2.1.1
 CMS
 Released

NATURAL V2.1.2
 OS, DOS
 In beta test
 Target release date: October 1987
 TSO
 In beta test
 Target release date: October 1987
 IMS/DC
 In alpha test
 Target release date: 1st Quarter, 1988
NATURAL VSAM (OS/DOS) V2.1.2
 In beta test
 Target release date: November 1987
NATURAL SECURITY (OS/DOS) V2.1.1
 In beta test
 Target release date: October 1987
COM-PLETE (OS/DOS) V4.4
 In alpha test
 Target release date: November 1987
CON-NECT (OS) V2.1
 In alpha test
 Target release date: January 1988
ADABAS 5
 In alpha test
 Target release date: 1st Qtr, CY1988
PREDICT V2.3
 In internal test
 Target release date: 1st Qtr 1988
NET-WORK V5.1
 In internal test
 Target release date: 2nd Qtr 1988

System Maintenance Releases

ADASQL V1.2
 In internal test
 Target release date: October 1987
PREDICT V2.2.3
 OS/DOS
 In internal test
 Target release date: October 1987
 CMS
 In internal test
 Target release date: December 1987
SUPER NATURAL V2.1.2
 OS/DOS
 In beta test
 Target release date: September 1987
 CMS
 In internal test
 Target release date: October 1987

Get Involved! Start a Local User Group

Dale Nichols
University of Texas at San Antonio

Perhaps one of the most useful, yet least expensive, ways to increase one's knowledge of ADABAS and NATURAL is to participate in a local user group. Locals can provide a means to keep up with new product releases, organize classes, and most importantly, share ideas on how to implement and manage the Software AG products.

Not all areas have local groups, therefore it is to those people that I am addressing this article. Perhaps our experience in Texas may provide some insight.

Two years ago, the central area of Texas did not have a local user group, even though San Antonio and Austin accounted for 10 ADABAS sites, covering a wide diversity of business organizations: 2 universities, 6 government agencies, 1 newspaper, and 1 oil company. Most of the DP staffs were aware of each other but professional communication was, for the most part, moderate.

Occasionally the subject of starting a local user group was discussed but no serious attempt was made until the Fall of 1985. At that time, I decided to plumb the level of interest in a local user group. I called each ADABAS staff to solicit ideas and we collectively decided to have a working breakfast to discuss the subject of starting a local.

The breakfast went well, everyone was enthusiastic, and one company offered to host an initial meeting where we would decide matters such as name and officers. The prevailing sentiment was that we didn't want to become overly formal but wanted something more than "just exchanging old war stories".

Our first business meeting went equally well; a schedule was established, officers elected, and a name

chosen to reflect our beautiful geographical setting—the Hill Country Software AG User Group.

From that point, two years ago, we proceeded to develop a format of presentations that not only included our members but also vendors, giving us a forum to share information. We developed a spirit of cooperation that was encapsulated recently by our present chairperson when she said "Two years ago when I had an ADABAS problem I called Denver. Now I grab my Hill Country user list and make some local calls first." And most often that suffices.

Our experience with forming a local has been very positive. Yours may be only a phone call away.

SAGGROUP Executive Committee Meeting

May 8-9, 1987
SAGNA Regional Office,
Denver, Colorado

The Executive Committee interim meeting was held May 6-8, 1987 at the Denver office of Software AG of North America. Meeting highlights are included for your information. Should you require additional information or clarification on these or other topics, please write me at the address in the rear of the NEWSLETTER and a detailed answer will be provided either directly or in future issues.

Annual International Users' Conference

The mailings of conference material have been sent out. Please note that there is a discount for early registration. Earlier registration will help provide better handling of some of the functions of the conference. With the expected attendance to be about 1700, it is to your benefit to register early.

There are 1100 rooms for conference participants at the Fountainebleau, with the overflow to be handled by the Doral Hotel.

There will be an executive track section 2 days of the conference for the executive management level as opposed to the technical user.

Executive Committee

This year there are three offices for which elections are being held. They are: Vice-president, ADABAS Product Representative, and COM-PLETE Product Representative. Thanks go to the former officers who have put forth extra effort to the duties assigned to them during their tenure in office. They are Buck Shaw (Vice-president), Bill Wagner (ADABAS Product Rep), and Ron Hoover (COM-PLETE Product Rep). The duties of these positions have been published in the newsletters as an ongoing effort to generate the interest of potential candidates in these positions.

The ballots this year will be sent out in the registration packet and should be returned anytime between August 1st and October 23rd with the final balloting to be concluded November 3rd at the conference.

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SAGGROUP

As the number of Software AG products continues to increase and diversify across product lines (IBM, VAX), there has been identified a need to investigate the structure of the Executive Committee in addressing problems, issues, and overall support for the various products and product lines. In response, a special committee has been set-up to address this concern. Bob Becker has accepted the offer to chair this committee and his responsibility will be to document the problem and purpose several solutions for review at the Conference Executive Committee meeting in Miami.

Software AG

Stu Miller commented that even as Software AG gets bigger they would still like to retain their "smallness" by having the regions be more self supportive. This is a long term concept with Software AG. This does not mean that support would be decentralized to a large degree. Stu sees that the ARs and SSRs roles would not vary in 5 years but that hopefully there would be consultant type people who could respond in a more local expanded service. Procedures would then have to be setup to determine whom to call and when.

Some of the local areas are starting to provide some semblance of this function. The biggest concern is that coordination and knowledge would be lost by trying to have a product rep for each product in the local areas. Customer interface activities might benefit from local support.

Product Support

As part of Software AG's efforts to be informative, the Executive Committee was given a tour of the Customer Support area. We saw where the incoming calls were received and then walked through the process as if a problem was going from level one on up through the customer support system.

Service Connection

Art Burkett considers Service Connection to be the single most important productivity improvement Software AG can make. It is probably the most effective way to resolve some of the questions on support and fixes. However, Software AG has made little progress in developing Service Connection. Art is going to continue to push this as a major project for Software AG of North America and try to avoid the "do it as we can" effort. No commitment can be made at this time but it is felt that the project could be started relatively soon.

In the interim (noting that SAGU-TILS is dead), for a series of fixes or early warnings or diagnostic procedures that affect the customer base at large, direct mailings will be sent out to address the affected areas. Two such mailings have currently been sent out to address problems.

The issue of online access was one of the main things sighted on the technical survey. It is a very important item for the user community. It is also important to the effectiveness of Software AG Technical Support. John McAra indicated that he would be interested in pursuing this issue to make sure accomplishments in Service Connection will take place within the next year. He also indicated that this could be the solution for fixes to NATURAL based products.

NATURAL 2 Character Name Conversion Utility

A utility will not be developed by Software AG, as there is a product available from an outside vendor to handle this problem.

Currently, compiled programs using the 2 character names will continue to work in NATURAL 2. Again, please note that with re-compilation, the 2 character names will have to be eliminated.

CIS Data Base

In order to improve mailings and contacts with users, Software AG of North America has begun a process of creating a Customer Inquire System data base that will contain the necessary information about a user, including all mailing and contact information. They have currently established that data base and are in the process of cleaning it up at this time.

Centralized Administration Control Facility

Centralized Administration Control has been identified as an issue for the PREDICT User panel to address. Discussion has started concerning the requirements of this facility. It has been suggested that profile information for the security subsystems be contained in PREDICT and either used directly or downloaded as necessary to ensure consistency in security across Software AG products and product lines.

As an added item, the Executive Committee has requested that Software AG address having its security packages be certified by an outside auditing and certification organization. This item will be explored in more detail at the Miami Conference.

Products and Product Releases

ADABAS

The name ADABAS 5.1 has been changed to ADABAS 5 with future major releases to be called ADABAS 6, ADABAS 7, etc.. Software AG is currently working on developing the documentation required for internal handling of the distribution of ADABAS 5. This information will include documentation, education, and testing requirements. A test bed of data is being developed for use in initial testing and subsequent SM testing to help ensure the quality of the product before it is distributed.

ADABAS VMS

There has been defined a need for a formal VMS spokesperson within the Software AG organization to handle not only ADABAS VMS but all of the Software AG VMS products.

Although the current releases of ADABAS IBM and ADABAS VMS are not in sync, Software AG's plans are that by release 2 of ADABAS VMS the two product lines will be in sync, with all features available on either machine.

NATURAL

Support for 1.2 will continue as follows:

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Effective August 1st 1987, all 1.2 problems, categories 4 and 8 will be addressed for resolution in 2.1 (the 1.2 log will be closed and a 2.1 log will be open, then tested to see if the problem still exists), 12 and 15 will still be addressed for SM7.

SM6 support will be concluded as of January 1st, 1988.

Jon Church gave a presentation on NATURAL 2. His discussion addressed the planning that went into developing the test plan and distribution of NATURAL 2. A release task force was formed to allow for discussion and input into the release of NATURAL 2.

A dependence chart was then drawn showing the various functions that had to take place before testing could start; i.e. software, education, and documentation. An online system was then developed to track the tests that had been executed and to note where within the schedule the testing had been completed. Twelve people were brought in for nine days to do the testing. In evaluating the software, a percentage of errors of the testing was used to determine the amount of the software that was correct.

In December, the dependence chart was expanded from months to weeks and added additional areas. The customers who would be doing the beta testing were then brought in and given the Capabilities course and advised about the testing requirements for beta testing of NATURAL 2.

Between December and February, the planned date for Beta testing to begin, the software was evaluated in Reston and retested in Germany. Only if the software was improved by its percentage of errors being reduced for those problem areas noted during testing in the U.S., was it brought to the U.S. Actual beta testing began in March at fourteen sites. When PREDICT and NATURAL SECURITY were to be tested the number of beta sites was increased to twenty-two.

The distribution of the release has been staggered to allow for a controlled release into a limited number of sites. This allows for better support from Software AG of North America. The NATURAL Update document will be sent out over the time period of release to give conversion notes, found problems, etc. as they are found. This will help those sites that get the release in say the 3rd or 4th month of distribution by having additional information that has been learned from the sites who already have installed the new release.

If necessary, an SM has been scheduled for release in November, but that release will be determined by the number of problems found in the initial release of NATURAL 2.

The current subsystems of NATURAL are expected to be supported by SM2 of NATURAL 2.

In the initial release, the following environments will be supported: OS (XA is supported but SAG does not run above the line), DOS, COM-PLETE, and CICS. Full support of XA is scheduled for SM3. CMS will probably be released in July. Software AG has the interface for IMS/DC and TSO but they have not been sent to beta test.

The subsystems and their status are as follows:

NATURAL SECURITY is in beta test and is scheduled for release June 1st, in Phase 2.

PREDICT 2.2 SM2 will run in a 1.2 and a 2.1 environment. Full extract capabilities for cross-referencing will not be available until PREDICT 2.3. Testing for 2.3 will start about August.

The other subsystems will be tested in the July/August time frame for distribution of NATURAL 2 SM2. The first release of NATURAL 2 IS SM1.

The support group in Chicago has a group of programs that will go through an application library and perform the program conversion to set up the global variables area and establish variable format conversions. The Chicago group of your local SSR or Account Rep. can be contacted about getting these programs. This is an unsupported conversion tool.

NATURAL (VMS)

The current release of NATURAL on the VAX will lag behind the IBM version by about a year. This means that IBM NATURAL pro-grams cannot be migrated over to the VAX unless they are version 1.2.

PREDICT

Software AG is in the final stages of releasing 2.2 SM2. It will support NATURAL 1.2 and 2.1. The same system file can be used with either release of NATURAL. Release 2.2 SM2 should be released with NATURAL 2. A user's guide will not be going out with the product. The installation guide is for running under NATURAL 1.2 or 2.1 The reference guide is the same across all product lines. Cross-reference will not be available until 2.3. There are some changes that have to be in NATURAL 2 before all functionality of PREDICT will be available.

PREDICT VMS

Software AG is looking for beta sites for the soon to be released PREDICT VMS. Verification rules are in version 2.2 but ACM will not be in version 2.2.

Newsletter

It has been suggested that the BIGs (Business and Industries Groups) be identified in the future newsletters in order to inform people of their existence and frequency of their meetings. This listing should include the chairperson of each BIG.

It should be noted that Software AG has a policy of not printing articles submitted by consultants and also does not print references to consultant presentations at regional meetings. This policy is based on the fact that Software AG pays for the newsletter and should not be doing "advertising" for consultants.

Software AG is starting to receive more user articles. Additional articles are always needed and appreciated, especially in the VMS area.

Technical Support Committee Report

There was a request from Roy Richardson to change the name of the committee to reflect the fact that the report is not strictly Technical support but is now more encompassing. It will now be referred to as the User Survey Committee.

The user community is now aware and responding to the fact that this is a SAGGROUP survey and not a Software AG survey. The response this year was very good.

Due to the request from those non-U.S. users who have been receiving the survey for additional time for responding to the survey, a month delayed return date will be noted on the next survey for all non-U.S. users.

Several changes will be made to the content of the survey to allow for more thorough and concise responses. These changes include:

1. Change the CE grouping to a 1-5 rating

2. Add an area on the survey to allow for Software AG related special questions

3. Add an area to indicate state or province for breakdown for non-U.S. training, support, etc. .

4. Change "Inconvenient Location" to "Travel Costs" in Education area reasons for not attending.

Change/Enhancement Committee Report

The statistics of Outstanding Change/Enhancements were presented and reviewed. Kelly Jones explained the results and the new format of the CEs as they are recorded and passed between SAGGROUP and Software AG. The largest amount of Change/Enhancements were in the NATURAL area therefore causing some delay in getting them reviewed by SAGGROUP.

The only change to the Change/Enhancement request will be the dropping of Category and replacing it with Keyword(s). A keywords list will be attached to the form. This keywords list should hopefully correspond to the same keywords Software AG is using for their products.

Education/Documentation

Mike Ater informed the Executive Committee that course material is now copyrighted and clients should request copyright privileges in the same manner as they have for product manuals. Also, all current copyright privileges will have to be rerequested for all new products.

Copyright privileged clients will not be allowed to give the material to consultants or third parties. Consultants will have to buy course material from Software AG if they wish to have a copy of it. There will be a letter coming out explaining the copyright privileges in further detail. These will be site-by-site request and not course-by-course request.

As a reminder, Mike Ater stated that Software AG is only responsible for sending out the number of copies of documentation as noted on the original license agreement.

In discussions on the new documentation for NATURAL 2, Carlo Scagnelli noted that the new documentation was much easier to read and follow. Carlo also noted that the structure of the documentation had a lot to do with the readability of the documentation. Carlo was very complimentary of the new documentation.

The question was asked about the amount of documentation that would be available in online help facilities for the products. Mike Ater responded that NATURAL 2's documentation was behind but that was due to corrections that needed to be made. He also indicated that there would be more online documentation than before in NATURAL 2.

In discussions on security administration, Stan Maring has indicated that security administration would be a part of the DBA Skills course. Interest was expressed by the Executive committee about having the security administration course combine the NATURAL and ADABAS security packages. Discussion followed concerning the placement of security administration and that it should be a portion of central administration encompassing all areas of data administration and security. Software AG will try to get someone assigned to find out how Software AG security will hook together within Software AG products and outside security packages. Their goal will be to come up with a definition of technology concerning security implementation and administration.

At this time, Software AG has decided not to continue with the Deltak classes. If Deltak decides to pursue this, then they would be willing to work with Deltak to furnish a quality product. Mike Ater felt that Software AG was not in the video business and should not try to continue making "home movie" training videos.

In the area of documentation of User Exits, Mike Ater suggested that all user exits for upcoming releases will probably be documented. Concern was also raised about upward compatibility of user written routines that use current release user exits. Mike said that he would research both user exit documentation and upward compatibility of user exits to ensure that users will not have to rewrite their user exit routines for each new release of a Software AG product.

As a follow-up to a problem log that was entered concerning documentation errors, documentation errors should be reported as bugs through technical support and not handled as Change/Enhancements. If a Change/Enhancement comes through with documentation errors, the Change/Enhance will be either forwarded to Technical support or returned to the user for them to contact Technical support and/or the documentation group.

Tools Tapes

DBA Tools tape

Galen Hansen does not have a new tape out yet but expects to have one available in July. There have not been any new tools added in the last 3 to 6 months so it will look very similar to the last tape.

COM-PLETE Tools tape

Software AG is documenting some tools that are available and putting them on the tools tape.

Regional Realignment Project

The Regional alignment has been completed. All regions now have regional representatives. This project is now complete.

The following user panels are active or being formed. If you have questions or comments for the user panels, please contact one of the product representatives and they will see that you are put in contact with the correct user panel chairperson.

ADABAS User Panel............to be formed to address what should be in the next releases.

ADABAS Features User Panel ..chaired by Dwight Izaga.

Documentation User Panel......will be set up as soon as ADABAS 5 beta sites are selected.

VAX User Panel.................will be handled by Buck Shaw.

PREDICT User Panel............has been established and met in December. Chris Hoepker from Software AG, Darmstadt and Mark Milne met with the user panel to talk about issues for feature releases of PREDICT. Discussion included utilities that would cross and interface into other dictionary packages. One of the items of discussion was Centralized Administration with PREDICT being the central repository for the other subsystems (NATURAL SECURITY, ADABAS security, SUPER NATURAL, etc.).

RAYOVAC Gets Smart with NATURAL 2

Bernie Conner
Data Base Administration Manager
RAYOVAC Corporation
Madison, Wisconsin

My supervisor, the Vice President of MIS/Distribution, came up to me one day and said he would like more flexibility in the sales inquiry programs. Like any good analyst, I asked, "What do you mean by more flexibility?" After some discussion, I determined he wanted to vary the time frame of the data, the type of data, and the format and sequence of the output that was being looked at. He also wanted it to be so user-friendly that any executive would be able to use it.

Since we were beta testing NATURAL 2, I decided to combine my two efforts and use NATURAL 2 to see if we could build a system with "enough" flexibility.

The sales prototype system would allow the user to combine different customer attributes with different product attributes for sales data selection purposes. The user could also save requests for later use without having to respecify the selection parameters. The entire system was to be menu-driven and would provide a HELP function throughout. I selected one of the most widely-used customer attributes and two of the most widely-used product attributes to develop the menu below.

```
June 30 1987
                                         SALES INQUIRY

         CUSTOMER SELECTION
         — MARKET OUTLET

         PRODUCT SELECTION
         — PRODUCT GROUP
         — NET CLASS

         PERSONAL INJURY
         — PERSONAL MENU
         — SAVE LAST INQUIRY

Enter—PF1— —PF2— —PF3— —PF4— —PF5— —PF6— —PF7— —PF8— —PF9— —PF10— — —PF11— —PF12— — —
         HELP                  LEFT  RIGHT                                   EXIT
```

SCREEN A

If the concept worked, we would, of course, expand the selection criteria to include such things as top accounts, geographic analysis, sales representative performance, etc.

If you depress ENTER without selecting an option from this menu, the system will automatically execute the default options. You can use the HELP function from this menu to determine what the default options are. I used a HELP routine to demonstrate what the output would look like if the user changed the sequence of the output. By using a conversational WRITE and a HELP routine, I fed the actual programs data parameters and produced a small version of the report so a user could visualize his selection criteria and sequence changes.

Once the user selected the desired options, a program was called that produced a pop-up window to al-

low him to refine his selection criteria further. In the example below, the option of looking at the four product group categories individually by customer market outlet was selected. The HELP function could be used to explain what the default options are and what to specify if the user wanted to add specific markets together or if he wanted to lump some markets into an "all other" category.

Screen C was then displayed to allow the user to specify the time frame and the type of data desired. In this example, we are doing a quarterly analysis of this year's versus last year's units and also a year-to-date analysis of this year's versus last year's units. This screen was fun to create. The fields were defined as arrays and the dates were calculated and edited using the new date features. Processing rules were used to limit the selec-

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SCREEN B

```
June 30 1987

                              SALES INQUIRY

        CUSTOMER SELECTION              +        × ALKALINE              +
        × MARKET OUTLET                          × HEAVY DUTY
                                                 × GENERAL PURPOSE
                                                 × RECHARGEABLES
        PRODUCT SELECTION                        − MISCELLANEOUS
        × PRODUCT GROUP                          − LANTERNS
        − NET CLASS                              − FLASHLIGHTS
                                                 − LANTERN BATT.
                                                 − HEARING-AID
                                                 − LITHIUM
        PERSONAL INJURY                          − WATCH
        − PERSONAL MENU                          − FIXTURES/DISPLAYS
        − SAVE LAST INQUIRY                      −
                                                 −
                                                 −
                                                 −
                                                 −
    Enter−PF1−−PF2−−PF3−−PF4−−PF5−−                             −PF12−−−
          HELP              LEFT  RIGHT          +              + EXIT
```

SCREEN B

SCREEN C

```
June 30 1987

                         DATA TIME FRAME

  MONTH(S)       JUL  AUG  SEP  OCT  NOV  DEC  JAN  FEB  MAR  APR  MAY  JUN

  QUARTER(S)     1QTR    2QTR    3QTR    4QTR

  YEAR(S)        1987       1986       1985       YTD
                   ×          ×                     ×

                         TYPE OF DATA
                   − GROSS DOLLARS
                   − NET DOLLARS
                   − COMMISSIONABLE DOLLARS
                   − STANDARD COST
                   × UNITS
                   − OFF INVOICE DOLLARS
                   − PROFIT

    Enter−PF1−−PF2−−PF3−−PF4−−PF5−−PF6−−PF7−−PF8−−PF9−−PF10−−PF11−−PF12−−−
          HELP              LEFT  RIGHT                              EXIT
```

SCREEN C

SCREEN D

```
June 30        1987
                                     UNITS FOR RETAIL CONSUMER
                  1987   1986   PCT   1987   1986   PCT   1987   1986   PCT
  PROD. GROUP     1QTR   1QTR   DIFF  2QTR   2QTR   DIFF  3QTR   3QTR   DIFF
  GENERAL PURP    3042   4878   62    3874   3204   121   1358   1638   83
  HEAVY DUTY      3578   4065   88    5625   4277   132   2477   2489   100
  ALKALINE        3470   4547   76    7644   5108   150   3582   2960   121
  WATCH           1209    736   164   1322    654   202   1301    432   301
  RECHARGEABLE      16     16   1       63     42   150     25     42   60
  MISCELLANEOU     155    204   76     257    241   107    205    212   97
  LANTERNS          64     98   65     104    108   96      49     56   88
  LANTERN BATT     492    543   91     411    402   102    267    288   93
  HEARING-AID     1706   1399   122   1572   1755   90    2365   1709   136
  LITHIUM           12     18   67      23     34   68    · 18    · 18   183
  FLASHLIGHTS      266    312   85     446    420   106    430    285   151
  FIXTURES/DIS

  TOTAL          14010  16816   83   21341  16245   131  12092  10129   119

    Enter−PF1−−PF2−−PF3−−PF4−−−PF5−−PF6−−PF7−−PF8−−PF9−−PF10−−−PF11−−PF12−−−
          HELP              LEFT  RIGHT                               EXIT
```
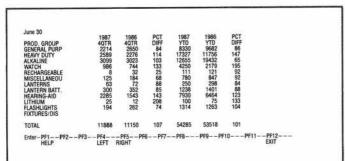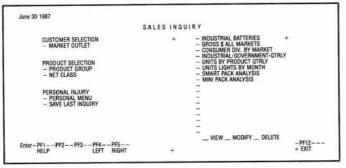
SCREEN D

SCREEN E

```
June 30
                  1987   1986   PCT   1987   1986   PCT
  PROD. GROUP     4QTR   4QTR   DIFF  YTD    YTD    DIFF
  GENERAL PURP    2214   2650   84    8330   9682   86
  HEAVY DUTY      2589   2276   114   17327  11756  147
  ALKALINE        3099   3023   103   12655  19432  65
  WATCH            986    744   133   4250   2179   195
  RECHARGEABLE       8     32   25     111    121   92
  MISCELLANEOU     125    184   68     780    847   92
  LANTERNS          63     72   88     250    298   84
  LANTERN BATT.    300    352   85    1238   1401   88
  HEARING-AID     2285   1543   143   7930   6464   123
  LITHIUM           25     12   208    100     75   133
  FLASHLIGHTS      194    262   74    1314   1263   104
  FIXTURES/DIS

  TOTAL          11888  11150   107  54285  53518   101

    Enter−PF1−−PF2−−PF3−−PF4−−−PF5−−PF6−−PF7−−PF8−−PF9−−PF10−−−PF11−−PF12−−−
          HELP              LEFT  RIGHT                               EXIT
```

SCREEN E

SCREEN F

```
June 30 1987

                              SALES INQUIRY

        CUSTOMER SELECTION              +        − INDUSTRIAL BATTERIES   +
        − MARKET OUTLET                          − GROSS $ ALL MARKETS
                                                 − CONSUMER DIV. BY MARKET
                                                 − INDUSTRIAL/GOVERNMENT-QTRLY
        PRODUCT SELECTION                        − UNITS BY PRODUCT QTRLY
        − PRODUCT GROUP                          − UNITS LIGHTS BY MONTH
        − NET CLASS                              − SMART PACK ANALYSIS
                                                 − MINI PACK ANALYSIS
                                                 −
        PERSONAL INJURY                          −
        − PERSONAL MENU                          −
        − SAVE LAST INQUIRY                      −
                                                 −
                                                 −
                                                 −
                                                 −  VIEW _ MODIFY _ DELETE
    Enter−PF1−−PF2−−PF3−−PF4−−PF5−−                             −PF12−−−
          HELP              LEFT  RIGHT          +              + EXIT
```

SCREEN F

tion of such things as three years of monthly and quarterly analysis on one screen. All data from the selection screens was stored in the global data area for later use.

Screens D and E show the output of the quarterly analysis. The output headings were generated based on the user's selection. The product group descriptions are held

fixed on the physical screen and the actual sales data is one big window. The PF keys allow them to move back and forth from logical Screen D to logical Screen E.

From this menu, you also have the capability of viewing, modifying, or deleting the criteria for the request by typing an "X" next to the desired description(s) and also typing an "X" next to the desired function (VIEW, MODIFY, DELETE).

In developing this prototype, I used several of NATURAL 2's features that I feel are exceptional: array processing, processing rules, and windowing. The conversational WRITE was fun to use and adds a new dimension to the possibilities for systems—especially when you team it up with HELP routines to produce tutorials.

Much of the interaction of the system cannot be presented in written form. Simple things—at least simple with NATURAL 2—such as attribute manipulation and pop-up windows must be seen to be appreciated.

I showed my supervisor the prototype and he loved the flexibility and the "friendliness" of the screens. It was the first thing he had seen on a mainframe that was on the same level as PC software in its user screen interface.

I have only one problem now. My supervisor liked the prototype so well that he wants it in production as soon as possible so he can use it himself! Oh, well. That's one of the problems with successful prototyping, isn't it?

The sales data on the screen was stored as arrays. This made it very easy to compute the percentage of differences and totals displayed at the bottom of the screen.

When a user runs his inquiry and wants to save it, a subsystem will allow him to give it a title and an expanded description. The title given will then appear on his personal menu system with all his other saved inquiries, as shown below. The most frequently used inquiry will be displayed at the top of the menu.

In order to run an inquiry(s), type an "X" next to the desired inquiry(s). The next screen displayed shows the output of the inquiry selected.

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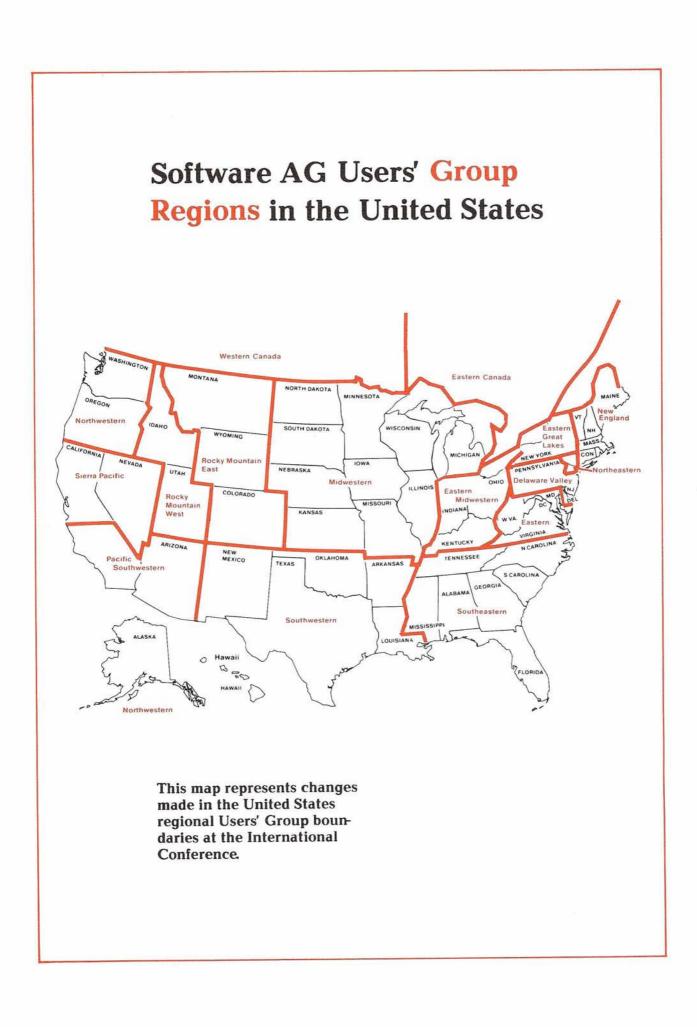Manager, Customer Relations
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This map represents changes made in the United States regional Users' Group boundaries at the International Conference.

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_____ CTCS	_____ NET-WORK	_____ UTILITIES
_____ DOCUMENTATION	_____ ONLINE SERVICES	_____ VM
_____ INTERFACES	_____ PERFORM. & ACCTG	_____ ADABAS (VMS)
		_____ OTHER

COM-PLETE

_____ COM-PASS	_____ NUCLEUS	_____ TERM. SUPPORT
_____ DOCUMENTATION	_____ PERFORM. & ACCTG	_____ UTILITIES
_____ FILE I/O	_____ SECURITY	_____ USER EXITS
_____ INTERFACES		_____ OTHER

NATURAL

_____ DDM & DB	_____ LANG. FUNCTIONS	_____ SYSTEM FUNCTION
_____ DOCUMENTATION	_____ LANG. INTERFACE	_____ TP & OS INTERFACE
_____ EDITOR	_____ CON-NECT	_____ SECURITY
_____ EDUCATION	_____ PERFORM. & ACCTG	_____ 'SYS' FUNCTIONS
_____ GRAPHICS	_____ SYSTEM PARAM.	_____ SUPER NATURAL
_____ I/O	_____ NATURAL/CONNECTION	_____ NATURAL (VMS)
		_____ OTHER

PREDICT

_____ CROSS REFERENCE	_____ INTERFACES	_____ USER SUPPORT
_____ DOCUMENTATION	_____ MODELING	_____ UTILITIES
_____ EDITOR	_____ PERFORM. & ACCTG	_____ OTHER
_____ FILE STRUCTURE	_____ SECURITY	

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Request Title: _____

Request Description: _____

_____

_____

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_____

_____

Request Benefits: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

Submitted by—   Company: _____

Name: _____   Address: _____

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NOTE: Instructions for completing are on the back of this form.

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1. Place *one* 'X' to the left of a category within *one* product. This indicates which Product this Change/Enhancement is for and what general category the Change/Environment belongs. This category groups similar Change/Environments together.
2. Enter a Request Title which is a one line description for your Change/Enhancement that is less than 40 characters.
3. Enter a description for your Change/Enhancement. Please be specific when describing your Change/Enhancement.
4. Enter an explanation of the benefits of the Change/Enhancement.
5. Enter information about yourself so someone can contact you if there is some question about your Change/Enhancement (you must include your telephone number).
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