XEROX

Information Technology Group
Systems Development Division
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From: Charles Irby

Subject: March Status Report for Common Software

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User Interface:

Internal SD review of the *sneak preview* of the Diamond User Interface Specification is now complete and work has begun on a more polished and complete release to be made in early April. A careful review was made of the *Janus-1 Requirements* document being written by the Applications Software Group. The Diamond and Early Bird user interface specifications seems to be in almost complete accord with the requirements. The User Interface Group is currently planning to provide some manpower to the Applications Software Group in developing the Janus-1 Functional Specification (internal milestone is June, 1977). Also, some Common Software resources will be provided to help implement the user interface facilities of the Early Bird version of Diamond.

As indicated in the last status report, a memo proposing a mechanism for display evaluation was released. Also, proposals were made to Harold Hall concerning the organization and nature of the functional test activity. This included a proposal for a prototype functional test facility at Palo Alto. Also, we are talking to a Stanford PhD student who now works with Stu Card and Tom Moran at PARC. She is very interested in doing a thesis on comparison of text editing techniques and appears to be quite appropriate to work with us in this area. She is available almost immediately and is covered by a full scholarship (except for the summer). An attempt is being made to find ways that she might work with us without being in any critical paths, violate proprietary information, and still allow her to get a dissertation out of the work.

Betty Burr and Richard Moore are attempting to define a subset of the Diamond user interface that would be appropriate for a word processing typist. Betty will begin on training materials for this subset, and implementation of the Early Bird user interface for Diamond will give initial emphasis to this set of features. They will also look at other subsets of the features as time permits.

Jack Newlin and Bob Ayers are implementing a simple mockup of the proposed graphics facilities. This facility will act as a test vehicle to allow us to better assess the ability of typical office personnel to cope with the concepts involved. It will also allow us to compare the ability of subjects to do typical office drawings with this facility as opposed to other programs available at PARC. Some detailed scenarios are being done by hand also. Jack Newlin will be in the hospital for shoulder surgery beginning next week for some as yet unknown period of time.

Data Management:

An attempt is being made to coordinate production of a functional specification of streams and directories with the April update of the Pilot Functional Specification. The recently released Diamond internal documentation is also being studied.

Richard Moore is now working for SDD half time and will go to full time in the summer. Bob Ayers expects to join the Common Software Group full time some time in the second quarter.