

INSITE

news

October 1987

Vol.2 No.3

IPSA's newsletter for inhouse sites

View from the Top: IPSA Reorganizes

Ian P. Sharp

We recently announced a change in the company's corporate organization to better reflect the markets in which we do business. I. P. Sharp Associates will now operate with four business units: Software Technology headed by Lib Gibson, Data Services headed by David Keith, Financial Services headed by Brian Traquair and Network Services with David Chivers in charge.

Development and marketing are both included in each business unit. This change, we feel, will enable us to take a more aggressive stance in our chosen markets. Sales activities and account management are integrated into our existing field organization, which continues to specialize along our product lines.

One specific aim of this reorganization is to improve the quality of our services and support to customers who use our software on their own machines. In many ways software technology is our most important product. It forms the basis for most of the other services we provide, and we intend to devote considerable resources to ensure its success as a business unit.

During the course of the next year and a half, we will be substantially increasing the size of both the field organization and the development group. We will also focus more

attention on language enhancements and the implementation of SHARP APL in different operating system environments. Specifically SHARP APL will be available in the VM/CMS environment and in the UNIX environment.

Continuous (and never ending) development will be carried out to enhance the performance of the system. Over the course of the past few years, SHARP APL has developed a reputation for high performance and reliability. The only way we can maintain this distinction is through a constant tuning process, as the profile of users changes.

Our Data Services business continues to grow at a steady rate. An interesting trend we have observed is the method by which customers are retrieving data. We see more and more customers' mainframes replacing the traditional users' terminal as the device used to access data. We expect this trend to continue and, of course, this will cause even more dramatic changes in the profile and characteristics of users.

Our new Network Services business unit will be managed from London. Our NET90 replacement network is beginning to take shape. From our start in early 1985, we have gotten to the stage of having new "test" nodes

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I. P. Sharp Associates

in the network. We expect to see the first serious production nodes operational in 1988. It is the intention of the Network Services business unit to provide data communications services including SNA and X.25 to a variety of users, even those who do not run SHARP APL.

I. P. Sharp Associates has been in the computer services business for many years. Each year the number of development projects increases. As we look to 1988, our development targets for that year are by a long way, bigger and more ambitious than ever before.

Ian P. Sharp is chairman and chief executive officer of the company, based in Toronto. □

Philips' Senior Executives Keyed for Online Information

Laurie Howard

Technological innovations and international marketing strength keep Philips ahead of the competition. This leading manufacturer of electrical and electronic products earns annual revenues in excess of US\$25 billion, and employs 345,000 people worldwide.

To manage this expanding organization the corporate departments and management of Philips' product divisions rely on the corporate data centre in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. This data centre operates a major information centre service based upon SHARP APL and I. P. Sharp's Information Centre products.

Never an organization to stand still, Philips is always seeking ways to enhance its efficiency. Since July 1986, the senior executives of Philips who form the Board of Management responsible for the Philips group have been using MAVIS, a management viewing system. Developed by the corporate accounting department in SHARP APL, MAVIS supplements the printed financial reports accounting prepares for the Board. Because MAVIS is intended for the Board's personal use, each member has a computer terminal with colour graphics capability in his office.

MAVIS—easy to use

The design of the MAVIS user interface offered a major challenge to its developers. Clearly, an interactive computer system for senior management must offer fast response and be extremely easy to use. It must also assume its users have limited typing skills.

MAVIS is so easy to use that a three-page reference card is all the printed documentation a user needs.



The senior executives of Philips who form the Board of Management have offices here in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. Each Board member has a computer terminal in his office to use the APL-based management viewing system, MAVIS.

After signing on to the system, the user is guided by a menu of possible actions, with onscreen help available at every step.

The simple menu helps the senior executive browse through the online reports and quickly locate information of current interest. To access the entire system, he only needs to use 16 keys on the terminal keyboard. Using the 10 numeric keys, he can select the menu options. For special actions such as printing, he selects one of the six function keys.

Information is imported into the MAVIS database from other environments and stored in preformatted reports. A MAVIS report is usually a single 32-line screen of text or colour graphics. Text reports may extend over more screens when necessary. Currently there are 46,000 reports available in MAVIS, with about 40 per cent being graphics.

SHARP APL is the ideal language for interactive operational systems like MAVIS. MAVIS also makes extensive use of standard software packages developed by I. P. Sharp Associates and the Philips Information Centre development group. As a result, prototype, beta-test and production versions of

MAVIS were produced in only one worker-year of software development.

Operational support is the responsibility of the MAVIS controller. This part-time activity is staffed by an employee of the corporate accounting department, and not a data processing professional. The controller's primary support activity is database administration. The actual import of data and generation of reports is an automated process performed in batch. The controller must ensure the timeliness and accuracy of the data and the consistency of the data in the original databases.

The controller's secondary task is adding new MAVIS reports when required. A new report can be defined and added to the menu structure within minutes if it is based upon information already in the database and within the scope of IPSA products like MAGIC and SUPERPLOT.

Enhanced efficiency

MAVIS has achieved its objective of providing a viable online alternative to the periodically printed financial reports. Printed reports have been

Deutsche Bundesbahn and SHARP APL

reduced in size, with MAVIS offering more information online than what was ever contained in the printed reports.

MAVIS provides management with up-to-date information immediately. The benefit of MAVIS over a paper system is twofold. Because the system is easy to use, senior executives can satisfy many of their own ad hoc information requirements instead of having to explain them to others and waiting for the results. Also, they can generate foils from any MAVIS screen. Hence they can consult MAVIS and produce a foil with information to be used in a meeting minutes later.

Future options

The MAVIS concept of a structured database of pre-formatted reports and a simple menu-driven user interface suitable for senior management has proven very successful. Because much of the software is quite general, MAVIS systems for the management of Philips' product divisions are under consideration.

Thought is also being given to expanding the scope of MAVIS. Since the MAVIS infrastructure has been set up, it is a logical step to consider producing reports with a weekly, daily or even hourly update frequency. Another possibility being explored is to augment the information in MAVIS with financial and economic data from external data suppliers.

The future of MAVIS, like the future of Philips, seems very bright indeed.

Laurie Howard is technical manager with IPSA Netherlands in Amsterdam.

□

Didier Assandri

Deutsche Bundesbahn (German Federal Railways) is a national institution owned by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany. In 1986, the Deutsche Bundesbahn network included 5,559 railway stations; 27,490 kilometres of railway track; 21,736 junctions; 26,995 bridges and 552 tunnels.

On this network, 2,595 electrical locomotives and 2,880 diesel locomotives pulled 13,119 passenger cars (about one million seats) and 247,948 freight cars.

These statistics reveal the major role that the railway network plays in the daily lives of the residents of the Federal Republic of Germany. And APL plays a major role in compiling statistics and more at the Deutsche Bundesbahn computer centre.

Three versions of APL

The Deutsche Bundesbahn computer centre in Frankfurt has offered APL for many years. It has been used primarily to keep track of the statistics generated and used by the railway company. The Traffic Information System calculates statistics concerning the repair shop, passenger traffic, future freight and passenger traffic. APL is also used for communication system studies and other statistical applications.

The computer centre used IBM's TSO and VSPC as the base systems. It was also connected via IPSANET to the IPSA host computer in Toronto in order to use I.P. Sharp statistical software packages such as Box-Jenkins. After this connection was established, there was now the problem of running three versions of APL (TSO/APL, VSPC/APL and SHARP APL) for different applications.

Why SHARP APL won out

The management of the Deutsche Bundesbahn computer centre found it difficult to get three different APL base systems under control. In 1983/84, they decided to go with SHARP APL. At that time, SHARP APL had the best service and many special utilities for the APL environment. During March and April of 1984, SHARP APL was installed on one of their computers.

The test installation was successful and, on April 15, SHARP APL was made available to users as the production system.

During that year, a backup system was installed on a second computer.

Maintaining SHARP APL has not been a problem since there was already a user support group established for the TSO and VSPC APL environment. Also most operator functions are executed by system programmers.

The current system

In May 1987, the SHARP APL system was transferred from the Frankfurt DP Centre to a BASF 7/78 (equivalent to an IBM 3083) in the Nuremberg DP Centre. The Frankfurt computer, with its many non-APL applications, had run out of room for any increased use of SHARP APL.

This move has meant some changes in the SHARP APL environment. Terminals located throughout Germany are connected via Deutsche Bundesbahn's own SNA network. Also, there is no backup machine. According to Christian Kuhlmann of the EDP Department, since SHARP

APL was installed three years ago, the system has been quite stable. The only two downtimes during that period were caused by operator errors.

SHARP APL applications

Deutsche Bundesbahn uses many I.P. Sharp software packages such as MABRA, MAGIC, MAGICSTORE, STARS, SUPERPLOT, VIEWPOINT and XTABS. In addition, they have written their own applications to produce reports and graphics primarily, and to convert applications from IBM's APL (for example, PMG).

Hans-Joachim Hannich, head of Sales and Traffic Information, is a prominent APL enthusiast. In a recent article in *Die Bundesbahn* 7/1987, he describes the use of APL in their Sales Information System for Passenger Traffic. He explains that the SHARP APL software used in that system has become the standard mainframe software at Deutsche Bundesbahn.

VIEWPOINT is one product that is used quite heavily. One use of IPSA's software package that gives users a window to corporate data is to plan, manage and control EDP for freight traffic.

Horst Wappler of Strategic Planning says, "The major benefit for me is the flexibility of the product. With VIEWPOINT, I can react immediately to whatever the Board asks for. The access to the data structure is easy and quick, and I can change it on demand.

"The data can be represented under three different forms (files, reports and graphics) very easily. The multiple possibilities offered: computation at field or report level, linked fields, and the fine access control to data and the different ways

to grant access are definitely a plus. The possibility offered with the new release of VIEWPOINT to access data from other database systems will make it even better. All this, and I need very little EDP knowledge."

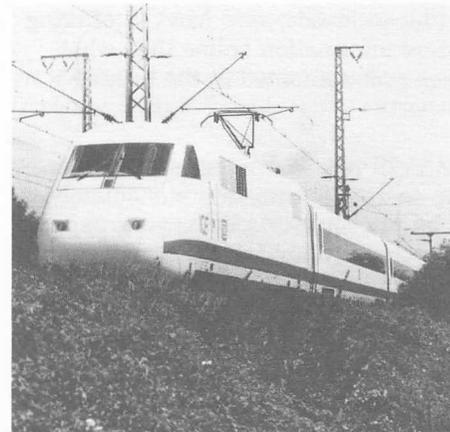
VIEWPOINT generates, for example, traffic reports between different railway stations for car management. Planning and controlling the price ranges between the billed and the real costs per car is also achieved with VIEWPOINT. Finally, even EDP costs for freight traffic are controlled with VIEWPOINT.

MAGIC and MAGICSTORE

The two software packages MAGIC and MAGICSTORE were introduced at Deutsche Bundesbahn for control purposes. MAGICSTORE is used for data management and MAGIC interprets the data. There are six multidimensional MAGICSTORE files with volumes of data, for example, type of ticket: single, return, special price; class: first or second; sales channels; and traffic class: domestic or foreign. Each of these fields yields many possibilities: the size of a file is somewhere in the magnitude of 13x9x2x43x24x4 dimensions.

These files are interpreted by MAGIC functions, which means the elements are multiplied, divided, averaged and so on. Some of the possible calculations are to compare target and real values; observe the effects on sales of certain offers; for example, by sales channel or traffic class; determine the percentage each segment of Deutsche Bundesbahn represents within its complete service; and identify the effects on demand by the introduction of new prices.

A market research study in three main areas was undertaken when new tariffs were introduced to measure its



Deutsche Bundesbahn (German Federal Railways) has recently launched the Intercity Experimental highspeed train which travels at a maximum speed of 350 kilometres per hour. This train is in service between Hannover and Würzburg.

effect. One part comprised about 25,000 questionnaires which were saved as a sequential file. XTABS, IPSA's crosstabulation program for analysing surveys, provides flexible programs for the marketing department. With XTABS, research studies can be executed consecutively and with as much detailed analysis as possible.

IPSA's SUPERPLOT is used to present the results of the analysis in graphs. This makes even more evident the development of certain trends.

Andrea Erbach and Dieter Fischer from the Marketing Department agree that, "The use of IPSA's products fully meets our expectations. Thank you very much for this successful cooperative effort."

Didier Assandri is a systems programmer with I.P. Sharp GmbH in Frankfurt. □

development notes

One Giant Step for APL

Robert Bernecky

APL will soon take a major leap forward and formally join the world of universally accepted computer languages. The International Standards Organisation (ISO) is in the final stages of approving the first international standard for APL. Two direct benefits of using standard APL will be increased portability of programs and programming skills.

I.P. Sharp Associates has been a major contributor to the development of the standard since its inception in 1979. IPSA has been sending delegates to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and ISO APL standards meetings, as well as hosting a number of meetings.

Perhaps IPSA's most visible contribution to the APL standards effort is the courtesy communications services provided to those working on the standards. Delegates from all over the globe use I.P. Sharp's electronic mail system, MAILBOX, to coordinate communications regarding the APL standards work as it proceeds.

IPSA will continue to offer this courtesy to any delegate working on the standard for extended APL as well. In addition, IPSA continues in its role of ensuring that the APL standard meets the needs of all APL users, regardless of which vendor's APL they are currently using.

In the week preceding APL87 in Dallas, Texas, the ISO working group on APL met to discuss the state of the current draft standard, and to plan for the extended APL standard. Delegates from Canada, the United States, Belgium, England, and France

represented software firms, computer manufacturers, universities, oil companies and independent consultants. Dr. Kenneth Iverson was also present. Steve Jaffe hosted the meeting, on behalf of Mobil Research, who kindly offered meeting facilities.

The first major step taken by the working group was to establish a declaration of intent. The declaration reads:

ISO will produce a document, *Extended APL*, a sequel to IS8485 or standard APL, under the following guidelines:

1. Consider only consistent extensions, in the sense of IS8485.
2. Avoid topics that are specific to a particular kind of hardware or operating environment, or that are undergoing rapid evolution.
3. Limit consideration to extensions that are commonly available and subject to critical user review.

This standard, based on IS8485, defines the programming language APL and the environment in which APL programs are executed. Its purpose is to facilitate interchange and promote portability of APL programs and programming skills, and to extend the applicability and usability of APL.

Delegates from IPSA accepted responsibility for creating proposals for the standardization of 24 items out of 38. IPSA will be proposing standards for many facilities, old and new. The old items are features which have been present on

SHARP APL for many years, and which have since been adopted by other APL vendors. These features include Replicate, \square *FMT*, Lev and Dex, LCM, GCD, table, function rank, ambivalent functions, event handling, complex arithmetic, the Cut operator, and extensions to Take and Drop.

The following new items represent directions for SHARP APL that are already available in SHARP APL/UX, but are not present in the SHARP APL mainframe product yet. These features include Nub, From, the Commute operator, and mixed arrays.

The work required to specify all these features in the form required by standard APL is significant. As such, it illustrates the company's commitment to the standard. The language should reflect its significant utility. At the same time, it should retain its consistency and simplicity, so that APL remains easy to teach, learn, and use for simple and complex applications.

Robert Bernecky is manager of IPSA's APL Language Design Group in Toronto and has been Canada's delegate to the ISO working group on APL standards for the past seven years. Thank you, Bob. \square

APL87 A Resounding Success

Allison Atkey

The city of Dallas extended its southern hospitality to the over 400 attendees to APL87 with lots of sunshine and warm days from May 10-14. The conference hotel, the Fairmont, was the site of all main events and many of the social events along with the Dallas Art Gallery.

I.P. Sharp Associates made a strong presence with our exhibit booth where we demonstrated SHARP APL/UX, the world's newest APL system, and a well-attended hospitality suite. We also sponsored three vendor forums, gave three tutorials and had six different speakers on the agenda giving papers.

We enjoyed informative presentations given by our customers: Anthony R. Lantz of Morgan Stanley & Company, E. Patrick Moore of Xerox Corporation, Dr. Donald Stoneburner and Richard Busman from The Upjohn Company and Svend Elkjaer Frandsen from ATP.

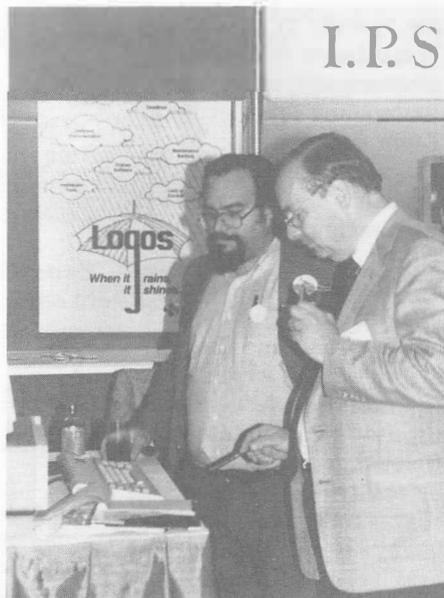
The big news of the annual conference came from Eric Iverson, IPSA's vice-president of Development and Operations, who announced that IPSA will be developing a version of SHARP APL to run under VM/CMS.

Joey Tuttle, IPSA's vice-president of Research and Technology was on hand to demonstrate and talk about SHARP APL/UX. Its multitasking features were exploited as two screens were hooked to the AT&T 3B1. APL devotees were impressed with the language's extended features which could improve both programmer productivity and computer efficiency. (SHARP APL/UX

was featured in the May 1987 issue of *Insite News*.)

People were talking about LOGOS—in tutorials, discussions and papers. IPSA's tool for productivity and control of software development is moving APL into the mainstream of applications development. We were asked so often when would we make LOGOS available under other APL environments that we are investigating this possibility.

Eugene McDonnell was honoured at the APL87 conference banquet with



People were talking about LOGOS at APL87. Roland Pesch (left), IPSA Palo Alto, is seen talking about IPSA's development environment for APL with Jim Ryan of Mobil Research and Development Corporation, Paulsboro, N.J.

the SIGAPL Outstanding Contribution Award. This award was first given at APL83 in Washington, D.C., to recognize a person's service to the APL community rather than the development of APL. In 1985, Ian Sharp, founder of I.P. Sharp Associates, and Daniel Dyer, founder of STSC, Inc., shared this award for being leaders in the promotion of the use of APL in the world of commerce. (Eugene is profiled on the last page of this issue.)

Generally the mood surrounding APL87 was one of cooperation. Perhaps this was a reflection of the successful International Standards Organisation (ISO) meeting held the week before the conference. (See Bob Bernecky's report in this issue.) Standard APL will help to increase the portability of programs and programming skills since it is not specific to hardware or operating environment.

Upcoming conferences

Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss the next three exciting APL conferences. See you in February 1988 in Sydney, in July 1989 in New York City, and in August 1990 in Copenhagen.

Allison Atkey is marketing manager of System Software with IPSA's Distributed Software Marketing Group in Toronto. □

Foresite '87



**October 21-22, 1987
Rochester, New York**

I.P. Sharp Associates is pleased to invite the management of our North American sites to a meeting whose theme is "Growth, Change, Direction".

Here is your opportunity to hear IPSA's senior management talk about our product plans for SHARP APL running under MVS, VM/CMS and UNIX; LOGOS/SHAPE; VIEWPOINT; MAILBOX and IPSANET.

You will also gain some insight into IPSA's position in the marketplace and have a chance to review our past year's performance. A senior representative from Reuters will be on hand. As well, a number of our customers will share their success stories with SHARP APL.

Aside from the formal presentations, there will be many opportunities to discuss your areas of specific interest with IPSA management and your counterparts at other installations.

We look forward to seeing you in Rochester, on October 21. If you would like further information, please contact your IPSA account representative. □

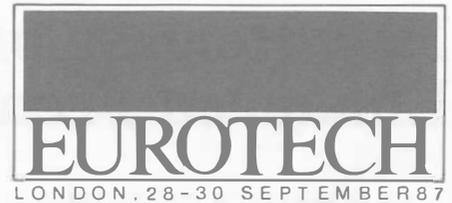
APL88 February 1-5, 1988 Sydney, Australia

Start planning now to attend the international APL conference in 1988 to be held in Sydney, Australia. APL88, an official event of the Australian Bicentenary Year, is co-sponsored by the ACM Special Interest Group on APL (SIGAPL) and the Sydney APL Users Group.

The University of Sydney, close to the centre of Australia's first city, will be the site of this historic event. The conference dates follow immediately after the main bicentennial celebrations.

The theme for APL88 is "APL—Past, Present and Future". Juried papers on this theme will be presented. Under the "Past", topics such as mathematical notation, early days of APL, review of APL machinery and software, development of the ISO APL standard and the influence of APL on computing will be covered.

The "Present", the most important and immediate part of the conference, will be devoted to APL applications. The value of APL will be demonstrated by explaining how it has been used in practice to do something better, for the first time, or differently, because APL made it possible. *(cont'd on pg. 9)*



I.P. Sharp Associates is pleased to have presented a technical seminar for the SHARP APL system support staff at European customer sites. BP Oil International graciously hosted the meeting at its offices in Britannic House in the City of London.

From September 28-30, over 60 attendees from 20 organizations had the opportunity to exchange views and experiences with their counterparts at other sites, as well as with IPSA's management, development and system support staff.

They also learned more about the new developments in Release 19 of SHARP APL/370 that allow more effective use of their systems. They heard about techniques used by other APL sites to manage their data centre more effectively. As well, attendees gained valuable insights into improving the performance of their systems and were updated on future development plans for the SHARP APL system.

(More detailed coverage will follow in the next issue of Insite News.) □



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marketing notes

New Release of MAILBOX: Enhanced Front Ends

MAILBOX, IPSA's electronic message processing system, has been in use for over 15 years. In that time, the system has undergone many changes to meet changing technologies and business communications needs.

Once again MAILBOX has been enhanced. New features have been added to this advanced E-mail system that already includes conferencing and archiving. Release 9, the most recently announced version, has been distributed to existing sites at no extra charge.

Coincident with Release 9 are new releases of the three front ends to MAILBOX. These front ends give you the option of using the system on asynchronous terminals, IBM PCs or IBM 3270s. Not only do the front ends take advantage of the new features of Release 9 but they are also enhanced individually.

MAILBOX Release 9 highlights

Cross domains. MAILBOX can communicate with other MAILBOX systems (and optionally, with other message handling systems) running on the same machine or a different one. Currently this facility is in test mode, communicating between two separate IPSA machines. Hence you may have seen messages sent across domains with 'ABC@IPSA' or 'DEF@IPSAINT' in the address header. This facility will be available to distributed sites next year.

Auto-forwarding. Mail can be forwarded automatically to another address code. You may wish to forward your messages to someone in

the same MAILBOX as you (such as your secretary), or in the future, you may choose to forward them to yourself in a more convenient domain.

Defer-dated and expiry-dated messages. A defer-dated message is not delivered until after the specific date or period of time. Similarly, an expiry-dated message is automatically deleted from MAILBOX after the specified time or date.

Faster execution. MAILBOX supports faster execution of many operations with less storage overhead.

Reference line. The original message number is included whenever the message being received is in response to another.

New message classification. IMPORTANT marks messages that are particularly noteworthy and can be used with other message classifications.

Groups. MAILBOX warns the mentor of the impending deletion of an inactive special interest group.

MAILBOX/3270 highlights

MAILBOX/3270 is available as a full screen, standalone product, or as an additional option under the VIEWPOINT umbrella.

Notification of new mail. Use of the WAIT command prompts the system to automatically check for mail every three minutes, update the IN tray and ring the terminal bell if the user has received a new message in the interim.

PC upload/download. If MAILBOX/3270 is used on a PC with an IRMA board, you can upload ASCII text and binary files to send as messages to other MAILBOX users. The recipient can then download the message. For example, you can send LOTUS 1-2-3 worksheets as non-displayable messages to be downloaded on receipt.

More keywords. Eight new keywords help you make more specific message selections. These are: DEFERRED, LAPSED, DELETED, NONCONFIDENTIAL, EXPIRY, PRIVATE, IMPORTANT, and STATE.

MAILBOX/PC highlights

More defaults. The configuration screen has been expanded to permit the definition of many more defaults, which can speed the use of MAILBOX/PC. Users can now specify all the necessary values for the PC print option, the DOS path, whether or not headers are filed for the PC file option, the desired format width for messages, and the default translations for PC files that are added to messages or transferred to other users.

Improved formatting. Word wrapping will automatically take care of any words that are split so that a user no longer has to watch for the end of a line when composing a message.

Parameter selection. Whenever a particular setting offers a choice of parameters, you can now use a function key to look through the possible options. You may proceed once the correct value is displayed.

(cont'd on pg. 9)

Gateway to DISOSS

I. P. Sharp Associates announces one of the world's first gateways into the Distributed Office Support System (DISOSS), IBM's strategic office automation system. IPSA's DISOSS Gateway provides MAILBOX users with the ability to exchange messages with DISOSS in an IBM SNA Distribution Services (SNADS) network.

With access to DISOSS, MAILBOX becomes an integral element in your total office automation scheme.

The DISOSS Gateway uses industry-standard architecture to format and translate MAILBOX messages into a form acceptable to DISOSS. It uses

the Document Interchange Architecture (DIA) to define and interpret the documentation distribution services supported by DISOSS. The Gateway then interprets the contents of the documents it received from SNADS using the Document Content Architecture (DCA).

This optional DISOSS interface will be available to distributed sites next year. Future plans for MAILBOX include interfaces to other message-handling systems, such as IBM's Professional Office System (PROFS), and gateways, such as X.400, the CCITT's recommended international standards for electronic messaging. □

New Support Tool for VIEWPOINT

I. P. Sharp Associates is pleased to announce COPILOT, an optional module for the VIEWPOINT data management system. This new support and teaching tool will help the Information Centre support staff make more efficient use of their time. COPILOT allows them to monitor complete sessions and offer assistance wherever required.

In COPILOT mode, two users share a VIEWPOINT session so that everything which happens on the originator's screen is reflected immediately on the copilot's screen. This enables the support person to see exactly what is happening and exactly how VIEWPOINT responds. The single command to initiate the COPILOT can be entered from anywhere in VIEWPOINT.

The end user can pass control of that session over to the support person, simply by entering a single command. The copilot can then perform operations just as though it were her own VIEWPOINT session. The originator can see how his problem is being resolved. When the copilot is finished, a single command passes control back again.

When the shared session is complete, the originator enters a single command to continue his own from that point. The copilot's original session, which was completely protected throughout this secondary one, returns unaffected to the screen. □

APL88 *(cont'd)*

The "Future" will address such issues as extensions to APL notation, improvement of APL interpreters, APL and future workstations, revision of APL and the different approaches to general arrays, directions for the ISO APL standard and promoting APL in the computing world.

For more information, contact your IPSA representative or:

APL88 Organising Committee
P.O. Box 1425 G.P.O.
Sydney NSW 2001 Australia □

MAILBOX *(cont'd)*

MAILBOX/LINE MODE highlights

MAILBOX/LINE MODE has been developed especially for users of asynchronous terminals.

Online help. There is complete online help at every prompt and command in the system. The help can be as succinct or as detailed as you wish.

Personal profiles. You can choose the language of your mail sessions and other characteristics to automate or customize the system.

Modular structure. MAILBOX/LINE MODE is divided into modules. This reduces the amount of information a user has to supply to the system as certain assumptions are already made.

Efficient processing. Actions specified for messages are not actually performed by the system until a processing command is issued. This feature allows you to change your mind about the disposition of a particular message. □

marketing notes

Making the Micro to Mainframe Connection

Craig Heron

IPSA/CONNECT provides a convenient bridge between a personal computer (PC) and your inhouse SHARP APL/370 mainframe system using asynchronous communication. This new communications package supersedes PC108 and is upwardly compatible.

Users can combine the flexibility of a PC with the power of a mainframe system. They can blend standalone personal computer uses, such as word processing, with the ability to access mainframe applications and data.

IPSA/CONNECT provides a user-friendly front end to facilitate network connection and sign on. As well, it includes an asynchronous terminal simulation program that emulates a Concept 108 terminal.

IPSA/CONNECT provides clearly designed screens where users can enter and save their user number, baud rate and other conditions necessary to start each session. These communications settings are stored in a "signon profile" which is automatically loaded when a session

is started. Users can save more than one signon profile if they frequently sign on using networks that require different settings.

IPSA/CONNECT can help new users to quickly gain confidence in accessing and using your inhouse SHARP APL system. In most cases they just need to enter their password to sign on.

Once a user has signed on, IPSA/CONNECT runs a terminal emulation program that makes their PC behave as a mainframe computer terminal.

IPSA/CONNECT also provides upload/download and full-screen facilities which can be used by SHARP APL software and custom applications.

For more information on IPSA/CONNECT, contact your IPSA representative or the Microcomputer Products Group in Toronto.

Craig Heron is a technical writer with IPSA's Software Technology in Toronto. □

VIEWPOINT User's Guide (Release 2.0)

VIEWPOINT Administrator's Guide (Release 2.0)

IPSA/CONNECT User's Guide

The following publications pertain to SHARP APL/370 Release 19.

SHARP APL/370 System Maintenance Guide

SHARP APL/370 System Maintenance Guide—Addendum

SHARP APL/370 System Administrator Guide

SHARP APL/370 Auxiliary Processors Manual

SHARP APL/370 Utilities Manual

SHARP APL/370 Messages and Codes

SHARP APL/370 Major Dsects and Equates

SHARP APL/370 Internal and Operational Changes

SHARP APL/370 Guide for APL Programmers

SHARP APL/370 TSIO User's Guide

SHARP APL/370 HSPRINT Addendum to R17 Edition

SHARP APL/370 HCPRINT User's Guide

SHARP APL/370 VSDI User's Guide

SHARP APL/370 Batch Task User's Guide

SHARP APL/370 IBM 3270 User's Guide (IDSH)

SHARP APL/370 SSQL User's Guide

Data Centre Master Index for SHARP APL/370 (Release 19) □

New Publications

Two copies of each new IPSA publication are automatically sent to all inhouse sites licensing that particular product. If you would like to order additional copies of any of the following new publications, please place your order through your IPSA representative.

MAILBOX/3270 User's Guide

MAILBOX/PC User's Guide (Release 2.0)

MAILBOX/LINE MODE User's Guide

VIEWPOINT User's Guide to MAILBOX (VIEWPOINT Release 2.0)

New Courses

John Burger

Since we introduced this group in the last issue of *Insite News*, we've been very pleased by the requests for courses and training in topics in addition to APL itself. We are now offering training for operations staff and courses on our software packages.

The following outlines our current offerings.

A1 *A Working Introduction to APL* 3 days

This course provides programmers, managers and end users with the knowledge and experience necessary to make effective use of APL in their own area of expertise.

A6 *Intermediate APL* 2 days

This course reviews many of the concepts introduced in A1, and deals with them in greater depth. It covers scan, outer product, inner product and packages.

O1 *SHARP APL Operations* 2 days

In a dynamic environment such as operations, it is often necessary to train new staff or update the skills of current members. This course covers all of the concepts necessary to operate SHARP APL in your environment. Topics include SHARP APL terminology, user requests and utilities.

V1 *Introduction to VIEWPOINT* 2 days

This course teaches the effective use of our fourth generation language, VIEWPOINT. It familiarizes you with everything necessary to create your own systems, produce detailed reports and graphs, and use MAILBOX.

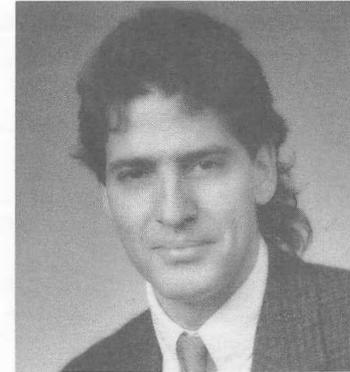
Appointment

Albert Carrier, Manager Consulting Services

As manager of Consulting Services based in Toronto, Albert is the liaison between the account managers and the software development groups working on custom development contracts for inhouse sites.

Consulting Services is responsible for providing product enhancements which are not currently on our scheduled development list or moving the delivery of those that are, performance and tuning analysis services, custom contracts such as SACF projects, and business analysis consulting where we work with you to help determine future strategic business directions for your DP centre.

Albert brings a great deal of technical expertise to this position. He has a



degree in computer science with a minor in business. Since joining I.P. Sharp Associates in 1980, he has worked in our Montreal office, in the APL Systems Development Group in Toronto, and as a consultant on a long-term contract to Novo Industri A/S in Denmark. □

L1 *Introduction to LOGOS* 2 days

Designed for the APL programmer, this course brings you up to speed in the use of LOGOS, IPSA's environment for the productivity and control of software development. You learn the LOGOS command language, system creation and distribution, and command writing.

L2 *Intermediate LOGOS* 3 days

This course looks into some of the ideas introduced in L1 in greater depth. It covers more advanced topics such as paging, pattern patching and shells.

are taught at your site or an IPSA office. Tuition is US\$200 per day per student plus travel expenses for the instructor.

We welcome your suggestions for other courses and will create new ones for which there is a demand. We can also modify courses to fit your more specific needs.

For further information, please contact your IPSA representative.

John Burger is product manager for Education Services with I.P. Sharp's Distributed Software Marketing Group in Toronto. □

Course details

Courses have a maximum of eight students and a minimum of six. They

Introducing Eugene McDonnell, APL Development

Eugene is an active force in the APL community. It comes as no surprise that this year's SIGAPL Outstanding Contribution Award was bestowed upon him by his peers.

From an unlikely background in literature and philosophy, Eugene started working as an engineer in 1951. As early as 1953, he developed an interest in computing. His first programming activities were to write machine-language programs for the original Univac and IBM 650 computers.

Gene's relationship with APL goes back to 1961, when he joined IBM. He worked with its APL group in various research and development laboratories in the U.S.

"It has always been the sheer beauty and elegance of APL that has attracted me to it. I can still remember my dazzlement when taking a course given by Ken Iverson in 1962 (just before his book *A Programming Language* was published), when he explained the relationship between the set membership function and the unit



vector, both of which at the time being denoted by a boldfaced epsilon. This was coherence!

"One of the signal attractions of APL for me has always been the pleasure of being associated with some very fine people—people with amazing minds and skills, and almost always gifted with great senses of humour and interests in language."

In 1978, Eugene joined IPSA's APL Development Group in Palo Alto.

Amongst his many accomplishments during his career are these highlights: taking part in the design and implementation of the extension of APL to complex numbers and designing and implementing numeric input/output conversion routines of improved accuracy for both the IPSA mainframe APL and the new SHARP APL/UX.

He was also publisher of APL Press and managed the production and marketing of all titles.

In addition, he was recreational APL editor of *APL Quote Quad* for several years, and as chairman of STAPL he negotiated with ACM for a change of status for the organization so that it became SIGAPL. He has given papers to APL conferences since 1973, conducted workshops, and participated in the new ANSI and ISO meetings.

Eugene is married and has a family of five grown children. Although he enjoys his job enormously, he is beginning to plan for his retirement. We do hope that a little APL will fit into those plans. □



Jean Hutton, Account Manager Distributed Software

Jean is the account manager for The Upjohn Company, Xerox Corporation and Fields Publications. For the past two and a half years as an account manager for distributed sites, she ensures that all goes smoothly between her customers and IPSA.

Jean brings a wealth of APL knowledge to her position. Before joining IPSA, she was a traffic engineer at a telephone company

where she used APL extensively. She then became an APL consultant. Four years ago, Jean joined the IPSA Rochester office as the account manager for databases.

An avid equestrienne, Jean actively pursues her hobby of dressage. She is happily married and the mother of three children, a son and two grown stepchildren. □