

# CONNECTIONS

VOL. 13 ■ NO. 3 ■ AUGUST, 1988

SUMMER ISSUE

## Exceeding the Expected—The 18th International Software AG Users' Conference

Pam Ellis  
Editor

The 1988 International Users' Conference will be held at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee on September 25-29. This is a great opportunity to come hear Software AG's plans for the year to come. Also, you'll be able to compare notes with other users of Software AG's products. Last year's conference was attended by over 2,000 representatives from around the world. Don't miss this opportunity to "Exceed the Expected" with Software AG.

### Highlights

Sunday night kicks off with the Opening General Session followed by the SAGGROUP President's Reception and the Technology Fair. At the Technology Fair you will be able to meet with your Software AG area representatives and your SAGGROUP regional representatives; mingle with Software AG executives and other users; and learn more about ISA—Software AG's Open Integrated Software Architecture.

Monday's general session includes presentations from Software AG's executives and Mike Braude of the Gartner Group. Then the traditional breakout sessions begin, which will include the following types of presentations: Software AG Presents, Users' Papers, Classes, and Special Industry Group Workshops.

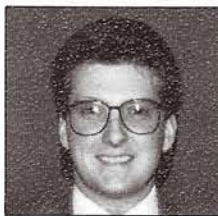
The Open Forum, where users can meet with Software AG's executives, developers, and product managers on a one-on-one basis is scheduled for Tuesday night. This is your chance to ask questions of key Software AG executives in a

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The Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee

## CON-NECT 2: The Universal Office At Work



Doug Wheeler  
Product Manager

If you are tired of wasting valuable time developing, sending, editing, organizing, distributing, filing, scheduling, tracking, printing, reminding, correcting, classifying, and updating information—DON'T.

Use CON-NECT 2!

CON-NECT 2 provides an integrated office system which includes document management, electronic mail, text processing, and time management facilities.

We had four goals in mind when developing CON-NECT 2:

- develop a PC-like user interface
- offer extensive functionality
- integrate the data processing environment
- build an open architecture.

The CON-NECT 2 developers answered the challenge, and developed a comprehensive office systems solution.

### The User Interface—NATURAL 2 at it's best

Since CON-NECT 2 is written in NATURAL 2, the alternatives for implementing various types of user interfaces were numerous. A number of excellent ideas for the user interface came from the customer base at the Users' Conference

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# President's Message



**Carlo Scagnelli**  
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation

Though I find it unbelievable that my term as President of SAGGROUP is almost over, a quick check in a mirror confirms that 28 months have indeed passed. The snow on the roof threatens to become a blizzard and that space saver spare around the middle shows signs of becoming a wide tread.

During the time I have been privileged to serve as President, I have been counseled and supported by more people than I can possibly thank within the small space given me here. It would take the better part of this publication to list them all and I apologize in advance to any whom I may overlook.

My particular thanks to Bill Wagner for the balance his moderation has provided to offsetting my Mediterranean temper and for his support especially during these last few months. As Executive Committee Vice-president, he has completed every task related to the position and a few we hadn't thought of before. Bill is always there if something needs doing, especially if it needs doing well.

Colette Farabaugh has served both as North American Area Representative and currently as Nominations Chairman. To each position, she has brought enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication which are readily apparent in consistently excellent results as evidenced by the impressive candidates for this year's elections.

Kelly Jones has served as Change Enhancement Coordinator, an almost overwhelming job given the sheer volume of C/Es submitted. With the explosion of products, Kelly has classified, stratified and demystified the total system and has done so while maintaining both his sanity and sense of humor.

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## Performance Tips: NATURAL 2 SM03 CICS

Chris Yandall  
*Customer Service Division*

Software AG's Customer Support frequently receives questions regarding how to increase terminal throughput using NATURAL 2 in the CICS environment.

Since CICS is a multi-tasking processor, there are many variables which determine overall performance. To simplify matters, I have narrowed it down to three areas: *applications*, *CICS parms*, and the *environment*. Taking these areas and knowing the intimate relationship each has with the other will let you make key changes to effect most performance improvements. Here are some basic guidelines to follow.

### Applications

First, let's look at the applications. This area is usually easy to handle in the production environment since there is a definitive number of programs. This is important when determining the size and location of the buffer pool. With the help of your NATURAL Administrator's Manual, the topic on SYSTAT will aid you in building a more efficient buffering environment.

### CICS Parm

The next item is CICS parms. There are NATURAL and CICS parameters that, when specified in key amounts, make optimum throughput more of a reality. The biggest impact on NATURAL is the number of storage threads. The maximum number supported currently is 16. Choosing the maximum would require the CPU to respond quickly enough to service all 16 if all NATURAL tasks are on the active chain. This means the concurrent CICS active task setting, AMXT (global setting) or CMXT (task setting), is at least 16. All tasks are then marked as active and CICS attempts to service all of them as quickly as the CPU allows.

Now with that in mind, imagine a heavily loaded 4341 running DOS/VSE with active batch partitions and a 3090 running XA with a

dedicated CICS region to NATURAL. Sixteen threads on the DOS machine would be wasted because the CPU cannot respond quickly enough. (On the other hand, the XA system would best use all threads.) Based on your environment, the number of threads depends on how much CPU can be honestly given to CICS at any one time. As our SCP developer, Mike Meehan, says, "CICS seems to perform best when given a few concurrent tasks to service."

Consider starting out with three threads to service 10 to 20 terminals and tune up or down. As more and more applications are added and the work load (more terminals) increases, the necessity of more threads may be evaluated—keeping in mind the available CPU resources.

### The Environment

The last item, the environment, has been discussed somewhat. The number of terminals using NATURAL will always be a major performance topic. When a major network (over 1,000 terminals) is employed in a CICS region using NATURAL, it is possible that 4,000-5,000 transaction requests are made of NATURAL every five minutes. This is where the number of threads and the AMXT/CMXT settings become a major factor. Our recommendation in this case would be 20 to 32 for AMXT/CMXT with an MXT (maximum number of users) of 100 to 500. This is assuming that the number of threads would be 10 to 16 in an environment where the CPU resources are available.

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## ADABAS and NATURAL on VAX/VMS Version 5

Steve Sylvester  
*Customer Service Division*

Both ADABAS (VMS) and NATURAL (VMS) have been tested under beta versions of VAX/VMS Version 5 and work fine.

Only ADALNK and ADASHR need to be relinked. User applications should work with no changes. ADABAS 1.4.2 will be shipped with two versions of ADALNK and ADASHR so that you can run it under VMS Version 4 or 5. ADABAS 1.5.0 will also handle both versions.

DEC started shipping VMS 5 first to VAX 62xx initial installations and then to 88xx sites. Shipments to most users probably started in late July. According to DEC, it will take several months to complete shipping to all of their customers. The documentation set has become incredibly huge—something like 17 linear feet of manuals!

Most VAX users we talk to expect to wait for VMS 5.1 to come out before installing it. Fortunately, DEC's layered products groups had more time to prepare for this than they did for VMS 4.0, so most of the critical and high impact products will be available at the same time as VMS 5.0.

We will publish future articles in Connections on various VMS 5 features, such as Symmetric Multi-Processing and Parallel Processing.

Below is a summary of what Software AG products are released and available on VAX/VMS, here is the list:

- ADABAS 1.4.1 (1.4.2 works on VMS 5)
- NATURAL 1.3.2
- NET-WORK 1.3.0
- PREDICT 1.0.1
- ADABAS SQL 1.3.0 (includes support for FORTRAN)
- CONVERT 1.0.0
- CON-STRUCT 1.1.0
- SUPER NATURAL 2.1.0

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# NATURAL Elite in Nashville

Susan Lowy

Customer Service Division

At this year's Software AG International Users' Conference, as in the past, Elite will have a demo booth open throughout the demo room hours. We hope to demonstrate Elite 2, showing off all of its new enhancements, as well as VMS Elite and its capabilities. Therefore, you can be assured that you will not only be able to see a complete demonstration of the product, but you will also be able to direct any of your questions to the people who use the product daily: Software AG's Elite course developers.

In addition to the demos, we will also be making several presentations. A brief description follows for each.

## **Integrating NATURAL Elite into an Effective Training Strategy**

This presentation defines the integration of computer-based training (CBT) in the form of NATURAL Elite, into a successful and effective overall training strategy. An overview of the NATURAL Elite product is followed by a discussion of a variety of training options available to the NATURAL Elite user. Some of the options discussed include: in-house course development vs. custom courseware contracts, Elite training cost projection and control, courseware life-cycle management, and the effects of Elite 2 product directions on an overall training strategy.

## **Authoring Tips and Techniques for Elite 2**

The focus of this seminar will be to identify and demonstrate how to incorporate instruction using the new Elite 2 environment. An emphasis will be placed on comparing and contrasting development between NATURAL Elite V1.3 and V2.1 throughout the discussion. The primary areas of concentration will be: the new Elite map editor, using windows for student interaction, and creative answer-checking to promote learner retention.

## **Elite Custom Courseware**

There you are—needing to train your employees on a specific application using NATURAL Elite. However, due to limited resources (time and people), you can't do it your-

self. What are you going to do? Enter the Elite development team. In this presentation, you will learn how this team can develop and write a NATURAL Elite CBT course for a particular application and need. The specific steps involved from the first phone call to the final release of the custom courseware will be covered, including the different custom options.

## **Customizing Off-the-Shelf Elite Courseware**

You've purchased an Elite course; however, you want to modify it to meet your specific needs. The problem is how to get started. In this presentation, you will learn how to create a new course using an existing course (using the administration component of Elite). You will also go step-by-step through the process required to modify existing lessons or those needed to add a new lesson (using the authoring component of Elite).

## **Elite and VMS**

There will be two Conference presentations that will focus on Elite and the VMS market. The first will concentrate on VMS authoring techniques, while the other will feature the current and future capabilities that will accompany Elite VMS.

Except for the presentation on *Integrating Elite into an Effective Training Strategy*, the above Elite topics are new to this year's Conference. So, note these sessions and make sure to save time to fit them into your five busy days in Nashville.

## **Recapping Elite Courses**

Periodically, we like to present a listing of the current Elite courses which are available for purchase. If you want a particular course, or if you have any questions, please contact your Software AG Account Representative.

Here is a list of our courses:

How to Use Elite (June 1986, SM02 February 1988)  
SUPER NATURAL Fundamentals (January 1987)  
Advanced SUPER NATURAL (January 1987)  
SUPER NATURAL Administration (March 1987)  
NATURAL 2 Enhancements (July 1987)

NATURAL 2 Introduction (November 1987)  
NATURAL 2 for the Business Professional (December 1987)  
NATURAL 2 Intermediate Structured Programming (April 1988)  
NATURAL 2 Advanced Structured Programming (September 1988)  
NATURAL CONSTRUCT Fundamentals (July 1988)  
Advanced NATURAL CONSTRUCT (Fall 1988)  
ADABAS 5 Fundamentals (Fall 1988)  
ADABAS 5 Program Design (Direct Calls Fall 1988)  
ADABAS 5 File Design (Fall 1988)  
ADABAS 5 Utilities (Fall 1988)

## **NATURAL 2 Tips**

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Hopefully, this will help you as a guideline in configuring your NATURAL environment.

### **Tips**

Here are some tips that may help your quest for sub-second response time to become a reality.

1. Number of Threads: The more threads there are, the better the chance of finding the old data, thus preventing a roll-in. A roll-out always takes place, but a roll-in is a logic option. That is, if no one has occupied the thread you were in, no roll-in takes place. The disadvantage of many threads would be the paging that CICS must perform to keep all programs efficiently in the DSA.
2. Choice of Roll Files or AUX TEMP Storage: If AUX is chosen, use the most efficient CISIZE for the device. For a 3380, 20K with a record size of seven bytes less has been quite efficient for many users. If this CISIZE cannot be defined, it may become more efficient to define RRDS files for the roll device using the recommended CISIZE/RECSIZE above. Remember, when AUX is being used by other applications as well as by NATURAL, a bottleneck may occur. The symptom is less than optimum response time. Therefore, RRDS roll files become

- more and more a factor in increasing response time—especially when I/O channel contention can be avoided. However, if AUX can be dedicated to NATURAL, use it.
3. AMXT/CMXT settings: As previously discussed, the number of threads has a direct relationship to these CICS S.I.T. parameters. If three threads are active in a CICS session, it is strongly recommended that three more NATURAL users be queued for a thread. The CICS settings should be six in this example.
  4. Main Storage: In the XA environment, roll files should be above the 16 meg line. In this dreamland of real storage, no I/O is performed on roll-in. If large amounts of main storage are used from NATURAL, then tuning considerations for paging may be required.
  5. DTB: Turn off DTB for the NATURAL transaction. For NATURAL VSAM, turn off journaling and logging for files so that the external overall overhead for NATURAL is minimal.
  6. Command Level Links: If ADABAS is used, a significant decrease (20-60%) in CPU may be attained by applying the source mod from the 8806 fix tape from the optional CICS source change member. The mod affects NATCICS and ADALNC. It replaces the usage of command level links to ADABAS with a BALR'ized approach.
  7. RRDS: If RRDS files are used, we strongly recommend against adding them to the LSR pool. This is because VSAM buffering waits cause NATURAL to step into the unpredictable result zone. When a NATURAL session abends using RRDS and addressability is lost at house-keeping end, the roll file directory is not reset and the area used by the session is not freed. When CICS is restarted, the RRDS file remains in this state. Place an IDCAMS DELETE/DEFINE job in the CICS start-up with the roll file initializer included.
  8. Threads: All threads should be made resident. A CICS short-on-storage condition may occur if CICS has been active servicing many tasks outside of NATURAL and suddenly the first NATURAL session begins. When this occurs, DSA fragmentation will develop due to NATURAL performing EXEC CICS LOAD with HOLD option on the threads.
  9. File Access: Avoid reading entire large ADABAS files physically or calling external COBOL routines that read excessive records from NATURAL. This causes the thread to be assigned to the program for the duration of the file access.

Remember, these are guidelines—not bottom line recommendations. We can only suggest what we perceive as critical areas to be concerned with and ask you to use them as guidelines.

## Happy Birthday ADABAS and NATURAL!

Mary Kirkman  
VAX Product Manager

I hope you are planning to attend the Users' Conference next month to help celebrate four years of ADABAS and NATURAL.

We're having a Party and you are invited!!!

Who's Birthday: ADABAS & NATURAL

When: September 25-29

Where: Nashville

P.S.: Don't forget to register for the Users' Conference

It seems like only yesterday when ADABAS & NATURAL were first introduced into the VAX market. But, it will be four years ago on October 1, when they were first announced.

The Software AG's VAX family has grown since October 1, 1984. Since that date we have seen the introduction of PREDICT, SUPER NATURAL, CONVERT, NET-WORK, (DECnet, HYPER CHANNEL, INTERLINK, SNA),

ADABAS SQL, (COBOL, PL/1, FORTRAN) AND NATURAL CONSTRUCT.

These products have defined and surpassed the needs of such critical issues as OLTP (on-line transaction processing), CONNECTIVITY (homogeneous & heterogeneous), transportability between IBM and VAX and application development including CASE methodology.

1988 has already proven to be an exciting year for Software AG in the VAX arena. This year alone we have seen the release of new versions:

NATURAL 1.3  
ADABAS 1.5  
NET-WORK 1.5  
ADABAS SQL 1.3

And 1988 is the year for NATURAL Graphics, SUPER NATURAL, NATURAL CONSTRUCT, NATURAL Security and NATURAL Elite.

Yet there is more. Keep your eyes and ears open for other exciting product announcements and enhancements that are coming your way soon . . . including something with the MacIntosh.

I hope to see you in Nashville. And don't forget your party hat!!!

**STOP!**

If you haven't registered for the 18th International Conference in Nashville  
Please call:  
703-648-2486

# CON-NECT 2

continued from page 1

and were implemented. For example, CON-NECT 2 offers you the capability to activate functions via a PF-key, command, menu-item, or cursor-sensitive positioning. CON-NECT 2 makes extensive use of windowing for a context-sensitive help system and many of the new time management functions such as the "reminder." In addition, every piece is tailorable to your own environment. It is possible to completely modify PF-keys, menus, and commands at a system-level, group-level, or individual-level. Therefore, you can offer your users the optimum environment for information processing and office systems communications.

Many of the office system products built today are activity driven. In an "activity driven" system, users specify the activity they wish to perform—such as "send." Then, once the user gets the "send" screen, they specify the document to be sent. If you think about it, this is not an intuitive process. The new CON-NECT 2 user interface is object driven. When users select an object to work with, such as a document, on the same screen they are provided with all the various functions that are appropriate to that object (e.g. modify, file, discard, print). This approach corresponds to traditional office procedures and completely avoids the need for intermediate menus. As a result, users find the system very comfortable, very quickly. They make intuitive use of its available functions.

## **Extensive Functionality— CON-NECT 2 has it all**

The new CON-NECT 2 is more than just electronic mail and a text editor. CON-NECT 2 is a complete office system product which offers document management and sophisticated electronic mail, as well as full text processing and time management.

### *Complete Document Management*

Within CON-NECT 2, as in most of office environments, all users have their own "Cabinet(s)" within which they may store "Folders." And, within the folders, documents are stored. In fact, CON-NECT 2 allows users to store all objects (e.g. DCA formatted documents,

NATURAL programs, PC documents, and digitized images) defined to it in this manner.

CON-NECT 2 provides an easy to use set of functions to create, manipulate, and retrieve all types of documents. This includes documents which can be created with our text editor or those from the PC environment.

A number of attributes can be associated with a document when it is defined. These include subject, document type, archive date, and up to 6 keywords for rapid retrieval.

### *Sophisticated Electronic Mail*

Mail items sent via CON-NECT 2 can be simple notes, forms or large documents. Mail can be sent/received to any addressee defined to the system. An addressee may be an individual, a distribution list, or several distribution lists. In fact, an addressee can even be someone who is not part of the CON-NECT 2 system. For example, mail items can be sent through Telex and Teletex networks (with the provision of suitable hardware interfaces) and to users working at remote CON-NECT 2 nodes or on other office systems. With these capabilities, CON-NECT 2 offers your users tremendous flexibility and connectivity.

### *Full Text Processing*

At the heart of CON-NECT 2's document handling is a sophisticated text editor. Using all the capabilities of a mainframe, it permits users to quickly create and manipulate textual elements. The editor enables individual profiles to be set up for each user, incorporating a powerful set of edit commands. These include line splitting and joining, word wrapping and tabulation. In addition, the editor supports a split-screen mode allowing text to be copied from one document to another while both documents are simultaneously visible on the screen.

In conjunction with text editing, CON-NECT 2 features CON-FORM which provides a text formatting facility. CON-FORM offers the capability to create large documents such as proposals or manuals.

A unique aspect of CON-NECT 2 is the ease with which live data from a production data base can be included in reports. During the text

formatting process, NATURAL programs can be invoked to retrieve the required information and insert it in the document.

### *Time Management*

CON-NECT 2's Calendar facility is an indispensable time management tool for the individual user and the organization as a whole. An individual's calendar can display meetings and appointments for day, week, month, or year. Users may have private calendars or entire calendars can be authorized for viewing by other users, such as secretaries or managers.

In addition, CON-NECT 2 provides sophisticated facilities for meeting scheduling. A user simply specifies a timeframe for the meeting and CON-NECT 2 will search each calendar and find an open time. In fact, CON-NECT 2 will offer a number of alternative times if they are available. Once a time has been selected, CON-NECT 2 automatically makes the reservations, sends confirmation invitations to the attendees and, if desired, reserves the appropriate time in all of the calendars. This facility will save you and your users a lot of time and frustration that is invariably caused when scheduling meetings.

### *Additional Features*

Using the unique capabilities of NATURAL 2, CON-NECT 2 offers a number of other features: the "Reminder" facility, the "TO DO List," the "Desktop" command, phone messaging, and much more. CON-NECT 2 addresses the full range of office system functions.

## **Integrating the DP Environment— CON-NECT 2 is unique**

One of the most unique and valuable functions of the new CON-NECT 2 is its integration with the data processing environment via NATURAL 2. Since CON-NECT 2 is a NATURAL 2 application, other NATURAL 2 applications may be executed from menus, PF-keys, or by commands all within CON-NECT 2. These applications may incorporate live data and text or execute your NATURAL 2 production applications (i.e. accounting, purchasing, etc.).

CON-NECT 2 may also be "called" from NATURAL 2 applications. By using standard routines provided by CON-NECT 2, all the major functions of CON-NECT 2 can be incorporated in application systems. For

## CON-NECT 2 FREE DEMONSTRATION DISKETTE

**Yes!** Please send me a diskette featuring CON-NECT 2, Software AG's Universal Office System. The CON-NECT 2 diskette features these capabilities:

- Electronic Mail
- Text Processing
- Time Management Facilities
- Document Management

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

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Attn: Doug Wheeler



example, applications could be created where reports are generated and then automatically stored in the appropriate person's "inbasket" folder within CON-NECT 2. No other office system product offers its users this level of integration with the data processing environment.

**Building an Open Architecture—  
Extended Connectivity**

CON-NECT 2 has an open architecture which allows communication with external office systems. In fact, CON-NECT 2 users may distribute documents and send mail without worrying about whether the addressee exists outside of the CON-NECT 2 node. The CON-NECT 2 address directory au-

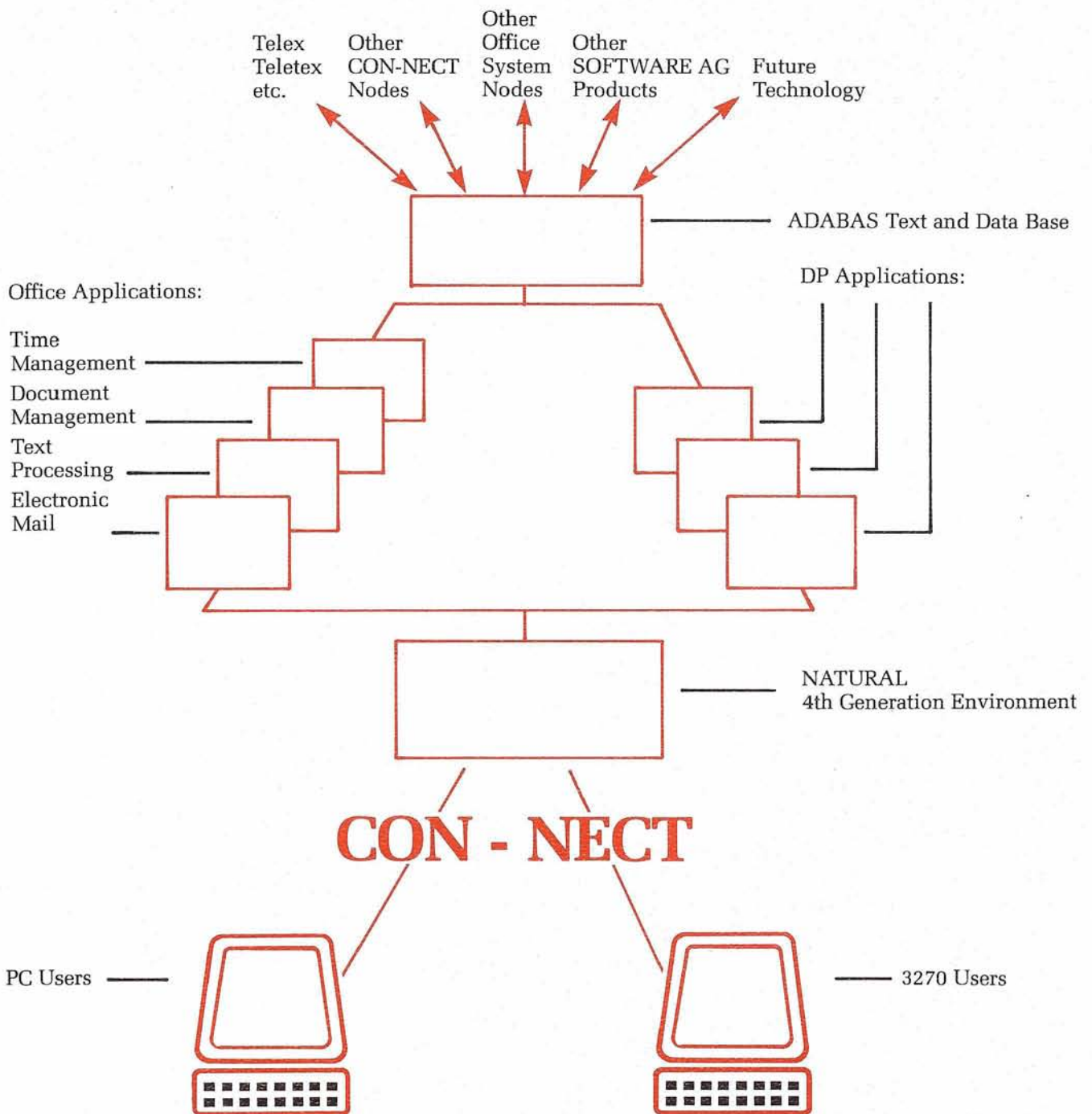
tomatically manages the interface to outside systems. Interfaces for CON-NECT 2 that are under development or planned include: DISSOS, PROFS, VAXMAIL, ALL-IN-ONE, SNADS (based on LU 6.2), and support for X.400.

**The Universal Office**

The most efficient way to improve office productivity is through a truly integrated set of functions. One which provides a seamless interface between the traditional, record-oriented world of data processing, and the document-oriented world of the office. An office system solution should provide compatible support for a company's existing network: hardware work-

stations, personal computers and traditional display terminals. It should have the ability to provide communications to users just around the corner or around the world. And, it should be able to grow as demand grows, without any disruption of service. CON-NECT 2 delivers this universal solution.

For more information on CON-NECT 2, please fill out the information card in this issue or contact your local sales office.



# Conference

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personal, face to face atmosphere. Also on Tuesday night, there will be a VAX customer reception where we will celebrate four years of ADABAS and NATURAL on the VAX.

Wednesday evening, Software AG hosts the Farewell Banquet; however, there is a full day of sessions on Thursday with the last events ending around 4:00 p.m.

## Demo Room

Even bigger and better this year, the demonstration room will be designed as mini-classrooms with over 25 of Software AG's latest products showcased. Hours of operation have also been expanded over last year's. Don't forget to sign-up for the demos you would like to see. Registration begins on Sunday and runs throughout the week.

## Executive Track

Once again this year, Software AG will host an Executive Track on September 25-27 concurrent with the 18th International Users' Conference. This is a chance for executives at your organization to hear the most authoritative analysts in our industry, see motivational speakers, and discuss products and strategies with Software AG executives and users. Seating will be limited for the Executive Track and attendance will be limited to executive-level DP or corporate managers. If any executives at your organization would like information concerning this event, please contact your Software AG Account Representative.

## See You in Nashville!

You won't want to miss Software AG's 18th International Users' Conference! This year's blend of speaker presentations, demonstrations, classes and workshops will focus on the latest technologies in the industry and provide you with new solutions to your information management needs. For more information please call 703-648-2486 and ask for the Conference Registrar.



Opryland Musical Entertainment

# VAX/VMS Version 5

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Products/versions recently released or that will be available soon:

### ADABAS 1.5.0

ADAMUP utility, extended VMS error messages, mailbox support, numerous enhancements to utilities and support for non-cylinder aligned container files

### NATURAL 1.4.0

Structures to support Graphics, Connection, and Security, hardcopy a screen, PF-key to toggle insert or overstrike mode, performance enhancements, and numerous fixes

### NET-WORK 1.5.0

Supports SNA, relaying, watchdog

### PREDICT 1.1.0

Various fixes, supports FORTRAN

### SUPER NATURAL 2.1.1

User file maintenance

### NATURAL Security 1.0.0

First release

### NATURAL Graphics 1.0.0

First release

### NATURAL Elite 1.3.0

First release

### CONVERT 1.2.0

Supports NATURAL 2 structures

We will see a few other new products as well as additional functionality to existing products, such as:

### Watchdog

Monitors the status of VAX nodes and data bases. If a node fails, routine will run a user-defined procedure to reconfigure the network and restart data bases, if necessary

### CONNECT-VMS Mail

Allows sending and receiving mail messages between CONNECT on the IBM and VMS Mail on the VAX

### NATURAL Professional Programmer Tools

Interactive debugger; also handles arrays, MUs, PES; MONITOR collects stats for a session; VERIFY records a session, replays session, and compares output with previous sessions; language sensitive editor (LSE)

With the release of NATURAL 1.4.0, NATURAL CONNECTION will be supported on VAX/VMS.

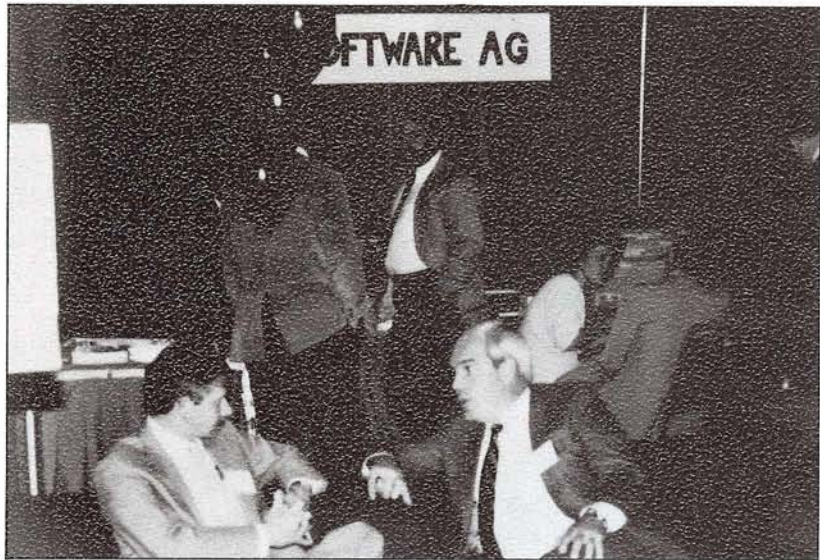
Software AG's 1988 International Users' Conference will once again feature a full track of sessions specifically for VMS products. Several members of the VMS Customer Support Group will be there, along with product developers, SSRs, and representatives from other countries. Be sure to stop by and see us.

# USER'S GROUP NEWS

## University/College Software AG BIG Conference

The Fourth Annual University/College Software AG Business and Industry Group (BIG) Users Conference was held April 17-20, 1988 in Wilmington, Delaware. The University of Delaware was host to over 250 attendees representing over 40 universities and colleges across the nation. Highlights of the Conference included:

- 25 User Presentations in the categories of Applications, Technical and End-User topics.
- 10 Workshops that included training in NATURAL 2, file design, end user tools and performance and tuning.
- An EXPO including over 25 vendors with demonstrations of Software AG services and products for attendees review.
- An EMPORIUM for software exchanges between members.
- An update of the Software AG product line by Software AG Product Representatives.
- Best Speaker awards were presented in the three tracks and the winners were:



Users enjoy EXPO where Software AG demonstrated products and services.

- Applications—John Wheat, University of Texas at Austin
- Technical—Randy Ebeling, University of Texas at Austin
- End User—Barry Cunningham and Karen Swartz, University of California at Santa Barbara

The annual BIG Conference has provided members the opportunity to exchange information as it relates to the higher education market and Software AG products and applications. The conference attendee list has grown each year and mem-

bership is now over 100 schools. This year's evaluations indicate how beneficial this conference is to its members.

Future conference dates and hosts were set as follows:

- Spring, 1989—University of California at Santa Barbara
- Spring, 1990—Pennsylvania State University
- Spring, 1991—University of Texas, Southwest Medical Center

## Federal Business/Industry Group Is Formed

During the Miami Conference the Federal Business/Industry Group was formed. George Coker has agreed to act as interim President until formal elections are held.

The purpose of the Group is to develop, distribute, and promote a contact list of professionals directly involved with supporting the United States Federal Government through the use of Software AG products and services; to provide a forum to define, discuss, and resolve common problems with ultimate presentation to Software AG if

required; to provide an opportunity for all Federal users of Software AG products and services to discuss experiences, goals, and ideas among colleagues; to provide an opportunity for site visits and demonstrations of actual applications of Software AG products and services; and to channel the Federal community voices into a single audible and effective tool to influence product development and vendor support.

The proposed membership of the Group consists of representatives

from Agencies of the United States Federal Government and contractors currently supporting those Agencies who hold an up-to-date license for a Software AG product(s).

Individuals interested in the Group should contact George Coker through the following address:

Software AG of North America, Inc.  
11490 Commerce Park Drive  
Suite 210  
Reston, VA 22091  
Attn: G. Coker  
(703) 620-0100

# ADABAS Product Representative Report

Bob Becker

I realize that at the time that you read this, summer will be winding down, you'll be planning for the Software AG International Conference in Nashville and probably quite fed up with the heat of the summer. At the time of this writing, which is mid-June, we have experienced perhaps one of the hottest and driest spring seasons ever in the state of Michigan. I'm sure that you'll have had your fair share of a long hot summer.

This is a time of change within the Software AG user community. Several vacancies have occurred within the Special Interest Group arena. The ADABOMP SIG chair is presently vacant as well as the Large Data Base SIG chair. However the DOS SIG Chairperson which was vacant has now been filled by Len Berger from MMU Pension and Welfare Plans (212) 337-4956. Len has graciously accepted to be chair for the DOS Special Interest Group and is presently planning a workshop which will be given at the Conference in Nashville. If any person is interested in chairing the ADABOMP Special Interest Group or the Large Data Base Group SIG, I would very much like to hear from you. Please contact me at my office if you have an interest in these areas.

Another subcommittee which has formed recently within the ADABAS arena is Data Base Directions Committee. Dan Creager from U.S. Sprint (214) 401-7391 has accepted to become the Chairperson of this newly formed committee. Myself and several others have volunteered to become members on this committee. The purpose of this group is to work closely with Software AG in defining direction on future data base developments. In light of distributed data via ADANET being introduced fairly shortly as well as use of DB2 in conjunction with ADABAS in many installations throughout the world, the challenges of the future direction in DBMS's become crucial

and very strategic. I therefore urge you to think about joining this group. You and your company can have an active roll in the definition of data base directions.

A Security Directions Committee is also being formed. Security at the global level is the basic premise for the user community's voice to feed its input to Software AG. A plan should be proposed which consolidates security into one centralized facility which can be driven by TOP SECRET, RACF, or ACF2. I would like to locate a Chairperson for the Global Security Issue Committee. I feel it to as be equally as important as the Data Base Directions Committee. If you are interested in becoming a member or becoming the Chairperson, please contact me at my office as this committee is now being formed.

I have written a letter to Peter Schnell indicating a need for the allowance of accessing the checkpoint file within ADABAS 5 by the user community. During the past year of testing ADABAS 5, I and other testors have discovered that the checkpoint file is no longer readable via NATURAL or COBOL programs. Many users use the checkpoint file to build applications that allow for automatic operational backout facilities within their environment. Peter Schnell has indicated that he recognizes the situation and is working on a proper solution to the condition.

I hope to see many of you at the Conference this fall. Prior to that time if you have any ADABAS related issues, questions, or suggestions to improve the product, I would enjoy discussing them with you. It is our input to Software AG that counts and that can improve all Software AG products. Please contact me at Foremost Insurance Company—(616) 956-2664.

## Performance Issues

Bob Becker

Many of you have an expressed interest in using tape cartridge rather than tape in backing up and restoring the data base in your environment. We have been using tape cartridge as our vehicle for the ADAFIX utility for over a year now and have experienced a rather sizable improvement in elapse time for the backup process. As many of you know, data streaming is a component used in the tape cartridge technology to experience a fairly sizable benefit from using cartridge over tape. One must increase the number of buffers in the JCL for the dumping and restoring process. We are using fifteen buffers for the DD statement referencing the tape cartridge and have experienced a 20% decrease in run time over using standard tape drives. We are also using tape cartridge for coping off the dual command log and protection log from disk periodically through the day. However I have not determined the performance improvement of this process over using tape.

Another area that we are looking into for improving performance is testing of the NATURAL Optimizer software. Although we have not received an advanced copy of the Optimizer, we expect one coming soon and will be reporting the results of our benchmarks of using NATURAL Optimizer in comparison with standard COBOL at the convention at Nashville. Indications from Software AG are that NATURAL Optimizer will run NATURAL code faster than similar code written for COBOL. We evaluated NATURAL 2 against NATURAL Version 1 as well as COBOL last fall and reported those results at the 1987 Conference. We're very encouraged by the preliminary figures that Software AG has reported on NATURAL Optimizer and hope that we will have concrete results that we can report at the Nashville Conference.

# Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

Larry Godec  
SAGGROUP Secretary

The SAGGROUP Executive Committee interim meeting was held April 13-15, 1988 at the Software AG of North America headquarters in Reston, VA. 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 back of the Newsletter and a detailed answer will be provided either directly or in future issues.

## Annual International Users' Conference

The mailing of Conference material has been sent out. Expected attendance is about 2300. There are 1200 rooms reserved at the Opryland Hotel with overflow hotels available. There has been some talk about extending the Conference an extra day, but because of space conflicts this is not possible. To alleviate the problem of so many concurrent sessions, Software AG General Session will start Sunday night. If possible, you should plan to arrive in Nashville by early Sunday afternoon. There is also a Technology Fair planned for Sunday evening.

There will also be an Executive Track again this year. Registration will be on Sunday with the Conference starting on Sunday evening and continuing through Tuesday. Several well-known speakers will be present. This is a good opportunity to get your management more involved and better informed.

The companion program will also be available this year. Companion tours of the surrounding area will be offered through Maritz Travel, the sponsoring travel agent.

## Executive Committee

This year there are four offices for which elections are being held. They are: President, Secretary, NATURAL Product Representative, and PREDICT Product Representative. You will be receiving ballots soon and I encourage each of you to take a minute and vote. Remember that these people are your represen-

tatives to Software AG. Candidate statements are included in this Newsletter.

With the increasing number of products being offered by Software AG, a restructuring of the Executive Committee has been proposed. Instead of having Product Representatives, there will be Functional Representatives. Under each of these areas will be Technical Advisors. This approach allows more people to be involved in the Executive Committee structure. I again encourage all of you to take the time to vote on this issue and to take this opportunity to volunteer for one of the technical positions. Here is your chance to make your voice heard.

## Software AG

Stu Miller has resigned as CEO of Software AG and on behalf of SAGGROUP, I want to thank him for his help and support over the years.

If you haven't heard by now, Software AG of North America has merged with Software AG Darmstadt. The first question that came to my mind was, how will this affect me, the user? Software AG assured us that there will be no effect! They also said that this move will allow Software AG to put more resources into R & D. It also allows Software AG of North America to work more closely with Software AG Darmstadt, the effect being more timely releases and better support.

## Product Strategy And Product Releases

As a result of the merger, Software AG has recognized and has put all of the relevant disciplines that have something to do with a product into one section of the company. This pertains to preparing a product for development and release. It allows the same people to be involved in a product development life cycle longer. The result of this should be a reduced lag time between a European release and an American release.

ADABAS: ADABAS 5 is currently in beta testing. The scheduled release time frame is third quarter.

NET-WORK: NET-WORK is also in beta testing and will be released in the same time period as ADABAS 5.

NATURAL: You should have received SM03 by now. This appears to be the most stable NATURAL 2 yet. This is the release that our company plans to go to production with.

ADAMINTS: You will receive one more ADAMINT tape with all known fixes applied. This version will also support PREFETCH. ADAMINTS will not be included on the ADABAS 5 tape but will continue to be supported. There will not be any more enhancement though.

COM-LETE: There was some confusion about which COM-LETE tape you should install. A letter has been sent out from Denver Support explaining the differences between the different versions. If you have any questions about which tape your site needs to install, call Denver.

NATURAL Elite: NATURAL Elite is currently being rewritten in NATURAL 2. When that is complete, the Authoring System will then be available under NATURAL 2. Anticipated beta test dates for this 2.1 version are fall 1988.

VMS Elite has recently been released. There are 6 courses available: NATURAL Introduction, NATURAL for the Business Professional, SUPER NATURAL Fundamentals, SUPER NATURAL Advanced, SUPER NATURAL Administration, and CON-STRUCT Fundamentals.

Instead of continuing with an exhaustive list of every product and its current status and target release date, let me tell you that a document exists with this information and a copy was sent to all Regional Representatives. I encourage you to get in touch with your local Software AG office or Regional Representative and to attend your next Regional meeting to get any specific information you need.

# Highlights

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## Newsletter

An article explaining the responsibilities of the Executive Committee members is included in this Newsletter. The Executive Committee is your voice to Software AG. It is made up of users just like yourselves. The only difference being that we all opened our mouths at a Regional meeting or conference and someone said, "Hey, you ought to be on the Executive Committee." We are not a hand picked group of gurus who know everything about all the products. We simply care enough and feel it's important enough to let Software AG know what the users want. I know that "getting involved" means spending a little of your precious spare time, but it is worth it! So take some time to read the article "Executive Committee Responsibilities" and if you happen to see one of the members walking down the hall at the Conference, stop and say "Hi" and ask them how you can get involved. You'll feel better, they'll feel better, and the world will be a better place.

## Service/Connection

Service/Connection is a new product which will give the user access to technical product information. This should reduce the number of times you have to call Denver Technical Support. It will also include a Customer Profile System and Bulletin Board capabilities. This is something that users all over the world have been asking for. The availability should be sometime late this year. A Service/Connection Users' Panel will be starting soon and they will need your comments. More information about this product and the Users' Panel will be forthcoming. (Here is another chance to get involved.)

## Outstanding Product Topics

It would be nice to have one security umbrella over all Software AG products instead of having several different security packages for different products. A project is currently under way in Software AG to address this issue. Bob Becker, the ADABAS Product Representative, is heading this project up from the users' standpoint. Please contact him with any suggestions or comments about how such a product should work.

An official statement was requested from Software AG concerning their position on user exits and what will happen when ADABAS 5 is released. Any user exits you are currently using which are undocumented should be done so at your own risk.

A concern was brought up about upward compatibility between product releases. Software AG stated that upward compatibility is not guaranteed. They will, however, provide a migration aid in the cases where there is not compatibility.

## SAGNA Image And Direction

Lin Pearce, Chief Operating Officer, has given several presentations to users at Regional meetings about Software AG's Integrated Software Architecture. If this is something you would like to hear, contact your Regional Representative and tell them to schedule Lin at your next meeting.

All Software AG technical and sales staff began a new training program which will enhance their knowledge of the product line. General questions you have about the functionality of a particular product should be directed to your local sales office.

With IBM's announcement of MVS/ESA, Software AG was asked what effects this would have on ADABAS. They assured us that ADABAS has never needed enormous resources to run. In the future, if ADABAS needs ESA, Software AG feels confident that they will be able to use whatever interface IBM comes up with.

## Change/Enhancement Report

The current process is that Change/Enhancements will be sent out monthly to the Product Representatives who will go through and edit them. They will then go to Software AG where an answer will be determined. The C/Es then go out to the users to vote on. Results will be distributed at the Conference.

## Education And Documentation

There is a "new" license agreement to copy product manuals (documentation). There will be an annual fee based on 1% of the current license fee in effect on the anniversary date of the copy agreement. Also note that only product manuals may be copied, thereby exclud-

ing education manuals, marketing brochures, or any other Software AG materials. If this sounds new to you, check your license agreement and see if this clause is in there.

## Area Representatives

John Tomashunas, North American Area Representative, sent out a form to all Regional Representatives asking for questions, suggestions, and outstanding logs from the different regions. Answers were provided by Software AG and they were sent back to the regions. This is done at every Executive Committee meeting, so if you have a particular questions or concern, let your Regional Representative know and an answer will be provided.

The map in the back of the Newsletter will be modified by changing the name of the "Eastern Midwestern" Region to the "Mideastern" Region. The map will also include the Mexican Region.

## Miscellaneous Topics

Europe is currently using a Tape Creation System (TCS) for customizing distribution of Software AG products. TCS is a two part mechanism. First, it is an automated system to ensure that the right components, version, and combinations go onto a tape. Second, it is a System Installation Aid (SIA), which is an automated install feature. With the increased number of products, SIA is lagging behind the automated system and is currently being rewritten. Within a year, the U.S. should have the automated system in place. This should ensure that Software AG will deliver exactly what a particular customer orders and needs.

Software AG will bundle or unbundle certain products so they can compete evenly with other vendors.

Software AG will bundle its Custom Solutions with a new MSA interface product which allows users to define MSA files on ADABAS. Within a few days of the MSA package coming out, it will run on ADABAS. Software AG will come into your shop for three days and tune this product so it is working effectively. No more waiting months for a version to run on ADABAS.

# Responsibilities of Each Executive Committee Member

Bill Wagner  
SAGGROU Vice President

If you attended the last International Users' Group Conference in Miami last year, you probably noticed twelve people wearing light blue ribbons reading "Executive Committee" on their badges. These are the officers of SAGGROU, the group to which you belong by virtue of your use of Software AG products, and probably the largest and most active user group of its kind in the computer industry. Many people have considered running for these offices, but have hesitated because they were unsure of exactly what is involved in being an office-holder. The SAGGROU Constitution and By-Laws describe the "formal" responsibilities of the officers, but the best descriptions of duties and benefits naturally come from the people who have had the experience of holding office themselves.

The members of the Executive Committee fall into four categories. The "officers" (President, Past President, Vice President, Secretary) are defined in the SAGGROU Constitution, and elected by the entire user group. The second group is the Product Representatives, also popularly elected. However, the number of such representatives and their areas of responsibility are not defined in the Constitution, but determined by the Executive Committee as a whole. The third group consists of the Chairmen of Standing Committees, who are appointed by (and serve at the pleasure of) the President or the Executive Committee as a whole. There are three such Standing Committees: Change/Enhancements, Nominations, and Technical Support. Finally come the International Area Representatives, elected by the Regional Representatives of their geographical areas. Although they are all members of the Executive Committee, it is unusual for any of them (except the North American Representative) to attend a meeting, for obvious reasons.

**PRESIDENT:** The major elements involved in this position are the coordination and overall management of the various layers and facets of SAGGROU. The biggest challenge is weighing specific user concerns and wants against the overall benefit to both SAGGROU and Software AG itself. Twice each year, the President presides over meetings between Software AG executives and the SAGGROU Executive Committee; keeping the discussions focused while making sure that all sides of issues are fairly presented can be an interesting experience. The time involved outside of these meetings can be substantial (primarily devoted to telephone calls and correspondence) and writing four articles per year for Connections. The annual International Users' Conference offers the opportunity to make a presentation at the opening general session, in front of well over 2000 of your peers.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** There are two primary responsibilities that go with this position; preparing the agenda for the two yearly Executive Committee meetings, and authoring and coordinating all changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. An informal duty (which is now being formalized by a Constitutional change) is being a liaison between the Business and Industry Groups (BIGs) and the Executive Committee. As with all members of the Executive Committee the Vice President occasionally is assigned a special project by the President. A recent example has been working out the details of a reorganization of the Product Representative positions on the Executive Committee. Like the Vice Presidency in any organization, there is the possibility that the Vice President will be called on to assume any or all of the President's functions. (Unlike the Vice Presidency in certain industrialized nations, it is not required that the Vice President have no opinions of his own.)

**SECRETARY:** The key element in this position is the accurate recording of discussions at Executive Committee meetings. For this, a tape recorder is almost a requirement. Immediately following the close of a meeting, the Secretary prepares a complete draft version of the minutes for review by all attendees of the meeting. Accompanying the draft are two "Action Lists," one each for Software AG personnel and for Executive Committee members. After review and revision, a final version is sent to all members of the Executive Committee. A summary version of the minutes is prepared for the International Area Representatives, who in turn distribute copies to all Regional Representatives. The summary may also appear in Connections. Another responsibility of the Secretary is maintaining a record of all SAGGROU correspondence sent or received by all officers. In total, the Secretary may devote upwards of 100 hours per year to these duties.

**PRODUCT REPRESENTATIVES:** Each Product Representative is an advocate for issues related to Software AG products in a particular area. It is their responsibility to transmit all user concerns to appropriate Software AG personnel, encourage exchange of product information between users, and act as liaison between the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and the Executive Committee. Product Representatives are editors of Connections, writing a quarterly column, and soliciting and reviewing articles in their respective areas. All Change/Enhancements requests are reviewed by the Product Representatives, who edit the requests, consolidate similar ones, and add any comments of their own before returning them to the Change/Enhancement Coordinator. This involvement with the Change/Enhancement process has led many people to assume that a great degree of technical knowledge is required of this position. At one time that may have been true. Now, the position is much more one of being a coordinator and facilitator; with the explosion of new Software AG products, it is not possible for anyone to have expertise in them all.

# Responsibilities

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This issue is being addressed as well by a Constitutional amendment that will allow the Product Representatives to create Technical Advisory Committees (TACs), to handle matters (such as Change/Enhancements) that require detailed knowledge of specific products. As an example of a special project, the ADABAS Product Representative is currently working with Software AG to define the specifications for a Centralized Security System, which would cover security for all Software AG products.

## CHANGE/ENHANCEMENT

**COORDINATOR:** Each year, hundreds of Change/Enhancement requests are written by users. It is the responsibility of the Coordinator to collect all such requests, put them in machine-readable form, distribute them to the appropriate Product Representatives, conduct voting among the user community, tabulate the results of the voting, and transmit the results both to Software AG and the users. In addition, the Coordinator usually chairs an annual meeting between the Product Representatives and the Software AG Product Managers at one of the Executive Committee meetings to discuss the individual Change/Enhancement requests.

**NOMINATIONS CHAIRMAN:** This is the position on which all others depend. The Chairman locates and solicits potential nominees for all elected positions on the Executive Committee and insures that they meet all qualifications and requirements. Prior to the International Conference, the Chairman prepares and distributes ballots to all Software AG customers. At the close of voting, the ballots are tabulated and validated. Finally, the Chairman notifies all nominees of the election results, then makes the official announcements at the Conference's formal banquet.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman of this committee is responsible for producing the annual User Survey. Any changes to the format or content of the survey originate with the Chairman, and are discussed with the Executive Committee once a year. The survey, in its final form, is distributed to all licensed Software AG users. Completed surveys are returned directly to the Chairman, who tabulates and analyses the results. These results are in turn presented to the Executive Committee and Software AG executives, then finally distributed to all licensed Software AG users.

## INTERNATIONAL AREA REPRESENTATIVES:

These Area Representatives are elected by the Regional Representatives from each separate geographical area, and as

such are directly responsible for being the voice of a clearly defined group of users. Prior to each Executive Committee meeting, the Area Representatives contact each of their Regional Representatives to gather their questions, problems, comments, and complaints. These are given to Software AG personnel at the meetings and discussed individually; each item is given separate attention. After the meetings, the responses are relayed back to the Regional Representatives. As with all other positions on the Executive Committee, special projects may be assigned that require additional time. One such recent project was the realignment of the North American Regions, which involved sending out a user survey, collating the responses, studying maps and distances, finding users willing to organize the first meetings in the realigned regions, preparing a report for the Executive Committee, and publishing the results.

I hope this article helps to define the individual tasks associated with each SAGGROUP Executive Committee position.

## Communications Products News

Ellen M. Birch

Price Waterhouse

I have been hearing from many Software AG communications products users over the past few months and am pleased to hear the interest in these products within the Software AG user community. Some of the following news may be relatively old to some of you, but I'll repeat it for those who did not receive a direct letter from me this past spring. Please note that when I say "COM-PLETE," I am including all members of this family of products, such as COM-POSE and ADABAS/TPF.

Some of the major communications products issues which were dis-

cussed at the Executive Committee meeting in April included:

### COM-PLETE release/SM tape

**status**—Much confusion has surrounded the simultaneous release of COM-PLETE 4.4.0 and COM-PLETE 4.3.5. I have communicated the concern with the distribution process to all Software AG personnel involved in the release—they are very aware of the problems. Art Burkett of Denver Customer Support has sent a letter to all COM-PLETE users clarifying the status of these releases. In summary, Software AG is recommending that Version 4.3.5 (SM5) be installed, unless the Version 4.4 functionality is required, and that migration to 4.4 should be post-

poned if possible until the release of Version 4.4.2 (SM2). COM-PLETE 4.3.5 is a very stable release and will be supported for an "indefinite" period. Version 4.4.2 is expected to resolve "all" VTAM and VSAM problems.

**Software AG commitment to communications products**—We expressed concern to Software AG on the marketing focus for COM-PLETE, NET-PASS, NATURAL PROCESS, and all "systems programming" oriented (versus data base) products. Issues such as advertising, sales staff orientation, product packaging and naming, and responsiveness to current customers were brought to the table. Software AG is looking for a





# INFORMATION REQUEST CARD

CO-0888

**YES, Please send me additional information on:**

- VAX Products
- NATURAL Elite Computer Based Training

- Please Include me on the Customer Training Mailing List
- Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CUSTOMER # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



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**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 3115 RESTON, VA

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Postage Will Be Paid by Addressee

**Software AG**  
11800 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 22091  
Attn: Tim Fields

# Communications

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marketing campaign oriented towards these products in the near future. I think we were successful in pointing out the importance of their commitment to and recognition of these products beyond mere statements of support. It definitely helps that Roel Pieper, previously in charge of communications products development in Germany, is now Vice President, Product Technology in the U.S. By the way, COM-POSE has been renamed—it is now ADABAS/TPF with numerous optional interfaces included.

**COM-LETE 4.4 documentation**—All COM-LETE 4.4 manuals are available now, with the exception of the reference cards and Messages & Codes manual. These should be available shortly. If you have not received the other manuals, contact the Publications department in Reston.

**ESA plans**—ESA facilities will be looked at on a case by case basis for determination of whether the extended data storage facilities will be used (e.g., COM-LETE roll buffers, in-core PGMLIB).

**COM-LETE 4.3 support**—Denver Customer Support has been emphasizing COM-LETE 4.4 support over 4.3 recently in order to stabilize 4.4. However, Art Burkett stated that there will be a strong commitment to 4.3.5, at least for the near term future.

The following questions and comments have been brought to my attention, with answers as applicable from Software AG:

- 3380 model K drive support—COM-LETE 4.3.5 supports only use of the first third of a 3380 model K pack for the PGMLIB, SDLIB, and MSGLIB. COM-LETE 4.4 supports use of the entire pack.
- XA/JES2 Version 2.2 support—This is supported under COM-LETE 4.4 with no extra fixes or under COM-LETE 4.3.5 with a modification from Software AG.
- DFP Version 2.3 support—This is currently being worked on by Software AG for COM-LETE (this may be available by publication of this issue).

- LU 6.2 support—This is to be implemented through NATURAL PROCESS. It would be available for the current releases of COM-LETE. This is only in the design phase now.
- NATURAL program thread priority—I have a request for ideas on how to provide COM-LETE thread-locking for a program running under NATURAL, not just for the NATURAL system itself.
- KOMAND—The Commonwealth of Virginia is interested in any experience in using this billing product in a COM-LETE environment.

I want to emphasize again that I would be very happy to hear from you if you have concerns or information to pass on or if you're looking for other users with similar problems or environments. I will continue to pass on these questions, tips, or information in this column. Also, I encourage you to make use of the Change/Enhancement process to get your ideas to Software AG on the direction of communications products. A form is at the back of this issue—take time to write down your ideas and send them to Kelly Jones, Change/Enhancement Coordinator. All Change/Enhancements are reviewed and responded to by Software AG. In fact, many of the features added in Version 4.4 of COM-LETE came from Change/Enhancement suggestions.

There are two other articles from the two active SIGs (COM-LETE Tools and Performance and Tuning) located in this issue. Since no one has expressed to me to date any continuing interest in the Technical Support SIG, we are discontinuing it. If you have interest in this subject or any other communications issues and want to form a SIG to address the issue, please contact me at the address listed in the back of this issue.

The COM-LETE Futures User Panel met at the 1987 Conference. Its purposes was to open the lines of communication between COM-LETE developers and users. I am looking for a volunteer to chair the panel at this year's Conference. Please contact me if you are interested.

I look forward to hearing from you. See you in Nashville!

# Observations On COM-LETE 4.4

George Petrowsky

Boston University  
COM-LETE Performance and Tuning SIG

Installation of 4.4 at Boston University was pretty straightforward. We did experience a long-standing problem with the security interface for our security system, TOP SECRET, which was apparently resolved in the beginning of June with a fix applied to TTLOGO and TLCOMREG. The major symptom of the problem was the console message: 'PROBABLE SITE INTERFACE ERROR' from TOP SECRET, which were corrected in April. Another unexpected aspect of the COM-LETE Security interface is that it intercepts the error message of the security package, and translates it to a Software AG variation; a little confusing, since all our other on-line systems will pass the original message back; there is no longer a standard. Software AG has said they will consider passing the original message along in the future.

The major area of impact to the programming staff is the change in the calling conventions for calling the COM-LETE functions. In the past, these functions had two call formats, one for PL1, which had a return code field as the first parameter, and one for COBOL which did not, but which used the reserved word data area 'RETURN-CODE' for the same purpose. Software AG naturally experienced problems maintaining two sets of routines with such subtle differences, and with 4.4 has consolidated all multiple version routines into one of each. These have the return code field as the first parameter. The end result is that when the programmer maintains an old program using a COM-LETE function, and relinks it using the new libraries, the program will have to be changed to accommodate the new call format. Software AG has another reason for adopting this format. In the old COBOL format, it was too easy for an inexperienced programmer to improperly code the call logic, neglecting to interrogate the

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# COM-LETE 4.4

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RETURN-CODE on returning to the calling routine, since it is not explicitly used in the call. In some cases, if the routine was called after the previous call had been unsuccessful, an abend situation would occur. This is a change which we felt was significant enough to have been noted in the product notes, but wasn't. We have stated this to Software AG.

The function RJE was also changed to accommodate the security interface. We experienced a small problem here, as the interface was designed for RACF 1.7. Although TOP SECRET is specified as 'analogous' to RACF 1.7, one of the subtle differences is in the number of parameters which it will check on the job card of a batch job. RJE has a default to add a GROUP= to the job card, which is not valid for us. Placing this last in the job card corrected this.

One of the features we have been anxious to see was the revised roll mechanism, which rolls only the used region instead of the cataloged region. In our shop we have a mix of COBOL and NATURAL applications. Many of our NATURAL applications make use of COBOL subroutines to provide complex table handling or editing. In addition, we have NATURAL applications which make use of SD files directly, instead of through the on-line work

file mechanism. These, and other reasons, all contribute to the need to have NATURAL cataloged with a large region to COM-LETE, allowing enough space to allow these subroutines to be loaded. In addition, we have several very large all-COBOL routines which require use of the overlay feature of the linkage editor and extensive use of the COLOAD / COLINK functions of COM-LETE. Together, these application design issues create the need to have several threads defined as the maximum under COM-LETE 4.3 to support NATURAL and the COBOL applications which are cataloged at the maximum. The resulting roll buffer and data set activity which we experience is often a waste of I/O, since in 4.3 the entire cataloged region is rolled. In 4.4 we have been able to see the difference in roll activity; only the region which is actually used is rolled, we have a big saving since the region reserved for the subroutines is usually unused.

The UDTIB function, which maintains the TIBTAB on-line, had an error early on (abend) which was corrected by a fix.

TUMSPRNT has an error which has not been corrected for us yet, getting a S0C9 when executed.

VSAM opens get a S0C4. We have received a fix for this, but apparently it has not been successful. We are still working with Software AG on this problem.

New facilities and features we have used and hope are just the beginning:

## UCTRL

This is the consolidated systems programmers tool system. Very good beginning in region usage analysis, which we have found useful in adjusting roll buffer size, pgmlib buffer size, etc. A nice feature is the display of applied official maintenance (zaps which also set the indicator bytes 'on').

## UDTIB

This is the on-line TIBTAB maintenance tool. Especially useful to define new printers and modify existing definitions, etc.

The general utility format of returning to the previous screen instead of back to USTACK—saves time.

The new operator command 'LOAD' to load resident programs, such as the COM-LETE portion of NATURAL—saves time, allows fast corrections and modifications to be done.

Overall, this 4.4 is much improved over the 4.3 version. If the remaining bugs can be resolved quickly, and the development trend shown in 4.4 in the area of tools and utilities continues, the product can expect increased acceptance. Reliability and recovery are crucial aspects which must be addressed in this development.

## VAX/VMS SIG Meeting

The VAX/VMS SIG met at the Software AG Eastern Regional Users' Group Meeting that was held on April 12, 1988 in Washington, DC. Those in attendance included:

John Fredrickson—National Public Radio  
Kathleen Foley—Chase Manhattan Bank  
Steve Lovelady—Perdue Farms  
Bruce Sions—Virginia Dept. of Transportation  
Ron Moran—Reston Association

Also in attendance were Ellen Birch and Dave Birch of Price Waterhouse.

Several things were decided:

1. It was unanimously voted to form a "Regional" VAX Software AG Users' Group;
2. John Fredrickson was unanimously elected Chairperson of the group;
3. The group wishes the Chairperson to apply for a seat on the SAGGROUP Executive Committee in order to better represent the needs of VAX Software AG customers;
4. Concerns were raised regarding the level of support delivered to Software AG VAX customers and the number of VAX oriented courses offered by Software AG;

5. The Chairperson suggested that the group should always be attached to the Eastern Region of the Software AG Users' Group. It was felt that becoming a separate group should only be considered if no cooperation or representation is forthcoming;
6. John Fredrickson agreed to distribute a list of bugs and enhancements to ADABAS and NATURAL to the SIG membership;
7. The group will meet again at the next Eastern Regional SAGGROUP meet on or about July 12, 1988.

# NATURAL Restore System

Marty G. Henderson  
Marathon Oil Company

Marathon Oil Company has been using NATURAL and ADABAS for the past six years. One problem that affected us at times was individuals accidentally purging their NATURAL source program. The need to restore a source program was evident. We felt the best way to solve this problem was to utilize Software AG's tools, namely the Protection log. The Protection log saves the following vital information about every update to NATURAL source code:

1. Who updated the source code
2. When the source code was updated
3. Before and After images of the source code

Our task then is to extract this information from the Protection log and put it in a more accessible location.

We created two ADABAS user-views to hold the information we needed on-line; NATURAL-SOURCE-HISTORY and PLOG-INDEX. NATURAL-SOURCE-HISTORY contained information about the changes made to NATURAL source programs, but the before and after images were not kept on this userview. This userview contains the following information:

NATURAL library  
NATURAL Program  
Start date and time of the update  
End date and time of the update  
Image type (A or B)  
USER-ID

The PLOG-INDEX contains information about the Protection log tapes. This information is used to find the appropriate VOL SER for the Protection log needed to restore a NATURAL program. This userview contains the following information:

Date and time of first record on this PLOG Data Set  
Date and time of last record on this PLOG Data Set  
The Volume Serial numbers (MU field)  
Data Set name

Marathon keeps the Protection log data sets for 45 days and each night we process the new Protection log data set. During the nightly processing, the following actions take place:

1. Any records on NATURAL-SOURCE-HISTORY or PLOG-INDEX are deleted if they are older than 45 days.
2. Any before or after images for the NATURAL System file are extracted using DEBUG's PLEU (Protection Log Extract Utility). NATURAL-SOURCE-HISTORY is updated with this information.
3. The volume serial numbers for the new Protection log data set are stored on the PLOG-INDEX userview.

A series of NATURAL programs were written to present the user with selection screens which show an entry for all the NATURAL source program changes for the last 45 days. The user can then select which one they wish to restore. They are able to select the before or after image so they can restore the program back to a previous version. The screens also show the USER-ID of the person who made the change.

Once a program is selected, a batch job is submitted to do the actual restore. This batch job will also use PLEU to extract the particular source version the user selected and then put that into the NATURAL System file.

This system provides the user with on-line screen for displaying restore information, but utilizes the Protection log for the actual restore. Storing all the before and after images on ADABAS for all program modifications for the past 45 days would require a large amount of storage.

This system has two drawbacks that should be noted:

1. The user must wait for the nightly batch jobs to run before restores are possible for any activity today.
2. This method works great for restoring individual programs, but is cumbersome when a whole library needs to be restored.

# NATURAL 2 Tips and Guidelines

Darrel Davenport  
Washington State University

The following documents are a first draft of our tips and guidelines at Washington State University. Some of the guidelines contain tips based on how we use NATURAL in our shop and may not be in the best interest of other institutions.

There will be much more information in the final draft of this document. I hope the limited amount given here helps you with your planning with the use of NATURAL 2.

## NATURAL 2 GUIDELINES: MAPS AND FORMS

### Processing Rules:

When you are coding your own processing rules into a map, be sure that they are generic enough to share between programs. This leaves more flexibility in the application. Also consider writing your edits in a separate module that you CALLNAT from the processing rules. That way if the edit changes you don't have to recompile all of the maps and programs that use it, and your edit is consistent throughout the application.

Don't code data areas into a map's processing rules. The data definitions are too hard to find when changes need to be made.

### Windows:

Windows that are larger than the physical page require bigger output buffers and more attribute buffer space. Since all buffer space comes from the thread and since the buffers are allocated at NATURAL startup time, you should consider the other requirements of your application before dedicating too much to this feature. For example, if you need many global variables or you hit many files that have large records you may find it leaves little room when your buffers are already dedicated to page output.

And although it is really nice to be able to page around easily in a window that is larger than the physical device, you should consider the trade off of the amount of

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# The 5th Software AG Joint Conference

Tadaharu Yanai  
Taisei Corporation

The 5th Software AG of Far East Joint Conference, the main event of Japanese users' group, was held in Hamamatsu about 250km west of Tokyo for 3 days, from March 10-12, 1988.

This year, the conference was largely attended with 322 people of 122 organizations. Japanese users are divided into nearly 30 special interest groups and each group has a monthly meeting to study the special subject together even though every user is in a different industry and uses a different CPU. Joint conference is the place to report the result of the one year study by the research groups and to interchange technical ideas among users.

Following presentations were given by each study group in the four rooms.

- Overview of CTCS and effective usage
- Technique of multi-database structure
- A guide to ADABAS file design
- Resource management with PREDICT
- A guide to tuning
- Performance from the viewpoint of file design
- NATURAL management from the viewpoint of file design
- Standardization of NATURAL programs
- NATURAL V2.1
- Standardization of documentation
- Research on inhouse developed supporting tool
- End user computing and MML
- Regularization of the procedure from the system development to the production operation
- Remedy operational troubles with tool
- Security management—protection against data destruction



Over 300 people attended the 5th Software AG of Far East Joint Conference.

- Data backup
- Simplification of JCL generation
- Network capacity management and planning
- Present condition of documents management and future condition
- Integrated management from system development to operation
- Establish data processing company independently

On the first day of the conference, presentation of four users' applications were made. New products and

new versions of existing products were introduced by Software AG staff members.

On the second day, in parallel with the presentations by study groups, demonstrations of Software AG products were given using eight terminals. This was a good chance to know and understand Software AG products much further.

During the conference period, all attendees enjoyed a well elaborated party and lecture by Japanese famous film director, Mr. Susumu Hani who was invited as a guest speaker.

## COM-LETE Tools Tape

Ed Simon

*Management Applied Programming  
COM-LETE Tools SIG Chairperson*

An updated version of the COM-LETE/ACCESS tools tape (8801) has been sent to Software AG and should now be available for distribution. This tape is for Version 4.3 only and includes three sets of programs which have been added since the last version (8611):

- COM01600—New VSAM tools
- COM01700—Batch print/update of the USERID file
- COM01800—Condense USERID file directory results

I will be testing a tools tape for Version 4.4 this summer and hope to have it ready by the Conference in September. You can request a copy of the tools tape with the form in the back of this issue.

Also, if you have any "favorite" tools you like to use for COM-LETE, ACCESS, or ADABAS/TPF (COM-POSE), send them to me (preferably on tape) at the address in the back of this issue.

## Get MORE Involved In SAGGROUP— Be a Candidate!!!

Colette Farabaugh  
SAGGROUP Nominations and  
Elections Committee Chairperson  
Dole Packaged Foods

Are you upset with the direction Software AG is taking your favorite product? Do you think you as a user are not being adequately represented by the SAGGROUP Executive Committee? Do you have definite ideas on how the next Conference should be handled? So what? There's nothing you can do about any of it, right?

Wrong.

It's easy to criticize other people who are representing you, who are involved in making decisions that affect you. It's also just as easy to become one of those persons, to be a representative, to be a part of group of users who are working for the benefit of the entire user community. It just takes a little more time and a little more effort, and commitment.

If you feel that you have new ideas, have problems that aren't getting addressed, or need to get some message across to the Software AG Executives that they haven't gotten yet, **RUN FOR AN OFFICE ON THE SAGGROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE!**

How do you go about it? Simple—as the Chairperson of the Nominations and Elections Committee it is my responsibility to locate licensed users to run for the open positions on the Committee. Since I don't know every single one of the users out there, I have to rely on recommendations, word of mouth, and exposure. Exposure means that a person has given a presentation at some Regional meeting or Conference, has held or is holding an office at the Regional level, or maybe has published an article in this Newsletter—and I find out about him or her. Some of you have gotten a call from me this past year, asking you to consider running. But there are many, many of you users out there who don't fall into the above categories, but who would really like to do something more than just attend Regional meetings. You just don't know how to go

about it. If I don't know you are out there and are interested, I can't call you. That's when you have to contact me, and tell me that you would like to be on the Executive Committee.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the SAGGROUP Executive Committee's schedule, here is how it works. The Committee meets twice a year: for two days prior to the annual Conference and each day at lunch during the Conference, then again six months or so after the Conference. This interim meeting is held in either Reston or Denver, and lasts for two days, typically a Thursday and Friday. Because Software AG recognizes that there is an extra travel expense involved in attending the interim meeting, they waive the Conference fee for all Executive Committee members. This is to encourage the companies involved to recognize the importance of this extra meeting, and to make it easier to justify time spent.

In upcoming issues of the Newsletter there will be descriptions of the individual Committee positions. This should give you more of an idea of what is involved in the area in which you are interested.

Now that all of you are getting ready to call me, even before you finish reading the rest of the Newsletter, I have some bad news and some good news. The bad news is that the nominations are closed for the 1988 elections. (I'm sorry, I had to—the results have to be announced at the Conference.) The good news is that immediately following the Conference in Nashville I begin the search for the 1989 candidates. Because of the staggered elections (read your Constitution) the open offices for 1989 will be Vice-President, ADABAS Product Rep and COM-LETE Product Rep. If you're interested, or if you have any questions, look me up in Nashville. If you don't want to wait until September call or write me now, and I'll put you on the list. Here's how to reach me:

COLETTE FARABAUGH  
Dole Packaged Foods Company  
50 California Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111

## President's Message

*continued from page 2*

To Richard Wolverton, Past President, a special thanks for his guidance during the transition during what now seems eons ago. The insight he provided made my task much easier and I wish him good fortune in whatever the future brings.

Marty Henderson has brought to the Technical Support Survey position the intensive same work ethic with which he transformed the Change Enhancement process several years ago.

Larry Godec willingly accepted the call to fill out Steve Bradley's term as SAGGROUP Secretary on very short notice, a difficult position to assume on the run as it were. Product representatives, Jim Wisdom, Bob Becker, Ellen Birch and Frances Osteen have all performed admirably under some very trying conditions during this past year.

Last but not least by any measure, I wish to extend both my personal thanks and appreciation and that of the Executive Committee to Larry Jayne, SAGNA Manager of Customer Relations. That Larry can maintain his composure and perspective when all around him is in an advanced state of confusion is beyond belief. Needless to say, he is a key factor in building and strengthening the vendor/user relationship which we currently enjoy.

During my term, I have stressed participation and communication as the primary keys to the future success of SAGGROUP. There are no easy solutions to maintaining and improving the organization. There have been some successes, some failures. But the task is worth the effort because the unified voice of SAGGROUP speaks louder and is heard more clearly than several thousand separate individuals. Let's not get too quiet out there.

# Guidelines

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I/O to build that larger screen and how often it is used. For example, don't output 5 pages of data to a map if the user rarely goes past page 1 or 2.

Small "pop-up" windows have many advantages. They can be used to display additional information that is usually not needed on a screen, thus leaving the screen more open for only the often used data. In this way you have reduced the tabbing needed for data entry and the screen I/O when the additional data is not needed. One thing to watch for when doing small windows is to set the window back to the normal size when you are done. Otherwise the next screen output may try to use the same window, which is not the best idea in most cases.

## Help routines:

Help routines can be called from maps automatically by defining the name of the routine (or screen) to the map and/or its fields. Be aware however, that the screen is not read before the help routine is called. This means you can not pass the new data from a map to a help routine. Only the data originally displayed on the screen is available to the help routine.

There should be help defined for the whole map as well as help for each field. You have 2 options to accomplish this: A generic help routine that gives different help depending on which field you are on, or a different help routine for each field. In the former case you must hard code each field name to decide which help text to use. In the latter case you have more flexibility, but you must write several routines, one for each field.

Help routines should never do updates or stores to files. They are intended to display information only.

When using windows from help routines be sure not to overlay the fields you are giving help for (or any relational field that may require dependant values).

Screens put up by help routines should have screen identification just like any other screen.

Make the help screens the right size so that the user will not see a MORE prompt when looking through the help. Also do not allow the NEXT prompt to be displayed to the end user.

## Miscellaneous:

Don't use the "&" character on the end of the map name. This is a reserved function for the language indicator and should not be used except to give maps in alternate languages.

The KD=ON function displays the PF-key settings at the bottom of the map. If you require showing the PF-keys and like this format of PF-key display it is handy to not have to code it on each screen. It does not allow for the definition of the CLEAR or ENTER keys however.

The use of maps (or forms) in batch mode works well and allows easy page output definitions, but every blank line output is an I/O to the printer. The form does NOT use the carriage control to skip multiple blank lines. Thus the output from this can be slow and costly. Don't use this for jobs that do lots of printing.

In the next issue of Software AG Connections there will be another article on NATURAL 2 Tips and Guidelines.

Darrell Davenport  
Administrative Computing  
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Pullman, Washington 99164  
(509) 335-7316

# Get Involved in SAGGROUP—VOTE!!!

Colette Farabaugh  
SAGGROUP Nominations and  
Elections Committee Chairperson  
Dole Packaged Foods

## SAGGROUP Officer Elections

The time for SAGGROUP elections has rolled around again. The search for candidates started in December, and just recently came to a conclusion. Thanks to all of you who aided in the search, from those who suggested names (while themselves gracefully declining), those who agreed to run after one or (usually) more calls, and especially to those who contacted ME first and said they were interested.

As in previous years you are being given three opportunities to vote:

1. Return by mail, or at the Conference, the ballot you have received, or will receive very shortly (after reading all of the candidate statements).
2. Tear out and return the ballot that is included here in the Newsletter (after reading all of the candidate statements).
3. Or wait until you get to the conference, pick up a ballot, and vote there. Since you have until Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. to vote, you can take the time to locate the candidates and talk to them about their ideas for improving SAGGROUP.

NOTE: These are not AND options, they are OR options. In other words, please only vote once. Duplicate ballots, based on the company name and customer number, will be discarded.

See Ballot  
on page 26  
to vote!  
Please make a  
copy and send to  
Colette Farabaugh.



# CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

## BILL WAGNER

### Candidate for President

The University of Texas at Austin has been a user of Software AG products since 1979, and I am fortunate to have been involved with their use here since the beginning. Over the years, I have given numerous ADABAS and COM-LETE presentations at Software AG Conferences, as well as speaking to non-Software AG audiences about our experiences in becoming a NATURAL fourth generation shop. I am presently serving as the SAGGROUP Vice President.

But instead of concentrating on background, I would rather use this statement of candidacy to look to the future. Specifically, there are four major issues that I think SAGGROUP will have to address in the next two years:

1. Changes within Software AG. Within the past few months, Software AG has gone through some major internal changes. As new people take over new responsibilities within the organization, they will bring with them new ideas and directions. It is essential that SAGGROUP provides constant and direct feedback from the user community in such a time of change. New ideas and directions provide new opportunities for both Software AG and their users, but we need to make sure that there is a general agreement on our long-range goals.
2. Proliferation of products. It was not too long ago that there were essentially four Software AG products: ADABAS, COM-LETE, NATURAL, and PREDICT. At last year's Conference in Miami, over thirty products were demonstrated! There is currently a proposal to replace the four "Product Representatives" on the SAGGROUP Executive Committee with five "Area Representatives"; each of whom will be the voice for a "family" of products (such as Application Development, or Communication). As Vice-President, I have worked on a committee to establish these new

guidelines. As President, I would work to see their successful incorporation.

3. Growth of the user community. As Software AG products proliferate, so do Software AG users. Last year saw over 2000 people gather in Miami for the User Conference; the prior Conference in San Diego attracted only about 1300. SAGGROUP needs to create more opportunities for active participation within the user group, and actively seek out people to fill these leadership positions. The question of balancing the need for more leadership opportunities with the need to keep a stable Executive Committee structure will be a key one in the next two years.
4. Business and Industry Groups (BIGs). Having seen the success that the University BIG has achieved, I believe that this type of common interest group can be of enormous benefit to users in nearly every line of business. By their very nature, BIGs cross product lines and concentrate on solutions to problems specific to a business as a whole. As President, I would work to see that Software AG promotes and supports BIGs, to the point where they can become almost self-sufficient entities. The University BIG holds its own annual conference; I would like to see all BIGs reach this level of organization.

The next two years will be a time of enormous change for Software AG, for SAGGROUP, and for the relationship between the two. It is extremely important for SAGGROUP to be actively involved in these changes: directly involved in the setting of new directions, directly involved in the development of new products, and directly involved in maintaining our close vendor-user relationship as both Software AG and the user community face a period of rapid growth. This is a tremendous challenge. It is also a tremendous opportunity. If elected President, I will look forward to both.

\* \* \* \*

## STEVEN L. BAKER

### Candidate for Secretary

Although the qualifications for Secretary of the Software AG Users' Group do not require a person with an extensive background in Software AG products, I have been involved with ADABAS since it was first released in the 70s; with COM-LETE before it was known as COM-LETE; with NATURAL since it was new; and PREDICT since it was free. I find the evolving line of Software AG products exciting and can only envision each new release as an opportunity to utilize data better.

I have come up through the ranks from Programmer to Analyst to Designer to Data Administrator and I understand the pride of getting a system up in a week and having it work the first time and the frustration of installing a new release only to find that the one feature that I needed wasn't working yet. As a Data Administrator I can also see a time when all new systems will be considered and designed as an integral part of the organization's data store instead of five new stand-alone files needed by Friday. I believe that Software AG has that vision also and is developing the tools that will allow data to be utilized to the fullest.

As Program Coordinator for the Northwest Region, I have seen organizations unable to grasp the tremendous opportunities that proper tools for data utilization can provide. I have also seen many companies that have pushed those tools to the limits and ask for more capabilities. SAGGROUP officers have to understand both worlds. Why are people reluctant to obtain the latest tools? What capabilities are needed for the future? These are the needs of Software AG users and these needs have to be presented to Software AG. That's what SAGGROUP is all about.

If elected as your Secretary I will be busy performing the duties of keeping an accurate record of all meetings, but I also expect that my background with the products and concern for the future direction of the profession will contribute to an energetic and results oriented SAGGROUP.

\* \* \* \*

# VOTE

continued from page 21

## LARRY GODEC

### Candidate for Secretary

I am the DBA for Computer Language Research, which has used Software AG products since 1978. As the current SAGGROUP Secretary, I have served on the Executive Committee and have accurately recorded the minutes. More importantly, I have served SAGGROUP by being a voice for your concerns. I feel this is a very important time to be involved with SAGGROUP because of the release of NATURAL 2 and the imminent release of ADABAS 5. We need to work closely with Software AG so they will know what we expect the products to do. I am confident that I will continue to do a good job as Secretary by representing your needs and concerns.

As Secretary, I will continue to work for the enhancement of all Software AG products so they fulfill our needs to get the job done right the first time. My qualifications include former Regional Representative, presentations at user meetings, and current Secretary. My greatest qualification is that I am committed to performing the duties needed to fulfill the responsibilities of this office.

\* \* \* \*

## OTTO H. FERRARI

### Candidate for NATURAL Product Representative

I have been a user of Software AG products since 1978, and an active participant in the Eastern Regional Users' Group since its revitalization, having most recently served as the Regional Representative to SAGGROUP from the Eastern Region.

Since some of its earliest days, I have been a tester, fixer, installer, and sometimes teacher and user of what is now referred to as The NATURAL Programming Language. It has been interesting to have been involved with NATURAL as it has come of age as a programming language, even though I have participated in more than a few of the "midnight feedings" that seem to accompany new arrivals.

My recent experience as a NATURAL Administrator and member of the Data Base Administration staff for a major telecommunications corporation (MCI), and my present position with American Management Systems, has enabled me to see how NATURAL may be utilized effectively in a variety of environments, both operational and developmental.

My objectives with respect to the position of NATURAL Product Representative, encompass the following:

1. Utilize input from the user community "at-large" and the NATURAL SIG, as well as my own personal and corporate experiences, to focus Change/Enhancements on problem resolution and product depth while funneling marketability issues to the proper channels within Software AG;
2. Provide a "clearing-house" for product usage guidelines that takes into account not only the syntax of the language but also the "whims" of the day to day users and the everchanging products with which the NATURAL Language interfaces.

\* \* \* \*

## JOHN A. FREDRICKSON

### Candidate for NATURAL Product Representative

I have been a Data Base Administrator for 5 1/2 years and an ADABAS DBA for 2 1/2 years. NPR was one of the first VAX/VMS sites for SAG products. ADABAS and NATURAL are critical to the operation of my company. In 2 years we have built some 24 applications in NATURAL and ADABAS. I myself have been the project manager on most of these projects and have written application code and done low-level code maintenance in NATURAL. Right now, my company is in the process of converting all our applications from NATURAL (VMS) 1.1 to NATURAL (VMS) 1.3. We hope to use PREDICT to assist us in this endeavor.

I am the VMS officer of the Eastern Regional Software AG Users' Group in the United States as well as the Chairman of the Eastern Regional Software AG VAX/VMS Special Interest Group. I am also the founder and editor of VVAN, the VAX-VMS-ADABAS-NATURAL News-

letter. I started this newsletter in order to foster better communication between ADABAS DBAs and NATURAL System Managers in the VMS market, particularly.

If I am elected the NATURAL Product Representative, I intend to lobby SAGNA to give better support and training, especially in the VMS market. There is still no PREDICT, no ADABAS Internals, nor Performance Tuning classes for VMS customers. I will lobby Software AG to move product development talent from Darmstadt to Reston, rather than having programmers from Germany available directly only to SAGNA employees. I also intend to encourage Software AG to make releases of their products more compatible with previous versions, and to make patches released in a scheduled fashion. NATURAL still suffers from fundamental flaws in spite of the fact that these problems have been well known to Software AG for years.

I hope to maintain better communication with each Software AG customer, both IBM and DEC.

\* \* \* \*

## RICHARD J. GOLDEN

### Candidate for NATURAL Product Representative

The prospect of becoming the next NATURAL Product Representative interests me very much. I have been in data processing for nine years, the last four as the Data Base Administrator at Louisiana Gas Service Company.

During that time I have been responsible for all aspects of NATURAL, including, for the last year, NATURAL 2. During the last year, I have taught in-house classes on NATURAL 2 and made a presentation on the NATURAL 2 Map Editor at a Regional Users' Group meeting.

I feel that the next two years will be very critical in determining the directions and influencing the development of NATURAL 2. As innovative and exciting a product as it is, there are many places for improvement and growth. It would be my intent to see that the voices of the user community are heard by SAGNA and that we would play a pivotal role in the development of NATURAL 2.

If elected to this position, I plan on accomplishing the following:

- Encourage users to submit Change/Enhancement requests. This is the vehicle I will use to organize the many voices of the users into one voice that will affect the technical development of NATURAL 2.
- Explore the possibility of an annual NATURAL Users Conference/Workshop.
- Organize a committee that can maintain and keep more current the NATURAL Tips and Techniques publication.
- Organize a clearinghouse for NATURAL Standards Manuals.
- Encourage more users to submit articles for newsletter publication and encourage more users to give short presentations at local, regional and national conferences.

I feel that given your support in the election, I will be able to dedicate the time and energy required to see these ideas through to fruition.

\* \* \* \*

### **Laura L. Jacobs**

#### **Candidate for NATURAL Product Representative**

I have been involved with ADABAS and NATURAL at Rochester Institute of Technology for over seven years. I have worked with most aspects of NATURAL. I have been a Programmer, Systems Analyst, NATURAL and SUPER NATURAL Trainer, Software Specialist, and have worked with creating NATURAL standards. I am currently the Data Base Administrator. I have worked with many NATURAL add-on packages, such as NATURAL SECURITY, SUPER NATURAL, REVIEW and NATURAL Elite. I am currently the Program Chairperson for the Eastern Great Lakes Users' Group. Last year, I was it's Regional Representative. I spoke last year about NATURAL Efficiencies at the International conference in Miami. I am constantly concerned that RIT's ADABAS and NATURAL environment is efficient. I am involved with the programmers in writing or maintaining high-performance programming, the analysts in generating efficient file design and maintain the ADABAS/NATURAL environment itself.

It is an exciting time in the world of NATURAL. To make the products useful and effective, we must have good communications between the users and Software AG. I see being the NATURAL Product Representative as being an important element in the communications. I would like to work for you. Listen to your desires, your achievements and your problems. I am very interested in the direction you feel NATURAL and its products should be taking. I have always been concerned with performance and efficiency. Through communications that I hope to provide, we will not have to keep reinventing the wheel.

\* \* \* \*

### **Ken Little**

#### **Candidate for NATURAL Product Representative**

Since entering the ADABAS environment, I have watched ADAWRITER and ADASCRIP+ grow into ADACOM and eventually NATURAL. Over these years the products have grown immensely in functionality. Along with these new functions came new issues such as Security, a Dictionary, etc. With the advent of NATURAL 2, these issues are becoming increasingly important. My major goal as NATURAL Product Representative would be twofold. First, to push Software AG in bringing all NATURAL-based products up to date with their own current technology. While we are starting to see this occur, I don't feel it can be stressed too strongly. My second goal would be to make NATURAL-based products complement each other to a greater degree. As these side products are developed, they must be synchronized to reduce maintenance redundancy, overlapping capabilities, etc.

The new world of NATURAL 2 is exciting and challenging. Being an original beta test site, Crawford and Co. has a high degree of expertise with the product. As your Product Representative, I would seek to provide insight to Software AG of user community concerns, and in turn provide the user community with Software AG future directions.

\* \* \* \*

### **James T. Wisdom**

#### **Candidate for NATURAL Product Representative**

Background—

Education—

BA—Wesleyan University

MA—Harvard University, Math. Education

Current related work experience—

Senior Data Base Administrator for Boston University's University Information Systems Department

Currently serving as Acting NATURAL Product Representative

Qualifications—

I previously held the position at Boston University of Training Coordinator in the Information System's department. In this position I developed in-house training for NATURAL as one of the training programs for which I was responsible. As a result, I became intimately aware of the many uses and abuses of NATURAL at Boston University. These insights led to the development of the now infamous NATURAL Handbook.

The Handbook was an attempt to discuss under one cover some of the questions of application developers or end users. Often answers to specific questions could not be found without much research; often this spanned many Software AG volumes. I thought it appropriate to make this information available to the staff, especially issues relevant to data base access through NATURAL programming.

I have since been active in the user community as a focus for NATURAL questions and have hopefully steered people in the proper directions. I have served as the NATURAL Tips & Techniques Chairperson for two terms and currently hold the position of NATURAL Product Representative having been appointed after the resignation of Bill Speakes.

# VOTE

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Plans for SAGGROUP—

If elected as the NATURAL Product Representative, I first want to establish channels for dialogue between users and Software AG on the futures of the product. I want to encourage Software AG to participate in open dialogue with the users on a regular basis so they actually see how their products are used. Maybe, this can influence development and delivery of enhancements and subsystems which are proven vital to the operations of information management, and not what is suspected to be of importance.

Next, I want to see a regular NATURAL Conference held yearly to discuss important matters relevant to the environment off cycle from the International Conference. This would be a two day affair which the attendees control. So much is happening at the International Conference it gets difficult to "roll up" the sleeves and work for two straight days without interruptions or being side tracked because so much is happening.

Thirdly, I want to see that the SIG groups related to the NATURAL environment be truly representative of what the user community wants and requires. Support to the SIG chairpersons is critical to the success of the SIGs.

Lastly, I want to find the best method to best support the Change/Enhancement process. More than ever the vendor needs user input to provide changes to the environment that best reflect what the users need and what the vendor will supply. Currently, more energy from the NATURAL Product Representative is needed since so much is happening in NATURAL and its subsystems. I think I can find the right energy levels to make the Change/Enhancement process a success.

\* \* \* \*

**DENNIS A. CALLEWAERT**

## Candidate for PREDICT Product Representative

I have been in the Information Services Department at S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc. since 1974. My present position as a Data Base Administrator began in January 1985 when the company started their migration from Honeywell to IBM. At that time we had positioned our development products to be NATURAL as our programming language, ADABAS as our data base, and PREDICT as our data dictionary/systems documentation tool.

Being one of three DBAs, my primary responsibility is to test and implement PREDICT. Part of the implementation involves customizing access and security through the user exits, and enforcing wherever possible the use of the PREDICT facility.

This past year, I have given presentations on PREDICT and Active Cross Reference to two Software AG User Groups. The presentations included how the two products function and relate to each other, and our use of the products here at S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc. PREDICT is and will continue to be a primary tool here at S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc.

As a PREDICT Product Representative, I would like to be more involved with Software AG on their new development ideas for this product. My involvement would be to not only listen to their plans and present them back to the User Groups; but also to present to Software AG what we users require of the product. I appreciate the opportunity to serve in this capacity and look forward to working with everyone if I am elected.

\* \* \* \*

**BOB COMSTOCK**

## Candidate for PREDICT Product Representative

I have been a user of Software AG products since 1974. As a member of the PRC staff, assigned to the PRC McLean Data Center, I have held the positions of Data base Administrator, Customer Support Manager, and Applications Development Manager. These positions were centered around activities supporting the use of the

Software AG products, PREDICT, ADABAS, and NATURAL. Additional responsibilities included serving as consultant to various PRC projects using Software AG products. As a user of Software AG products, I have served as the SAGGROUP Eastern Region Vice President and currently the Eastern Region Users' Group President.

My goal as PREDICT Product Representative would be to effectively represent the many users of PREDICT to the Executive Committee and Software AG. I am committed to provide the time and energy necessary to actively solicit information from the user community and Software AG and reporting this information through Connections.

\* \* \* \*

**TOM KETCHER**

## Candidate for PREDICT Product Representative

I would like to announce my candidacy for the office of PREDICT Product Representative with the national Executive Committee.

A synopsis of my qualifications to hold the office follows.

We at U.S. Sprint, to include senior corporate executives, have an extremely strong commitment to the field of data administration. Towards that end we have concurrently moved towards enhancements and extension of PREDICT to support true data administration and data modeling. Given these opportunities and management support, we feel that we are moving towards a world class corporate data dictionary. Performing these enhancements while attempting to support a programming staff of upwards of 1400 people has certainly been the most challenging opportunity that my career in data processing has afforded me. At any rate I feel that we have as deep a knowledge of the product as anyone within the continental United States.

I have been an ADABAS/NATURAL user for upwards of 5 years and in the DBA arena for nearly 3 years. I have been in the data processing field for 11 years and am well acquainted with the evergrowing world of personal computers. I hold degrees both in Computer Science and Commercial

Art with a minor in English Literature, so I feel that I bring excellent oral and written communication skills to the position.

My employment history has spanned a wide variety of government and industry applications to include the following. Department of Defense, The Combined Arms Testing Association; Department of Defense, The Operational Testing & Evaluation Agency; R. J. Reynolds Corp.; Martin Marietta Data Systems; Citgo Petroleum, Kerr McGee Corp. and for the last year, U.S. Sprint. Prior to the aforementioned ADABAS shops I was with the free world's largest employer, The US Army. I was fortunate in that while with the military I got the 'luck of the draw' and received professionally challenging assignments as well.

I have attended virtually all the Software AG training courses as well as other trade schools in addition to my formal education. Additionally we have a highly sophisticated application centering around PREDICT that we are writing in NATURAL 2 so thru usage I understand the concerns that the user community is experiencing with the product, and its interaction with PREDICT.

\* \* \* \*

#### **PATTI PICCOLA**

##### **Candidate for PREDICT Product Representative**

I have been an active user of the Software AG product line since 1979. Over the past nine years I have been employed by two major oil companies utilizing ADABAS, NATURAL, NATURAL VSAM, NATURAL SECURITY System, and PREDICT. During these nine years, I have worked as a Programmer, Systems Analyst, Systems Programmer, DBA and DA. I have made presentations to the Software AG Southwestern Region Users' Group on NATURAL 2 and PREDICT and I also presented a design methodology created at Standard Oil Production Co. for NATURAL 2 development. I was the Houston Software AG Users' Group Chairperson in 1984 and 1985. In 1988, SOPC has beta tested PREDICT V2.2.3 and I have served as a member of the PREDICT panel which met with the German developer to discuss the future direction of PREDICT. I am an active member of the Houston Data Administration Forum.

In my current role as Data Administrator at SOPC is to provide direction and assistance for a \$17 million financial application project, utilizing PREDICT and CASE tools for system design and implementation. By using PREDICT, Data Conversion and Application Development staffs have been provided a customized batch and online cross reference reporting system which is used for analysis on both the old and new applications, and a link between the two. I am also designing a comprehensive methodology which will provide the capability to manage information across third and fourth generation software environments. The software tool utilized in this methodology is PREDICT.

I would like to serve as the PREDICT Product Representative and feel confident I could represent our organization well based on my previous experiences and my current personal goals. Active participation in the user community is the single best way of communicating our company's requirements to Software AG. This communication will lead to better products in the future. As PREDICT Product Representative, I will strive to work in the following areas:

—Address how PREDICT functions with third generation languages. Although PREDICT is marketed as a "generic" data dictionary, the product still does not service the COBOL environment properly, i.e.: copybooks, redefinitions of groups, etc. For those of us who work with a mixed environment of both third and fourth generation applications, more responsive support to the traditional language problems is required.

—Communicate with other users the information needed to assist in the conversion from the Standard File when PREDICT Version 3.0 is released. There are many PREDICT users who have been using the Standard File as their "bible". With the release of Version 3, there will be an improved repository of data entities, moving away from the "file" concept, which gives the PREDICT user more flexibility.

—Request more functionality from PREDICT to assist in the construction of a corporation's data model.

I would appreciate your support and the opportunity to represent you on the Executive Committee.

\* \* \* \*

#### **DOROTHY M. RACICH**

##### **Candidate for PREDICT Product Representative**

Having worked in Elkay Manufacturing Company's Information Resources for more than 15 years, I have been involved in Customer Order Processing, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Inventory and Shop Floor Control systems.

My present assignment as Data Administrator began in February of 1985 when Elkay acquired Software AG products. Data Administration was established to administer and monitor Elkay's data requirements. These are some of the things I have accomplished:

1. Designed user applications utilizing a data base for three years prior to the acquisition of data base software.
2. Developed a System Development Life Cycle using the features of information engineering and prototyping. This SDLC was presented locally at the Chicago Users' Group in February of 1987.
3. Mechanized the engineering of data to migrate conceptual and logical models to PREDICT.
4. Established a key word dictionary of business terms which is utilized for engineering of data elements.
5. Developed an audit system which verifies dictionary recordings and date/time stamps of NATURAL application source and module objects.
6. Participated in the PREDICT user panel with Chris Huepke of Software AG Darmstadt in April of 1988.
7. Recommended the acquisition of NATURAL Elite with authoring, which we subsequently licensed, for Elkay's education programs.

# VOTE

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When we acquired Software AG products, the local office recommended that we join the Chicago Users' Group. We have been active within the group ever since. We have drawn on the group for its expertise and believe we have made a contribution to its significant growth.

The greatest advantage of user groups can be stated in one word: communication. The value of the contacts for real business problems and utilization of Software AG products is immeasurable.

It is this valuable resource which I would like to bring to PREDICT users. Seasoned and new PREDICT users need to know that they're not out there alone. Coordination of their business needs and wants to make PREDICT a more viable dictionary would be my main mission as PREDICT Product Representative.

Information is an extremely vital company resource. It affects productivity, profitability and strategic decisions. With the growing information needs of our companies, we have an obligation to serve them efficiently, effectively and as timely as possible. We need powerful tools to assist us in providing our users' data needs.

PREDICT is a strategic product of Software AG. It must serve the business needs of all users regardless of their specific industry. It is critical that the PREDICT dictionary be utilized as the central repository of metadata. PREDICT is necessary to achieve the long-range advantages of data base operation.

Please help me to represent our needs to Software AG for this vital product.

\* \* \* \*

# 1988 SAGGROUP BALLOT

|  |                      | Vote for one<br>for each office |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT<br>(2-year term)                         | BILL WAGNER          | _____                           |
|  | _____                | _____                           |
| SECRETARY<br>(2-year term)                         | STEVEN L. BAKER      | _____                           |
|  | LARRY GODEC          | _____                           |
|  | _____                | _____                           |
| NATURAL Product<br>Representative<br>(2-year term) | OTTO H. FERRARI      | _____                           |
|  | JOHN A. FREDRICKSON  | _____                           |
|  | RICHARD J. GOLDEN    | _____                           |
|  | LAURA L. JACOBS      | _____                           |
|  | KEN LITTLE           | _____                           |
|  | JAMES T. WISDOM      | _____                           |
|  | _____                | _____                           |
| PREDICT Product<br>Representative<br>(2-year term) | DENNIS A. CALLEWAERT | _____                           |
|  | BOB COMSTOCK         | _____                           |
|  | TOM KETCHER          | _____                           |
|  | PATTI PICCOLA        | _____                           |
|  | DOROTHY M. RACICH    | _____                           |
|  | _____                | _____                           |

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CUSTOMER NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ (all ballots must contain customer number)

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Return ballots:

1. By Mail: **Must be received by September 3, 1988.**  
Colette Farabaugh  
Dole Packaged Foods Company  
50 California Street  
San Francisco, CA (USA) 94111
2. In Person: To ballot box (in registration area) during first 2 days of Users' Conference, September 26-27, Nashville, Tennessee.

# REGIONAL REPORTS

## MIDEASTERN REGION

### NATURAL Elite: A Good Training Supplement

Dom DeMao

Amax, Inc.

The first Mideastern Software AG Users' Meeting of 1988 was held on May 4, 1988 in Indianapolis, IN. There were 28 people in attendance.

The meeting opened with the election of officers for the coming year. New officers are:

Regional Representative—  
Margaret Bush, Polygram  
Records

Regional Secretary—Greg  
Johnson, Mayflower Transit

The regional constitution was amended on the issue of elections to state that elections shall be held after the present officers have a tenure of one year, and that the newly elected officers shall assume their office at the close of the meeting at which they were elected.

The first speaker of the day was Larry Jayne from Software AG, Reston. Larry delivered the highlights of the 1987 Software AG International Users' Conference in Miami, stating that last year's conference posted a 48% increase in attendees over the previous year. The newly implemented Executive Track was also a success, drawing 180 attendees. Larry predicted that this year's conference in Nashville will be even more widely attended and urged everyone to make early reservations to insure the best accommodations. He also stated that due to the positive response to the "Reach out and CON-NECT" exhibit in Miami, this exhibit will be expanded from 5 to 30 terminals this year.

The next subject presented was NATURAL Elite by Susan Kaplar of Software AG, Reston. Susan explained the different training options available to corporations

today and defined the salient advantages of CBT as self-paced, centrally administered, and always available. She also stressed that CBT should be viewed as a supplement and not a replacement for instructor lead training. Susan listed the advantages of NATURAL Elite as being:

- Written in NATURAL
- Easy to install
- Easy to use
- Low user of system resources

Her presentation was concluded by discussing the enhancements that Software AG plans to make to Elite in NATURAL Elite 2, such as enhanced security, improved answer checking and scoring, "hot key" entry and exit from applications to Elite, and keyword indexes and glossaries on a course by course basis.

Kelly Jones of Leaseway Transportation, the Change/Enhancement Coordinator for Software AG products, next presented the highlights of the Executive Committee meeting held in April. Some of the issues discussed were: replacement of Product Reps with Functional Reps, status of Service/Connection, and NATURAL Optimizer. Kelly urged that everyone who is concerned with either the pricing or functionality of any Software AG product should write to their Product Reps.

After a break for lunch, Jim Thoman of Software AG, Reston presented a lively discussion of the powerful NATURAL 2 HELP facility. Software AG has made available with NATURAL 2 a way to provide help in a consistent and easy to invoke manner, through the use of the HELP programs. Jim explained Software AG's philosophy behind help, and demonstrated how it is possible to create an entire system using only help screens. After his presentation, Jim answered a number of questions on the NATURAL 2 conversion process.

The meeting concluded with a round table discussion of specific problems and solutions being experienced at user sites. The next meeting is scheduled for August 3, 1988.

## NEW ENGLAND REGION

### Executive Committee Meeting Overview

The New England SAGGROUP meeting was held on April 25, 1988.

#### Executive Committee Meeting Report—Jim Wisdom

- Product Reps will be replaced with Functional Reps; Application Development, End User, Administration, Data Base, and Communications.
- TA's, Technical Advisors, will help Functional Reps by their knowledge of particular products.
- It was decided that this arrangement was better than organizing around various environments (ie. VAX).
- Merger was discussed. Private company now, which is owned by Software AG, Darmstadt. Services should improve. Decided that a letter should be sent out to the user community stating the impacts.
- New computer facility will be installed in Denver. Should improve support.
- A long list of announcements was made, which Jim will give to Mary to send out in mailing.
- The NATURAL Optimizer was discussed, but still no agreement on release or distribution.
- NATURAL Operations should be out in 1st quarter 1989.

- An official statement was requested from Software AG concerning their position on user exits and what will happen when ADABAS 5 is released.
- Service/Connection is planned for implementation in the early fall.
- Product Reps gave their reports at the Executive meeting and are working with SIGs and on Change/Enhancements.
- TCS Tape Creation System was discussed. Tapes will be customized for a site's installation needs.
- Software AG's policy on security DDMs remains unchanged. They will release the 1.2 security DDM to the security administrator.
- The committee questioned how the merger would affect the QA process. Software AG's intent was to help development efforts come out in a more developed and finalized form.

#### Conference News and Highlights— Larry Jayne

- over 2000 attendees at the last conference in Miami
- 15% increase in attendees each year until the last conference—48% increase
- 100 speakers and 108 presentations last year
- usually there are seven concurrent sessions, plus demos of new products and new releases

The next Conference will be held at the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee from September 25-29. Hotel rooms will be \$99 for a single and \$109 for a double. The registration fee will be \$825.

#### Software AG Application Strategy —Larry Jayne

- Software AG wants to team with customers and key 3rd parties to accelerate and enhance application development.
- Software AG is currently compiling a list to be used by all its customers, which consists of application name, PCC, shareable portion, etc., so that users will be able to more easily share resources, ideas, etc.

#### Reports from College and University BIG Conference

*Technical Track—Mary Lou Sevigny*

- Randy Ebeling spoke about ADABAS 5, other ADABAS products, and optimization.
- ADABAS On-line Services was reviewed.
- NATURAL 2 issues concerning new NATPARMs, the new buffer pool, and the contents of buffers such as ESIZE, USIZE, FSIZE, etc. were also talked about.
- A demo room was available which contained exhibits of applications that were available at no cost.

*Application Development Track—  
James Carney*

- New Software AG utilities were reviewed including; massive catalog facility, SYSINPL, SYSLIB, SYSMAN2, and SYSSEC2.

#### Election of Officers:

President—Mary Albano, M.I.T.  
Vice-President—Lew Levy, Michael Anthony Associates  
Vice-President—Linea Jensen, Aquidneck Management Associates  
Secretary—Steve Clark, Westvaco

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#### SOUTHEASTERN REGION

## NATURAL CONNECTION Successful for Orlando Utilities

Clayton Clendinen  
*Orlando Utilities*

The Southeastern Regional winter meeting was held in Orlando, Florida on January 18, 1988 at the Grosvenor Resort, Walt Disney World Village. The meeting was attended by 41 users from 24 companies. Jim Obenschain was elected to another term as vice president. We agreed to try to hold two ADABAS 5 classes in conjunction with the Spring meeting around April. Clayton Clendinen gave an update on the S.E. Software AG Electronic Bulletin Board.

The Help session that was usually last on the meeting agenda was rescheduled to follow the morning business meeting. We found this to be a more effective time period and will continue it in the future. Dennis Gandy of Software AG, Atlanta region gave his regular Software AG product update.

Jim Brandenburg of EG&G Florida, Inc. presented a profile of NATURAL Elite. EG&G has found the NATURAL Elite courseware a very effective method of training new NATURAL programmers. They have also found the authoring system of NATURAL Elite to be a very cost efficient method of developing in-house training. EG&G found that even entry level programmers could be utilized to create courseware for Application systems. As a result of their success with NATURAL Elite, Tony Cortese of EG&G (407) 867-4042 has started a NATURAL Elite Special Interest Group (SIG). The purpose of this group is to share ideas and courseware developed by users of NATURAL Elite.

Dan Burger of Gold Bond Building Products presented "A SUPER NATURAL Story." Dan discussed strategies for implementing SUPER NATURAL to make it more conducive to end-user acceptance. Susan A. Cover of University of Delaware was kind enough to lend Dan the material she used to present this topic at the 1987 Software AG International Conference. Ten ideas were listed to improve SUPER NATURAL usage.

1. Make field names less than 19 characters long.
2. Use field heading in DDMs. The length of the field heading should not be more than one or two characters longer than the data field. Use vertical heading where needed to make meaningful headings.
3. Make userviews for each different record type in the file.
4. Make userviews that includes only those fields that relate to the logical view and that users will use for reporting.
5. Reorder fields in a userview so the most frequently used fields are first in the DDM.



6. Put long descriptions in PREDICT for each field and provide users with a report or online tool to look at the long description.
7. Provide the capability to get multiple copies of a report.
8. Provide the capability to get address labels.
9. Teach users how to create an efficient transaction. It is important that users have classes that teach them how to use their data.
10. Monitor performance of SUPER NATURAL transactions with ADABAS performance monitoring tool.

Mike Brannon, also of Gold Bond, told of their experiences with testing NATURAL PROCESS. NATURAL PROCESS allows programmers to access the operating system environment using NATURAL. Gold Bond is considering using the product to build a disk management system. Most people agreed, NATURAL PROCESS has the potential to make a dramatic impact in the data processing environment.

Clayton Clendinen of Orlando Utilities Commission discussed Strategies for Micro-Mainframe Connectivity. Clayton listed goals for selecting a micro-mainframe strategy with a view to those that must use it and those that must support it. Many of the hardware connectivity options, with their pros and cons were discussed. It was important that Orlando Utilities have one tool for micro to mainframe file transfer that could access all their data files. That tool needed to be simple enough for end users to operate and powerful enough to build applications that supported file transfer. The tool also had to be easy to maintain by the support group and work consistently with many different kinds of connectivity hardware. NATURAL CONNECTION met those goals for Orlando Utilities.

Clayton found that NATURAL CONNECTION supported most of the major terminal emulation boards for PCs and about any protocol convertor that supported VT100 terminal emulation. The only area where NATURAL CONNECTION was lacking was

support of Local Area Network (LANs) gateways to the mainframe. This allowed consistent user interface with the PC user regardless of the hardware connection. NATURAL CONNECTION's file transfer capabilities are a NATURAL language statement, so it was no more difficult to write a program to download/upload information than it was to write a NATURAL inquiry. Since Orlando Utilities was a VSAM/ADABAS shop, NATURAL CONNECTION was able to access all of their data files. For the support group only one micro-mainframe tool had to be maintained for the many different hardware options, and defining access to data files had already been accomplished via PREDICT and NATURAL DDMs. For Orlando Utilities Commission, NATURAL CONNECTION has more than paid for itself by reducing the repetitive entry of data from mainframe files needed on PCs for mass mailings to OUC's customers.

Next, Ken Little of Crawford shared his experiences with the beta test of NATURAL SECURITY V2. Ken showed foils of the NATURAL SECURITY Maintenance screens and users of V1.2 security found most of these screens very familiar. One major difference in V1.2 and V2 is when you attempt to run security and non-security versions against the same FNAT system. In order to run a non-security NATURAL you must INPL vanilla NATURAL system programs into a second FNAT system file and point the NATURAL nucleus against that FNAT file.

Another new feature is the transition period LOGON. Users not defined to NATURAL SECURITY may logon to public applications and applications undefined to NATURAL SECURITY. This is very useful for existing NATURAL users in the process of converting to NATURAL SECURITY that desire to convert an application at a time. Other enhancements include:

- Public files may be defined as read only.
- Security exits to pass userids to NATURAL from other security.
- Additional mass functions.
- Application Library names can match userids of Persons or Administrators.

The last presentation was a site profile by Phil Rosol of Martin Marietta Data Systems. MMDS is running ADABAS and NATURAL on VAX and IBM hardware. MMDS has developed an application that stores and distributes CAD/CAM documents for their many CAD/CAM systems. The system is able to access information residing in ADABAS files under VMS and IBM operating systems.

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#### SOUTHEASTERN REGION

## Delta Airlines Share NATURAL Tips and Techniques

Dan Burger  
*Gold Bond Building Products*

The 1988 spring/summer meeting of the Southeastern Software AG Users' Group meeting was kicked off with a hospitality suite on June 2nd hosted by the Atlanta Regional office. We would like to thank Software AG for the opportunity to socialize with the 25 users that attended. The main meeting was held on June 3, 1988 at the Terrace Garden Inn in Atlanta, GA. There were 63 attendees representing 27 companies and government agencies. Clayton Clendinen, secretary/treasurer, opened the meeting with the announcement that the president of the region, John Yodsnukis, has resigned due to a new job opportunity. John served the Users' Group well during his terms, and we wish him well.

Clayton explained that the spring and summer meetings were being combined this year because we had originally scheduled an ADABAS 5 class for the spring meeting. When the class could not be held in the spring, both meetings were scheduled together. We still hope to have an ADABAS 5 class after the International Meeting in September, or as part of the winter meeting.

Dan Burger of Gold Bond Building Products was elected secretary/treasurer and Clayton Clendinen of Orlando Utilities Commission was elected president.

Clayton distributed a survey soliciting presentations for future Regional meetings. If you are interested in giving a presentation you may contact any regional officer.

Sherry McCalley of Software AG, Atlanta, presented the release dates for various products for the summer.

The next session was our help session. This is a forum for the exchange of information on all Software AG products. The Charlotte Mecklenburg School system had contacted Clayton and asked if anyone has had a problem tracking systems written in NATURAL that they would be willing to share. Dan Burger of Gold Bond Building Products said that he had been told by the Denver support center that the SM releases of NATURAL 2 and NATURAL SECURITY 2 must be installed together. It was mentioned that the NATURAL SECURITY 2 user exits are supported in SM 3.

Chris Jackson of SONAT presented a site profile and an overview of their planning process for NATURAL 2. SONAT (Southern Natural Gas) is a major producer of oil and natural gas in the southeast. The MIS department of SONAT has 67 employees. With the release of NATURAL 2 the Technical Services staff was given the task of planning the upgrade. Some of the challenges that they faced were, the existence of nearly 5000 NATURAL V1.2 programs; integrating NATURAL 2 with the security system in use (ACF2); CICS storage already at a premium in the NATURAL V1.2 environment; and whether or not to use structured mode.

The first step was to train the systems developers with an introduction class. Access to all user and developer systems is controlled by a front-end menu provided by ACF2. In order to integrate both versions of NATURAL with this menu, a program catalog was built in ADABAS that contains the program language and NATURAL version. The CICS storage problem was alleviated by using the Multiple Region Option (MRO). The use of a conversion utility should aid in migrating the NATURAL V1.2 programs to NATURAL 2. After these steps were accomplished, NATURAL 2 was made available to the systems development staff for

the development of new application systems. One of the NATURAL 2 features that SONAT enjoys is the use of windows. Chris explained that this allows them to make their mainframe applications look like PC-based systems which makes it easier to sell a system to their users.

Kurt Hansen of the Denver Support Center gave a presentation on ADABAS Online Services (AOS) for ADABAS 5. AOS is a system written in NATURAL that has a style and format like PREDICT. AOS provides the DBA with the ability to perform functions that were only previously available through batch jobstreams and operator commands. Among the functions available are, ADABAS session communication, and some data base and file maintenance and reporting. Kurt stated that most all functions available with AOS are available with batch jobs and operator commands with ADABAS 5, however, AOS provides them by way of an interactive interface to ADABAS. AOS requires ADABAS 5 and NATURAL V1.2 or 2.1. The installation is the same as for other NATURAL based systems. The session communication gives a lot of capabilities including ADABAS termination, the ability to change some session parameters, and resource utilization information. The maintenance and reporting portion allows the DBA to run many ADABAS utilities online.

Susan Lowy of Software AG, Reston gave a presentation on NATURAL Elite. Elite is Software AG's CBT offering. Susan stated that Software AG's philosophy of training is that CBT courses should be used to complement to the other training methods available, such as classroom training. The advantages of having a mainframe based CBT system are the same as for any application system, that is, unified maintenance, accessible to all users, and central administration. Elite is made up of three components: the presentation system, administration, and authoring. Elite V1.3.3 is currently scheduled for release soon. This release will run under NATURAL 2 and provide a capability to convert the courseware maps to Version 1 to Version 2. Future releases of Elite will provide more security, more flexible answer evaluation, the capability to

establish a training track for someone, tracking of public courses, and analysis of answers given.

The last session was our NATURAL Tips and Techniques session. This session is chaired by Stan Laramore of Delta Airlines, Atlanta, GA. If anyone would like to present a NATURAL tip or technique please contact Stan. Harry Spencer of Delta Airlines presented some NATURAL 2 tips. The tips dealt with some differences between the NATURAL V1.2 and NATURAL V2.1 editors and the data area editor in Version 2. Harry also mentioned that when moving NATURAL 2 modules into production the sequence of the modules is critical, ie. global data areas must be moved prior to any program types. Ed Adams, also of Delta Airlines then presented two NATURAL techniques. The first was a spreadsheet written in NATURAL 2. This was done by combining a non-conversational write with a conversational write. The second was a way to load large maps. When Delta first tried to use maps larger than the screen the programs became too large to stow. Their way around this was by using the starting from feature in the map editor. This allowed them to load part of a map at a time, and the 'shift display' routine would then load the portion of the map that the user was shifting to.

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#### ROCKY MOUNTAIN EAST REGION

## Bill Chapman Speaks on CASE

Gene Fisher  
*Jefferson County Public Schools*

The meeting was opened on March 25, 1988 by President Jim Keebaugh with an introduction of members. Approximately 31 people were present at the Sheraton, Denver Tech Center.

General business included a letter from the North American Rep requesting input from members for the Executive Committee meeting (eg. problems, ideas, the Nashville Conference). It was also noted that several Product Reps were needed.

Gary Hahnenkamp, Software AG, presented some information on the NATURAL 2 Bridge class to be held at Metropolitan State College.

Dave Ritter requested that the group respond to a survey concerning the State Personnel system definition of the Data Base Administrator position. Dan Berkeley mentioned that there was an oil industry survey available on this subject.

Jim Keebaugh and Kathi Smith made some comments on several NATURAL 2 problems.

The data and site for the next Regional meeting was determined, June 17th in Colorado Springs. The host for the meeting will be announced at the next monthly DBA meeting. The tentative agenda includes Larry Jayne, Bill Speaks, and election of officers for next year.

Special presentations began with Sue Karlin talking on Software AG's Integrated Software Architecture and the importance of ADABAS 5's role for future strategies, with emphasis on the emerging distributed data base world. The relationship and functioning of the distributed data base manager, ADANET, with the communication manager, NET-WORK, were discussed in some great detail. Sue concluded her time with, hopefully, her final pre-release Version 5 performance update, which again sounded promising.

R.J. Thomas followed with an in depth discussion of V5.1 generalities and the OS implications. Some of the points mentioned under this area included the use of Cross Memory Services versus the SVC, run time considerations, and the installation of the SVC router under MVS. In addition to the OS aspects R.J. covered numerous items relating to the conversion process from V4 to V5, including the return to V4 if necessary. Both topics were well received by the group.

Following lunch, Bill Chapman used the balance of the meeting, despite a bad cold, to give his Miami Conference presentation on "Preparing Your CASE Shopping List", with particular emphasis on the PREDICT CASE developments. This included a quick history of systems development methods and the current state-of-the-art. As usual Bill's unique style of delivery held the group's attention right thru to adjournment.

## SOUTHWEST REGION

# Jon Ebert Gives Overview on NATURAL PROCESS

Laurie Hanley  
*TGI Friday's*

The May 13, 1988 Southwest Region Users' Group meeting was called to order by Kerrie Meyler, the Southwest Regional Representative. The following orders of business were covered:

1. General Business
2. Software AG 1987 and 1988 International Conferences—Larry Jayne
3. NATURAL PROCESS discussion by Jon Ebert, Software AG
4. SAGGROUP Executive Committee: Mid-year Meeting Report
5. Software AG Application Strategy by Larry Jayne
6. AMI2SQL and ADABAS SQL discussion with Ken Marcum of Software AG
7. Round Table/Open Forum

### General Business

Software AG is looking for a DOS SIG leader and DOS beta test sites for ADABAS 5. If you are interested, please contact Larry Jayne.

The next meeting for the Southwest SAGGROUP will be August 5th. We will be having elections at this meeting. The term of office will be from one conference to the next. The following offices are available for election:

Regional Representative  
Assistant Regional Representative (V.P.)  
Secretary

### Software AG International Conferences: 1987, 1988

Larry Jayne, Software AG, discussed a few statistics from the 1987 International Conference in Miami, Florida. Although the attendance growth rate at each conference has averaged 15%, this year's conference boasted an increase of 48% in attendance. There were 100 speakers and a total of

108 presentations. Each person went to an average of three demonstrations. There were over 40 conference papers submitted by the user community and 36 submitted by Software AG. There were 165 classes and 10 SIG workshops.

This year's conference is sure to increase your technical skills, show you the directions of Software AG, provide you with numerous product demonstrations, and allow you to share ideas and information with fellow users.

### NATURAL PROCESS

Jon Ebert, Software AG, presented a product overview of NATURAL PROCESS. NATURAL PROCESS provides the programmer with system information and services presented as "views" accessible using standard "FIND and READ" statements and a new "PROCESS" statement.

This means that the NATURAL PROCESS application programmer can use the same techniques to access system resources that he uses to access data base information. Requests are handled in the same way that ADABAS calls are handled. A NATURAL PROCESS nucleus is applied to the system. This nucleus behaves like an ADABAS data base. The difference is that NATURAL PROCESS does not return data base information. Instead, it offers operating system information and system services.

Because system information and services are presented to the programmer in "views," even SUPER NATURAL can be used to provide quick access to system resources and information.

NATURAL PROCESS can provide operating system information, JES spool information, catalog management, dataset management, access to utilities (IDCAMS etc.), VTAM operator command, and much more through a NATURAL program interface.

NATURAL PROCESS currently runs under MVS and MVS/XA. Software AG is currently working on a DOS and VM release scheduled for the second quarter of 1989.

### **SAGGROUP Executive Committee: Mid-year Meeting Report**

Larry Godec, SAGGROUP Secretary, and Bill Wagner, SAGGROUP Vice President, of our region attended the SAGGROUP Executive Committee bi-annual meeting. At the Regional meeting they highlighted the results of the Executive Committee meeting.

Elections are held every year at the conference for positions on the Executive Committee. The terms are for two years. One half of the positions are voted upon each year. This year the following positions are up for election: President, Secretary, NATURAL Product Representative, and PREDICT Product Representative.

The status of Software AG's Service/Connection product was discussed. Service/Connection will provide three types of communication: user to user, user to SAG, and SAG to SAG. This product will offer two bulletin board systems, one for users to interact among themselves and one for SAG to communicate technical information, including ZAPS. Service/Connection will be released in the September to October time frame.

Denver was reorganized at the end of 1987. Previously, when you called Denver for customer support you would talk to a level 1 support person. If necessary, the calls were then passed up to higher levels as the degree of difficulty increased. Now, the technical support personnel have been regrouped by product. For example, one group of support staff may deal solely with NATURAL problems. This should increase the level of support provided by Software AG.

At the meeting, a concern was brought up about needing a centralized security package. Software AG is researching an umbrella security package where the DBA could maintain NATURAL, PREDICT, and all other related Software AG product security in one comprehensive package.

ADAMINT support will be continued following the release of ADABAS 5. However, enhancements will stop after ADABAS V4. One more ADAMINT tape will be released containing zaps and fixes for ADABAS V4. This will be the last tape released for ADAMINTS.

Software AG's response to IBM's announcement of ESA was that ADABAS does not need a lot of region space. If they decide in the future that they need the ESA interface, they'll begin developing it. If you are planning to go with ESA, let Software AG know.

Bob Becker, the ADABAS Product Representative, has a tape containing ADABAS performance issues which he is willing to send to anyone requesting it. If you are interested, contact Bob (his address is in the back of Connections).

The members of the committee stated that they would try to get Change/Enhancements submitted to Software AG on a monthly basis.

There is a new regional classroom opening in Chicago in September.

NATURAL OPTIMIZER was stated to be a separate product from NATURAL 2. It was developed to allow NATURAL to outperform COBOL applications; thus, it will be an add-on product with a separate price.

### **Software AG's Application Strategy**

Larry Jayne highlighted Andy Ford's presentation at the Miami conference covering Software AG's Application Strategy. He quoted the Software AG mission statement: *To team with our customers in achieving long-term success by delivering outstanding software solutions and professional excellence.* Larry then passed out a survey form for the attendees to fill out. This survey will be used to gather information identifying the applications that customers have on ADABAS. All information will be contained on a Software AG data base and made available to customers.

### **AMI2SQL and ADABAS SQL**

Ken Marcum, Software AG, discussed Software AG's AMI2SQL conversion application. AMI2SQL is a one time conversion application that translates ADAMINT source into COBOL source with ADABAS SQL statements. It replaces the non-modifiable ADAMINT source modules with modifiable COBOL code that may be run through the ADABAS SQL preprocessor and compiled.

What are some of the advantages of converting applications to ADABAS SQL?

1. ADABAS SQL reduces the resource utilization needed to produce an application program.
2. ADAMINTS have no active cross-reference capabilities, ADABAS SQL does.
3. ADAMINTS are not being enhanced by Software AG in the future.
4. ADABAS SQL will provide upward compatibility with other ADABAS products and releases.
5. The ADABAS SQL syntax is easy to use.

All ADAMINT source modules will have an equivalent COBOL ADABAS SQL module generated.

For ADAMINT ONEP modules, the USERVIEW modules are read and consolidated into a single ADABAS SQL module.

Batch ADAMINT modules will have their USERVIEW program generated with COBOL "ENTRY" statements so that they may be link edited to the user program if required.

The following items are required for AMI2SQL to convert properly:

1. PREDICT Version 2 or later must be installed.
2. ADAMINT source must be in a PDS with LRECL = 80.
3. All ADABAS FDTs need to be incorporated in PREDICT if ADABAS file definitions do not exist.
4. ADABAS SQL Version 1.3 or higher must be installed.
5. The ADAMINT source to be translated must be syntactically correct. Otherwise, unpredictable results/abends may occur.

Some considerations for AMI2SQL conversions:

1. A maximum of 2000 members may be in the PDS to be translated for any given execution.
2. A maximum of 380 lines per ADAMINT source module may not be exceeded.
3. A maximum of 50 lines per ADAMINT entry point may not be exceeded.

4. Generation of ADABAS SQL syntax requires full ADABAS field/file names. There currently exists a 50 line limit per ADABAS SQL syntax statement. Therefore, it may be necessary to limit the size of field/file names in PREDICT.
5. FLDMODE is not supported. Applications using FLDMODE for update entry points will require application modification.
6. Logical file coupling will not be supported.
7. READR=entry point names may not be duplicated. Two FINDSETS may not reference the same READR entry point name. This will cause duplicate entry points to be generated within the COBOL program.
8. No COBOL reserved words may be used in PREDICT file definitions.

### Round Table/Open Forum

A question was brought up for Larry Jayne: "What's the status of the SUPER NATURAL SIG?" Larry replied that there may be one by the next conference. Bill Wagner stated that if there's a number of people interested that they should organize a meeting at the conference.

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### EASTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

## New Officers Elected

**Alan Smith**

*Rochester Gas and Electric*

The November 18, 1988 meeting was held at Rochester Gas and Electric and opened at 9:30 by Joan O'Brien with the introduction of 24 attendees representing 9 licensees and Software AG.

The first order of business was the election of the 1987-88 officers, inasmuch as all were nominated as unopposed, the election results were not terribly surprising. As nominated, the new officers are:

- Program Chairperson—Laura Jacobs, Roch. Inst. Tech.
- Regional Representative—Joan O'Brien, National Fuel Gas
- Secretary—Al Smith, Rochester Gas & Elect.
- Education Chairperson—  
(position still open)

Laura Jacobs presented some notes from the Regional Reps' meeting at the Miami Conference including some general announcements.

- If you want the much-heralded Service/Connection, make it known to your Software AG representatives.
- If you have technical articles for the Software AG Connections, send them to the appropriate Product Reps.
- A rousing tribute was made to outgoing EGLUG secretary Bill Hirons. Bill was only spared the embarrassment of long flowery orations praising his 5 years of contributions to EGLUG by virtue of his being absent. He is already doing some work at the Lehigh Valley, PA site to which R.T. French is moving as a consequence of its merger with Durkee Foods and subsequent consolidation. Bill will be greatly missed.

Lin Steward, Software AG Account Rep, conveyed her impressions of her first Software AG Users' Group Conference since starting with Software AG this year.

Iggie Licatta announced the location of Software AG's new Rochester office at 1250 Scottsville Road.

Many new features of ADABAS 5 were discussed. Mike Callies of Software AG, Denver, recommended that any questions about ADABAS 5 functions be directed to R.J. Thomas at the Denver office. Also, there is some delay in the release of ADABAS TPF because dyadic and quadratic processor support is being added.

NATURAL 2 SM03 is slated for 1st Quarter of 1988 (with NATURAL SECURITY) and this release will eliminate much of the conversion procedures required under SM02. Also there's a completely new SYSMAN under SM03.

After lunch, Mike Callies dazzled the group with a highly detailed discussion of NET-PASS (Network Parallel Application Session System). Although his in-depth discussion is far beyond the scope of these minutes, NET-PASS is essentially a high-powered VTAM session manager which allows a user to be logged-on to multiple VTAM applications currently, provides windowing of (up to 10) of these on a screen concurrently, allows

"hot-key" jumping between sessions, data-transmission optimization, and innumerable other features.

Mr. Paul Samol of Arcata Graphics has volunteered to assume the function of Education Coordinator.

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### EASTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

## Larry Jayne Gives Tips for Nashville Conference

**Alan Smith**

*Rochester Gas and Electric*

The meeting on March 23, 1988 hosted by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) was opened at 9:30 by Joan O'Brien with the introduction of 34 attendees representing 10 licensees and Software AG.

The first order of business was the business portion of our meeting including the announcement of future meetings:

June 16, 1988—Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY.

September 14, 1988—National Fuel Gas or Arcata Graphics, (Buffalo)

November 1988—Univ. of Rochester

Presentations for upcoming meetings are being solicited. Anyone who is planning on presenting papers at next fall's Software AG 18th International User's Conference are invited to preview them before our group.

Alan Smith, EGLUG secretary, distributed copies of the site survey, representatives of each site are requested to update these surveys and return to secretary.

If you have any issues for the SAGGROUP Executive Committee meeting in April please send them thru Joan O'Brien to John Tomashunas (the North American Area Rep).

Copies of articles from the Gartner Group about Software AG futures are available through Software AG.

Paul Samol, Education Coordinator is soliciting inputs for Class offerings that the group would be interested in. Please fill-out his survey forms.

Lin Steward, Software AG Account Rep, gave us a status report on Software AG products.

Lin also commented that now is a good time to do the serious planning for the overall applications development process, since NATURAL 2 and all of its pieces are available.

Next, Larry Jayne, Manager, Customer Relations for Software AG, presented a summary and highlights of the Miami conference. Larry gave us the more than usually impressive statistics of conference actual vs. projected attendance, number of speakers, workshops, etc., etc.

Larry reported some of the feedback he has received from conference users and offered advice for the upcoming conference. In addition to the standard "register early" advice, he strongly suggests that, in light of the number (usually 7) of parallel tracks, that groups of attendees from each region get together and make sure that they coordinate their attendance so that all concurrent sessions of interest are covered.

Larry announced that the PREDICT Product Development Panel would be meeting on April 12 in Reston. Anyone interested in going would have the opportunity to give inputs on PREDICT directions.

Software AG's own Roy Parkinson then gave a presentation on NATURAL 2 Conversion Issues. Roy discussed the hows and whys of conversion. He enumerated new features of NATURAL 2, differences from NATURAL V1.2, benefits to be gained by conversion and the impact (cost) to get the new features.

A round table discussion centering on NATURAL 2 implementation topics ensued. Concerns discussed included size of NATURAL modules and their impact on CICS region if not defined as resident and difficulties arising from NATURAL 2's disallowing same names for both programs and maps. One shop represented at this meeting admitted to having NATURAL 2 programs in production (Erie Insurance—Erie, PA) and they have only batch applications in production at this point. Discussion of the new landscape of the NATURAL 2 system file led to Cornell University staffers sharing the progress they've made in mapping the MU fields

where source and object are stored. They will share these discoveries on request. Meanwhile, Iggy Licatta will see if Software AG will provide this information.

There was general agreement that the Help System and Mapping facilities under NATURAL 2 is the greatest thing since sliced bread.

Larry Jayne took the podium to describe Software AG's approach to the Application Strategy. In the context of this discussion, Larry defined the "Solution Integration" buzzword as representing the process of putting people in contact with others who have already implemented the type of application which you intend to develop, in the hope that the former can derive some advantage from the efforts of the latter.

Larry also described the Consultant Cooperative Support Program wherein Software AG keeps a list of Consultants who work in the Software AG product area.

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#### PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

## Larry Jayne Talks About Software AG's Application Strategy

Terry Olson

The meeting was hosted by Nissan Motor Corporation in Carson on March 3, 1988. There were 42 people representing 23 users in attendance. Our President, Sue Woodill, of UC Santa Barbara called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

#### Announcements

April 13-15, 1988, is the SAG GROUP Executive Committee meeting in Reston. Sue Woodill will be attending and needs input in the following areas:

- Outstanding logs
- Product problems or suggestions
- Conference feedback
- People interested in running for Executive Committee Office

#### Presentations

Larry Jayne from Software AG summarized the salient features of the 1987 Miami Conference and related those successes to the plans they have for this year's Nashville Conference to be held at the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center. He suggested to make your reservations early.

Larry Jayne also spoke on the application strategy of Software AG. Software AG plans to team with their customers and other 3rd parties in the area of application development. They will make available lists of 3rd party software being used by ADABAS customers and core systems developed by other ADABAS customers.

Sue Woodill from UC Santa Barbara presented a paper on their user exits developed for SUPER NATURAL. These exits control the priority and other job card information generated for batch processing. If interested, the system is available, please call Sue.

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#### NORTHWEST REGION

## Steve Lugar Explains NATURAL 2 Classes

Loretta Eaves

The March 11, 1988, meeting of the Northwest Region was heavily attended. Topics included presentations on NATURAL 2 and its application help facility.

Steve Lugar explained the Software AG philosophy of aiming training at a wide audience which implies that NATURAL 2 classes are being constantly revised as they learn more about the language and the varied audience. Current choices include:

- F—Fundamentals— 4 days
- I—Intermediate—5 days
- A—Advanced—3 days
- E1—NATURAL 2 enhancements—3 days
- E2—Enhancements, part 2—2 days

Courses F and I are intended for new (to NATURAL) programmers and the E series is aimed at those who have had experience in

NATURAL 1.2. The A (advanced) class, intended to follow either series, requires a strong knowledge base to build an appropriate course. It will target an experienced audience and discuss advanced techniques and debugging tools.

The E series classes are intended to be taken separately with some practical experience taking place between sessions but are scheduled back-to-back for those who choose to attend them that way.

The NATURAL administration class, 4 days under NATURAL 1.2, is now a 3 day class covering both 1.2 & 2 and an additional 4 day class talks about the new features in NATURAL 2.

A 2-week DBA class (replacing the 5-day DBA plus 4-day NATURAL Administration classes), an integrated class broken into 2 one-week segments, is expected to be available when ADABAS 5 comes out (not intended for experienced ADABAS people). It was recognized that a need would exist for the experienced DBA to be brought up to speed.

There was some discussion about the hardship of spending two weeks out of town for training and Software AG encourages local areas to host classes to help save on costs.

Bill Anderson proposed that a Regional Training Coordinator would be useful for the area in order to pool resources and reduce costs.

Individuals were asked to introduce themselves and share ideas on future SAGGROUP topics and the proposal for the Area Training Coordinator.

Future Topics Ideas: PREDICT, NATURAL SECURITY, ADABAS 5, SUPER NATURAL, NATURAL CONNECTION, CICS, COM-LETE, DEC environment, sharable tools, communication and connectivity, and internals topics.

Future Training Ideas: Share applications developed under Elite, the clearing house concept, etc.

Bill Anderson requested that those who were willing to work on the Training Coordination Committee should get together at lunch and asked Alan Shue to pull a group together.

Mike Marrah, Software AG, Seattle, during SAG Time made the following announcements:

- New Customer in Alaska on DEC, using CON-STRUCT to generate NATURAL code
- Request from corporate for test sites to use CON-STRUCT
- NATURAL Expert is out, if interested talk to Mike
- NATURAL sm-3 (req'd for NATURAL CONNECTION) due April 21, 1988
- NATURAL SECURITY 2.1.3 due April 26, 1988
- PREDICT 2.2.3 due April, 1988
- NATURAL CONNECTION 2.2 due May, 1988
- PREDICT 2.3 due June, 1988
- ADABAS 5 due third quarter, 1988

Mike requested feedback from users on how to introduce new products. Something to bridge the gap between a glossy and a fullblown sales pitch.

Mike agreed to put together a list (with descriptions) for the next meeting of current products and levels (to include what is projected for the next several months). It was suggested that this would be a useful tool for most of the group and should be kept current if at all possible.

### **NWSAGGROUP Training Coordinator**

After lunch a report was given from the Training Coordinator Committee:

#### *Objectives:*

- Reduce training costs within the region
- Increase training opportunities within the region

#### *Potential Activities/Duties:*

- Evaluate/determine what level of people classes are really targeted at (are class announcements good enough?)
- Identify training needs in the region
- Identify potential classes to hold in the region
- Coordinate bringing formal classes into the region
- Identify specific classes and vendor
- Schedule classes and facilities
- Schedule attendees into classes
- Coordinate sharing of informal classes and training materials within the region

Coordinate information about formal classes scheduled by members

Act as a clearinghouse for sharing Elite training courses

#### *Ideas:*

- Let Training Coordinator make a profit
- Have a bulletin board and let individual members take their own initiative
- Let the Training Coordinator be a regional officer (requires a change to the by-laws)
- Allow host sight free slots in a class in exchange for the coordination effort and use of facilities

#### *Recommendation:*

Regional officers refine above ideas, report at the next meeting and present a plan

### **NATURAL 2 Application Help Facility**

Steve Lugar presented a repeat of Barry Warwick's presentation in November at the Miami conference. A copy of the 50 page handout is filed with the meeting notes and can be duplicated for interested members who were not in attendance.

### **NATURAL 2 workshop—Bill Anderson**

#### *Conversion*

Move 1.2 code in object form to NATURAL 2 nucleus  
Halfway measures—compile under NATURAL 2

Steve Baker and Darrel Davenport presented some tips on statements to avoid in NATURAL 2.

#### *Structured vs. Reporting mode*

Discussion centered on advantages/disadvantages of either mode

#### *Development Standards*

LDA's, if used sloppily, can create unnecessary ADABAS overhead. List of topics which are likely to need standards defined on handout page 4 of 10 (validation rules, windows, screen size/usage, color/reversed video, labels, copy code, program structure, data areas, object names, maps).

Validation rules → Processing rules

### **NATURAL ParmS**

It was requested that Steve Bradley attend the June meeting to share his knowledge of ADABAS 5.

# 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 releases 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: March 1988 to August 1988

### Data Base/Dictionary

#### System Maintenance

| Releases                | Date of Release |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| ADABAS SQL 1.2 (OS)     | March 1988      |
| ADABAS SQL 1.2 (DOS)    | March 1988      |
| ADABAS VTAM 1.1.1       | March 1988      |
| Channel to Channel SMO2 | March 1988      |
| PREDICT 2.2.3           | May 1988        |

### Application Development

#### Versions

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| NATURAL 2.1.3          | April 1988 |
| OS/DOS/CMS             |            |
| NATURAL SECURITY 2.1.3 | April 1988 |
| OS/DOS/CMS             |            |

#### System Maintenance Releases

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| NATURAL 2.1.3 Fix Tape | June 1988 |
|------------------------|-----------|

### Communications/Distributed

#### Version

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| NET-PASS 2.1 | June 1988 |
| DOS/VM       |           |

#### System Maintenance Releases

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| ACCESS 1.2 | June 1988 |
|------------|-----------|

### User Services

#### Versions

|                          | Date of Release |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| NATURAL Elite: NATURAL 2 |                 |
| Intermediate Programming | April 1988      |

### VMS

#### System Maintenance Releases

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| NATURAL 1.3.1       | May 1988 |
| SUPER NATURAL 2.1.1 | May 1988 |

## Scheduled for Release: January 1988 to September 1988

### Data Base/Dictionary

#### Products

|                         |                      |                                     |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ADABAS DL1 Bridge 1.1.0 | alpha test completed | Target release: Fourth Quarter 1988 |
| ADABAS HPE 1.1.0        | beta test            | Target release: September 1988      |
| AMI2SQL 1.1.0           | OS: Pre-release      | Target release: September 1988      |

#### Versions

|                              |               |                                     |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| ADABAS 5 (w/Online Services) | beta test     | Target release: August 1988         |
| NET-WORK 5                   | beta test     | Target release: Fourth Quarter 1988 |
| PREDICT 2.3                  | beta test     | Target release: September 1988      |
| ADABAS SQL 1.3               | beta test     | Target release: September 1988      |
| REVIEW 3.1                   | internal test | Target release: October 1988        |

#### System Maintenance Releases

|                |                |                                |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| ADABAS SQL 1.2 | CMS: beta test | Target release: September 1988 |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|

### Application Development

#### Products

|                   |               |                                     |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| NATURAL 2 DB2     | beta test     | Target release: September 1988      |
| NATURAL CONSTRUCT | beta test     | Target release: Second Quarter 1988 |
| NATURAL Optimizer | internal test | Target release: Third Quarter 1988  |
| PREDICT CASE      | internal test | Target release: Fourth Quarter 1988 |

#### Versions

|                   |                   |                                    |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| NATURAL 2.1.3     | IMS/DC: beta test | Target release: Third Quarter 1988 |
| NATURAL 2.1.3 DL1 | beta test         | Target release: Third Quarter 1988 |

### Communications/Distributed

#### Versions

|                |                |                             |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| COM-LETE 4.4.2 | DOS: beta test | Target release: August 1988 |
|                | OS: beta test  | Target release: July 1988   |

### User Services

#### Versions

|  |                             |                                |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CON-NECT 2.1   | beta test                   | Target release: August 1988    |
| NATURAL CONNECTION (Mainframe) 2.2                                       | beta test                   | Target release: August 1988    |
| SUPER NATURAL 2.2.1  | beta test                   | Target release: July 1988      |
| NATURAL Elite: NATURAL 2 Advanced Programming Technical Courseware 1.1.1 | pre-beta                    | Target release: October 1988   |
| NATURAL Elite Basic 1.3.3  | beta test                   | Target release: July 1988      |
| NATURAL Elite ADABAS Fundamentals Courseware 1.1.1                       | beta test                   | Target release: September 1988 |
| NATURAL Elite CONSTRUCT Fundamentals                                     | SM Beta                     | Target release: July 1988      |
| NATURAL Elite: NATURAL 2 Structured Design Courseware                    | beta test                   | Target release: October 1988   |
| NATURAL Elite ADABAS 5 Programming and Design                            | beta test                   | Target release: September 1988 |
| NATURAL Elite ADABAS 5 File Design/Utilities                             | Target beta: September 1988 | Target release: October 1988   |

### VMS Products

|                           |                |                                     |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| NATURAL Elite Basic 1.3.1 | beta test      | Target release: August 1988         |
| NATURAL Graphics          | internal test  | Target release: September 1988      |
| NATURAL 1.4               | beta test      | Target release: August 1988         |
| Workbench                 | beta test      | Target release: Fourth Quarter 1988 |
| ADABAS 1.5                | beta test      | Target release: July 1988           |
| NET-WORK 1.5              | In Development | Target release: September 1988      |



# Software AG Users' Group Tools Request Form

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Complete the information below and send to: Users' Group Liaison, Software AG of North America, Inc.  
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Note—Both of the above DBA and DOS DBA Tools tape contain the same set of tools. The only difference is the DOS DBA Tools tape is DOS readable.

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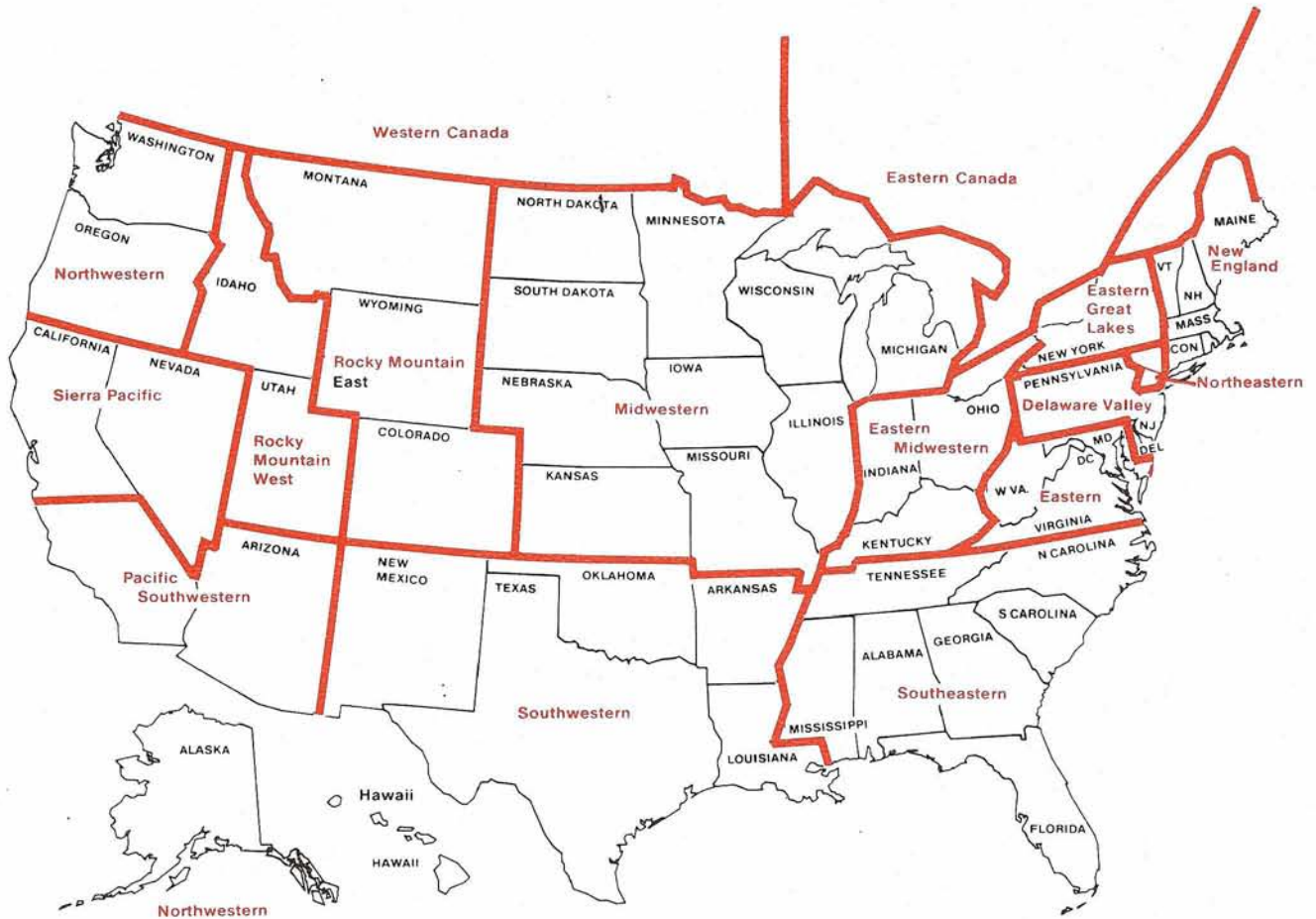
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# Software AG Users' Group Regions in the United States



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

# Conference Audiocassettes

## 17th International Software AG Users' Conference Miami, Florida — November 1-5, 1987

- T302-1 Opening General Session—Pioneer Users of Software AG Products; The Different Technology Dimensions—Practical vs. Academic; Your Partner for Software Success; SAGGROUP Business Session
- T302-2AB Opening General Session, cont.—Keys to the Next Dimension and The Evolving Computer Industry; Architecture of the Next Dimension—Introducing the New Open Integrated Software Architecture; Product & Technology Update
- T302-3 Discovering the Next Dimension—Software AG Future Technologies & Strategies; The ER Dimension
- T302-6 Communications: Topic of the 90's
- T302-8 CON-NECT 2 A New Dimension in Office Systems
- T302-10 ADABAS Experience & Outlook
- T302-11 ADABAS (VMS) Directions
- T302-12 ADABAS OS Considerations
- T302-13 PREDICTable Menus; Documenting The Undocumented Using PREDICT; Incorporation of COBOL Copy Books
- T302-14 The Rocky Hardware Picture Show
- T302-15 NATURAL PROCESS & NATURAL OPERATIONS
- T302-16 NATURE ELITE Future & Directions
- T302-17 Education/Documentation
- T302-18 NATURAL (VMS) Directions
- T302-19 ADABAS DOS Considerations
- T302-20 PREDICT/Data Dictionary
- T302-22 NATURAL Engineering Series & CASE Directions
- T302-23 TRS-Text Retrieval With ADABAS & NATURAL
- T302-24 End User Data Base Enquiry System; A SUPER NATURAL Story; Financial Information System (F.I.S.)
- T302-25 NATURAL (VMS) User Interface, User Equipment, WORKBENCH; VAX Added Functionality: PREDICT, SUPER NATURAL, ADABAS SQL
- T302-26 ADABAS 5 Experiences
- T302-27 Catch the New Tide—Strategic Use of Information Technologies in Japan; Adventures in Data Dictionary Activation
- T302-28 NATURAL Tips & Techniques
- T302-78AB NATURAL Tips & Techniques, cont.
- T302-29 COM-LETE Debugging & Trouble-shooting
- T302-30 PC Directions
- T302-31 ADABAS (VMS) Performance
- T302-32 PREDICT & Data Dictionary Directions
- T302-33 DOS Workshop
- T302-34 REVIEW 2
- T302-35 A Flexible Online Security System; Accelerated Application Development With NATURAL 2
- T302-36 Using COM-LETE V4.4
- T302-37 NATURAL (VMS) Performance
- T302-38 NATURAL SECURITY
- T302-39 Multiple Production Database: Making Them Talk; ADABAS Security—A NATURAL System; NATURAL Filebirth—The Conception, Delivery & Nurture of a File
- T302-40 NATURAL Performance Issues
- T302-41 ADABAS TPF & ADABAS HPE
- T302-42 ADABAS & NATURAL On the PC
- T302-43 Service Connection
- T302-44 The Two NATURAL's: VAX & IBM
- T302-45 ADABAS SQL, First Year of Operation Experiences & Future Development; ADABAS SQL Conversion from ADAMINT
- T302-46 NET-WORK 5 Introduction & Features
- T302-47 Preparing Your CASE Shopping List
- T302-48 Table Support for NATURAL & ADABAS; NATURAL Source Code Librarian
- T302-49 NET-PASS V2 Introduction
- T302-50 SUPER NATURAL Directions Workshop
- T302-52 ADABAS 5 VM/CMS
- T302-53 NATURAL Directions
- T302-54 A NATURAL Based Programmers Workbench; From Prototype to Finished Product, The Flexible Transfer of Data Between Online NATURAL Programs
- T302-55 COM-LETE Performance & Tuning and Tools
- T302-56 Remote Data Base Access Via NET-WORK (VMS) Communications
- T302-57 ADABAS Performance
- T302-58 The Five P's of Data Base Environments; Integrated Systems: No Borders, No Boundaries; Living with the New ADABAS/VM
- T302-59 NATURAL 2 Migration & Conversion
- T302-60 Coping with the Problematic Changing World
- T302-61 Introduction to NET-PASS
- T302-62 NATURAL ELITE Authoring Tips & Techniques
- T302-63 NATURAL ELITE (VMS)
- T302-64 ADABAS Change/Enhancement
- T302-65 Software AG's Application Strategy
- T302-66 NATURAL 2 Application Help Systems
- T302-67 Prototyping or Pandemonium? Multi-Iterative Prototype Design & Its Impact on Project Management; NATURAL 2 Application Design Strategies
- T302-68 Preview of the NATURAL Expert Development System
- T302-69 Monitoring & Tuning The COM-LETE Online Environment: Key Performance Issues
- T302-70 The ADA to ADABAS Connection; High Speed Communications Between IBM & VAX Data Bases
- T302-71 A Generic File Design to Support Tables & Systems Development; AUCS-ADABAS Utility Control System; EDIT JCL—A Job Command Language Editing & Submitting System Within NATURAL
- T302-72 ADABAS Version 5 Performance; Abnormal Data Structures: Three ADABAS Files for Scheduling Systems; Data Base Management for Text
- T302-73 NATURAL Generator
- T302-74 Making NATURAL A Success; Micro/Mainframe Links: NATURAL CONNECTION and Other Adventures; Schering AG's Standardized Systems Development with ADABAS/NATURAL
- T302-75 NATURAL Change/Enhancement; PREDICT Change/Enhancement
- T302-76 COM-LETE Change/Enhancement
- T302-77 Specific Procedures Toward Success on PREDICT (VMS)

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# Change/Enhancement Form

## ADABAS

ADABOMP  
 CTCS  
 DOCUMENTATION  
 INTERFACES

MPM/NUCLEUS  
 NET-WORK  
 ONLINE SERVICES  
 PERFORM. & ACCTG

SECURITY  
 UTILITIES  
 VM  
 ADABAS (VMS)  
 OTHER

## COM-PLETE

COM-PASS  
 DOCUMENTATION  
 FILE I/O  
 INTERFACES

NUCLEUS  
 PERFORM. & ACCTG  
 SECURITY

TERM. SUPPORT  
 UTILITIES  
 USER EXITS  
 OTHER

## NATURAL

DDM & DB  
 DOCUMENTATION  
 EDITOR  
 EDUCATION  
 GRAPHICS  
 I/O

LANG. FUNCTIONS  
 LANG. INTERFACE  
 CON-NECT  
 PERFORM. & ACCTG  
 SYSTEM PARAM.  
 NATURAL/CONNECTION

SYSTEM FUNCTION  
 TP & OS INTERFACE  
 SECURITY  
 'SYS' FUNCTIONS  
 SUPER NATURAL  
 NATURAL (VMS)  
 OTHER

## PREDICT

CROSS REFERENCE  
 DOCUMENTATION  
 EDITOR  
 FILE STRUCTURE

INTERFACES  
 MODELING  
 PERFORM. & ACCTG  
 SECURITY

USER SUPPORT  
 UTILITIES  
 OTHER

Request Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Request Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Request Benefits: \_\_\_\_\_

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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.
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