



iua

CONNECTIONS

The CA-IDMS Database and Applications User Association

<http://www.iuassn.com>

Fall 1997, Number 39

● IUA WORKSHOP '98: BOOT CAMP FOR DEVELOPERS AND DBAS

Looking for low-cost education for the CA-IDMS developers and database administrators in your shop? Want to investigate solutions to the problems that develop in the day-to-day activities of developers and database administrators? If so, the 1998 IUA workshop "DBA/Developer Boot Camp" is the place to be March 8-10.

The 1998 workshop, to be held in Orlando, Florida, will present the real-world experiences of database administrators and developers. Ever wondered what other companies do on a daily basis to keep their sites up, running, and well-tuned? The 1998 workshop will provide an excellent learning opportunity for anyone interested in how others in the industry approach their daily tasks.

THE DBA PROGRAM INCLUDES:

Physical Database Administration. This session will cover the definition and modification of areas, files, segments, and DMCLs, as well as buffering techniques. Participants will also learn about the utilities used to implement database administration (unload/reload, expand page, extend area, DBAN) and review issues related to physical database administration.

System Administration. This session will cover the addition and modification of tasks, programs, lines, terminals, printers, and program and storage pools, as well as the performance implications of system definition parameters.

Logical Database Administration. This session will cover the definition and modification of elements, records, sets, areas, schemas, and subschemas, as well as the utilities used to support administration (SCHEMA/SSC/restructure).

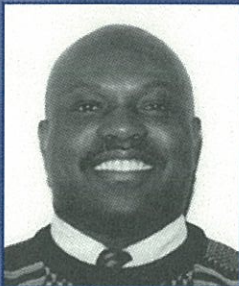
Backup/Recovery Administration. This session will debate cold versus hot backups, then review the tools used to implement database recovery (RESTORE/ROLLBACK/ROLLFORWARD).

System Software Administration. This session will present the pros and cons of SMP/E, then discuss the concepts of PTFs/APARs/USERMODs and the separation of CA90s and CA-IDMS system software. Examples of successful system software administration will be presented.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Thoughts from the President* ②
- Registering for the IUA Workshop* ②
- Tentative Schedule of Events for the 1998 IUA Workshop* ③
- On-Line Update* ③
- Regional User Group Update* ③
- Call for Speakers, CA-World '98* ③
- IUA Presents the 1997 Hall of Fame Awards* ⑤
- SQL Pricing Option Concerns Addressed by CA* ⑥
- No Free Lunches* ⑥
- Committee Updates* ⑥
- Archive IDMS-L* ⑨
- IUA Fall Meeting Schedule* ⑨
- IMC and CA-World '97: A Look Back at "The Magic of Software"* ⑩
- Conference Attendees Win Raffle* ⑫

(continued on page 2)



THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by James Winn

Welcome to the fall '97 issue of *Connections*. Because this issue comes

on the heels of another successful CA-World, I'd like to take some time to recap highlights from that conference.

The IUA volunteers and member companies were happy to see CA-CAS and other CA-IDMS application sessions from the BAC conference reunited with the CA-IDMS sessions in the IMC conference.

IUA inducted four people into its Hall of Fame. This year's inductees were JoAnn Gartland of MND Services, Judy Krontorad of Computer Associates (CA), Bob Dobbs of CA, and Val Morgan, former IUA board member. Congratulations to the inductees and thanks again for your contributions to the growth of IUA and the software it represents. (See the full article about the Hall of Fame inductees on page 5).

Attendees at this year's IMC conference heard exciting news about CA-IDMS and its applications. New features and products are available which will allow CA-IDMS-based data and applications to participate fully in client/server and Web-based technologies. The availability of this technology allows CA-IDMS organizations to extend their application offerings to the Web and to PC desktops without sacrificing investments in existing systems. Business rules and views can be shared everywhere. Products like OPAL, Enterprise Access for CA-IDMS, Visual DBA for CA-IDMS, the CA-IDMS and MVS agents for CA-Unicenter TNG, and Jasmine are just some of the CA offerings that enable this technology. CA has also announced partnerships with almost every player in the IT hardware and software arena.

I anticipate that the wide acceptance and utilization of these technologies will cause an increase in activity in the CA-IDMS community. This activity will present new opportunities for regional user groups (RUGs) to provide an avenue of communication for the discussion of new ideas, products, and success stories. This will be beneficial, in part, because RUGs provide a means of obtaining low-cost education. To find out about the regional user groups in your area, contact Sue Weiland at 312/441-6821 or IUA Headquarters at 312/321-6827.

(IUA Workshop '98, cont. from page 1)

Migration Administration. This session will cover the challenges and rewards of maintaining dictionary integrity. It will also provide success stories from third-party and in-house system migration.

Problem Determination and Resolution. This session will discuss the causes of and solutions for frequently-occurring problems.

THE DEVELOPER PROGRAM INCLUDES:

ADS. This session will discuss application development tools, then review the ADS process language, the process commands available, the system records used to support the application, security features, and debugging.

DML. This session first will provide a general discussion of the language. It then will offer a more in-depth look at DML statements, DB and DC call formats, and the effect of different TP monitors.

GUI IDMS/CAS. This presentation will begin with an introduction, then provide a look at a GUI Sys/3270 used on legacy applications. It concludes with a discussion of CA-CAS View architecture and CA-CAS View SDK.

Web IDMS/CAS. This presentation will begin with an introduction to Web IDMS/CAS, then discuss the use of OPAL in legacy applications, the OPAL architecture, and OPAL application deployment.

● REGISTERING FOR THE WORKSHOP

Workshop Registration and Fees. Registration is \$98, with a special, buy one, get one free, offer. Registration information will be mailed to all IUA member sites in November. You can also call IUA headquarters at 312/321-6827 for more information.

Hotel Reservations and Fees. Rooms at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Orlando, Florida can be reserved at a special rate of \$100 per night single/double. Call 407/855-1585 or 800/444-ADAM for reservations. Be sure to say that you are with IUA to receive our special room rate. Make your reservations now to ensure availability and the special IUA rate.

PREMIUM SUPPORT AVAILABLE!

Premium support for CA-IDMS release 10.2 is still available! Contact your local CSR for information.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE 1998 IUA WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1998

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Planning Committee Meeting
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Executive Board Meeting
11:15 - 11:45 a.m.	Nominations Committee Meeting
12:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Communications Committee Meeting
12:45 - 1:15 p.m.	Advisory Committee Chairs Meeting
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Products and Services Committee Meeting
2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Applications Advisory Committee Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1998

8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Registration Open
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Business Issues Forum
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Developer Program: ADS
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	DBA Program: Physical Database Administration
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1998

7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Registration Open
7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Developer Program: DML
8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	DBA Program: System Administration
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Vendor Presentations
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Vendor Presentations
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Developer Program: GUI-IDMS/CAS
2:00 - 4:30 p.m.	DBA Program: Logical Database Administration
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	DBA Program: Backup/Recovery Administration
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1998

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Developer Program: WEB-IDMS/CAS
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.	DBA Program: System Software Administration
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	DBA Program: Migration Administration
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	DBA Program: Problem Determination and Resolution

The schedule is subject to change.

ON-LINE UPDATE

Check it Out On-Line

An IDMS/SQL Web site started in 1992 by a group of IDMS programmers in Finland and Norway has opened its doors to the international IDMS/SQL community. The site now contains a technical on-line newsletter for CA-IDMS users, *IDMS/SQL News*. Check it out at <http://home.sol.no/tige/idmssql>.

CA-IDMS Product Direction Document Available on Web

At CA-WORLD '97, Computer Associates (CA) distributed its statement of direction for the CA-IDMS product line. This document can viewed on-line at <http://www.cai.com>. Once there, select "Products," then "Information Management," then "CA-IDMS Product Direction."

REGIONAL USER GROUP UPDATE

The Dallas CA-IDMS User Forum (DCUF) is planning a meeting for late October. If you live in the Dallas/Ft.Worth/North Texas area, and have not been contacted, please call Chris Hoelscher at 972/756-1938 for more information.

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

CA-WORLD '98 COMES TO NEW ORLEANS, JULY 26-31

Plans for CA-World '98 are already underway, and we invite you to be part of them. In our continuing effort to provide attendees with timely and informational presentations, we request your assistance developing sessions for CA-World '98. Your participation will be an important contribution to the success of what promises to be another extraordinary user conference. Moreover, if your session submission is approved, your conference registration fee will be waived for CA-World '98.

If you would like to give a presentation at CA-World '98, please complete and submit the form available on-line at: <http://www.caworld.com/call.htm>.

IUA will provide additional information about IMC at CA-World '98 as it becomes available.

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*Gartland, Kruntorad, Dobbs,
and Morgan Honored*

● **IUA PRESENTS THE 1997
HALL OF FAME AWARDS**

IUA Chairman James Winn presented the 1997 IUA Hall of Fame Awards at CA-World '97. The IUA Hall of Fame award originated in 1991 to honor individuals making outstanding contributions to the development and growth of both IUA and the software it represents. This year's award went to four special individuals. Inductees to the 1997 IUA Hall of Fame are JoAnn Gartland of MND Services, Judy Kruntorad of Computer Associates (CA), Bob Dobbs of CA, and Val Morgan, former IUA board member.

JoAnn Gartland

Gartland, a database administrator for MND Services, was an active IUA volunteer from 1989 through 1996. She played many roles on the IUA board of directors, chairing the Products and Services Committee, Finance Committee, Nominations Committee, and IMC Conference Committee. She also served as secretary-treasurer, and has been a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) member. According to IUA Chairman James Winn, "If you ever need someone who will get the job done and done right, it is JoAnn. She has the ability to accomplish challenging projects on short notice and get board members actively involved in their own projects with enthusiasm."

Judy Kruntorad

Kruntorad, now of CA, has a long history in the industry. She joined Cullinane Corporation in 1979 as the first member of the ADS/On-Line development team. In 1981, she became the development manager of ADS/On-Line, a position she held until 1986. At that point, she became director of quality assurance, then director of PC tools development for Cullinane Corporation. In 1989, shortly after Computer Associates acquired Cullinane Corporation (then known as Cullinet Software), Kruntorad was named CA-IDMS product owner. Since 1989, she has been responsible for the development of most of the components of the CA-IDMS product family. Today, Kruntorad is the technology owner of CA-IDMS. "Judy is a key CA contact person for the IUA," says Winn. "Her long-time involvement with the organization continues to this day."

Bob Dobbs

Dobbs, a systems engineer with CA, supports CA-IDMS customers throughout North America. Dobbs began his relationship with IDMS in 1975

*"Real leaders are
ordinary people
with extraordinary
determination."*

*- From the 1997 Hall of Fame Award
Plaques, Original Source Unknown*

while employed by Harris Corporation. Harris Corporation had at that time just purchased several major applications from Cullinane Corporation. In 1980, Dobbs became an IDMS field support employee. He was employed by Cullinane Corporation (then known as Cullinet Software) when CA purchased the company in 1989. "IUA members know Bob for his expertise in CA-IDMS and CA-IDMS/DC system performance and tuning," says Winn. "His past efforts have included consulting with clients and assisting in the development of high-performance CA-IDMS systems."

Val Morgan

The final Hall of Fame award goes to a man who is no longer with us. On September 19, 1996, Morgan passed away. Still, he will always be present in the minds and hearts of IUA members. Morgan was always willing to contribute his time to IUA and the CA-IDMS community. An IUA member for 15 years, he played a critical role in the development of *Connections*. He was also an integral member of the Technical Advisory Committee, developing the AIDA product and designing the IUA bulletin board system. Morgan also played a large part in the success of IUA '90, committing a great deal of his time to making sure IUA '90 was the most financially successful, well-attended IUA conference ever.

Congratulations again to Gartland, Kruntorad, Dobbs and Morgan. IUA thanks the inductees for all of their contributions to the growth of IUA and the software IUA represents. ●

● SQL OPTION PRICING CONCERNS ADDRESSED BY CA AT BUSINESS ISSUES FORUM

At CA-World '97, the IUA Executive Committee discussed the CA-IDMS/SQL option with Mark Combs, senior vice president of research and development for Computer Associates (CA). The SQL option is a valuable benefit that brings standard industry relational processing to CA-IDMS and enables clients to take advantage of numerous client/server and Web-enabled product offerings.

Pricing Options

On behalf of the IUA membership, the committee expressed its concerns about the variance in pricing options for CA-IDMS/SQL. Combs recommended that those unsatisfied with their pricing option ask their local sales representative to provide creative pricing options for CA-IDMS/SQL. If, after doing so, you still feel you are not getting the necessary results, you should contact management at your CA regional office, then CA corporate management.

Technical Support

Another membership concern discussed with Combs was the change occurring in technical support, including the fact that support employees leaving the company are not being replaced. Combs assured the committee that the decrease in the number of support employees is due to the stability of the product. CA continues to replace employees in areas where the need exists.

No Free Lunches

● GIVE BACK TO IUA BY VOLUNTEERING

by Phil Loethen

While IUA may seem to run itself smoothly, the organization is actually run by volunteers who dedicate their time to the improvement of the CA-IDMS community.

Every spring, IUA elects members to its board of directors. In 1998, four board positions will be up for re-election, and IUA needs you to volunteer.

Becoming a board member is an excellent opportunity to get involved. Your company has invested a great amount of money in CA-IDMS, the legacy system that runs your business. You can maximize your company's investment and network with your industry colleagues by volunteering for IUA. You'll also have fun. The IUA board has changed considerably over the last two years—there are new faces and new ideas. We are trying to provide our customers, the IDMS community, with valuable training and contact with Computer Associates (CA).

Board members meet three times per year (at the spring workshop, which will be held next March in Orlando, Florida; at the annual CA-World conference; and during one weekend in the fall for planning).

So don't just sit on the sidelines—be a part of the action. If you are interested in becoming involved, call IUA Headquarters at 312/321-6827.

● COMMITTEE UPDATES

Technical Advisory Committee

Balloted enhancement requests were forwarded to Computer Associates (CA) for consideration and possible implementation. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is currently reviewing user-submitted enhancement requests. Is there a feature you would like to see added to CA-IDMS? Call IUA headquarters for an enhancement request form.

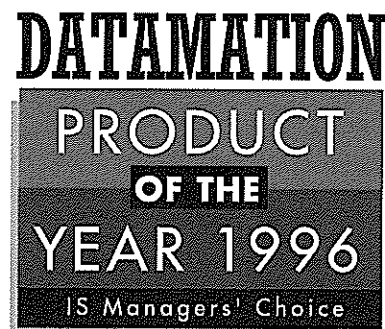
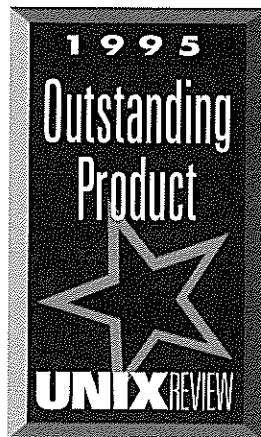
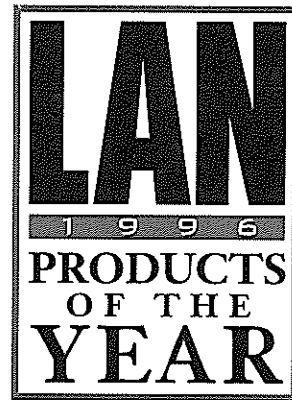
Applications Advisory Committee

The Applications Advisory Committee (AAC) held a productive meeting in conjunction with CA-World '97. Linda Butler of CA made the CAS presence at IMC well-known to users through announcements and publications. CAS-related Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were extremely well-attended, and all who participated benefited from the opportunity to discuss their experiences with other users. To help alleviate fears that support is not readily available (making some companies hesitant to

move forward with other products or enhancements), Butler requested that any company planning a new install or modification contact her in advance. She will alert support personnel that significant changes will be taking place, and your site will be flagged for special attention during this period.

Enhancement requests are being received and reviewed by the committee. Plans are in place for fourth quarter distribution of enhancement ballots. These enhancement requests will be voted on by the IUA membership to prioritize the issues. The prioritized list will then be presented to CA so the company will have a better understanding of the issues that are important to user companies.

Did you miss the CA-World '97 meeting? If so, AAC meetings are open to everyone, and the committee's next meeting will take place Sunday, November 9, from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. in St. Louis, Missouri. Call Bill Bryson at 510/847-9500, ext. 4465, for details. Or, if you can't attend the meeting, but would like to be placed on the AAC mailing list, call IUA Headquarters at 312/321-6827.



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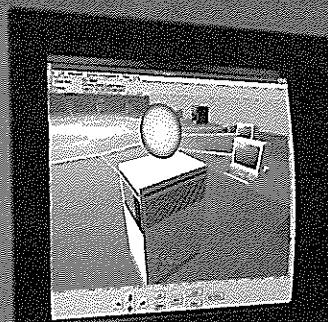
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Archive of IDMS-L

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In release 10.2, a COBOL program copying a record synonym with a different name from the primary record gets the record synonym name as the 01 level. In converting to release 12.0, the 01 level gets the primary record name, no matter which name is used to copy the record. Is there a way to generate the synonym record name as the 01 level name?

Try using a version number in the synonym copy statement.

Being relatively new to my current environment, I have noticed an odd PARM string on the CV startup EXEC statement for all CVs in the shop. There is an "S" in column 11! Has anyone ever seen this before? Someone told me it forced the CVs to be non-swappable. I checked the manuals (10.2 and 12.0), thinking this might be something I had missed out on, but there was no mention of it. I'm wondering is this a leftover from pre-5.5. Anyone have any ideas?

The "S" tells the startup routine to load RHDCTCKR and RHDCCUR from STEPLIB instead of from the default CDMSLIB. In order for an address space to be non-swappable, all programs executing as operating system tasks have to be loaded from an APF-authorized concatenation of libraries. Some sites don't like to APF-authorize all the libraries in the CDMSLIB concatenation because of all the nasty things that authorization allows you to do. As a result, that strange "S" is a way to keep these sites happy. With it, they only need to APF-authorize STEPLIB, an altogether much shorter list of libraries.

While testing an IDMS 10.2 batch program under SYSCTL, I received a "module not found" message for module IDMSB102. Could someone who has had experience with this please refresh my memory?

IDMSB102 was introduced on the 9506 maintenance tape. Its name literally shows up in IDMSINTB. Computer Associates says that after 9506, calls from programs linked with the 10.2 IDMS will cause IDMSINTB to attempt to load the "streamlined" batch interface, IDMSB102.

After reviewing the hyper APARs on the 9607 install (12.01), we found one (GO9075) requiring a reinstall of the SVC, and another (GO90751) requiring the use of CAIRIM to bring in the new SVC. We are currently using the same SVC for all our CVs. We would prefer to create a test SVC, but have not done this since moving to 12.0. Can you load two different SVCs using CAIRIM?

(continued on page 10)

DON'T MISS YOUR CONNECTION

Winter: The winter 1997 issue of *Connections*, scheduled to mail January 8, 1998, will contain the final agenda for the 1998 IUA workshop.

Spring: The spring 1998 issue of *Connections*, scheduled to mail on April 30, 1998, is *Connections'* 10th anniversary issue.

Summer: The summer 1998 issue of *Connections*, scheduled to mail June 24, 1998, will contain all you need to know about CA-World '98.

IUA FALL MEETING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 7-9, 1997, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

All Members Welcome to Attend!

The IUA fall meeting will take place at the Embassy Suites on Laclede's Landing (901 N. First Street). To make your reservations, please call 314/241-4200 and ask for the Reservations department, or phone 800/EMBASSY. Be sure to tell whoever answers that you are with IUA in order to receive our special room rate of \$99 single/double. To ensure this special rate and availability, please make your reservation before October 6, 1997.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1997

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Planning Committee Meeting
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Communications Committee Meeting

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1997

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Nominations Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Products and Services Committee Meeting (Workshop '98)
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Advisory Committee Chairs Meeting
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1997

7:30 - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	End User and Development Tools Advisory Committee Meeting
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Applications Advisory Committee Meeting
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	IMC '98 Committee Meeting
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting



● IMC AND CA-WORLD '97: A LOOK BACK AT "THE MAGIC OF SOFTWARE"

An estimated attendance of nearly 20,000 made CA-World '97 the most well-attended CA-World to date. We were all spared the brunt of hurricane Daniel, and returned to our jobs loaded with the education we acquired at IMC at CA-World '97. Highlights include:

Keynote Presentations. Charles Wang, chairman and CEO of Computer Associates, and Scott McNealy, chairman, president, and CEO of Sun Microsystems, provided attendees with their perspectives on the industry.

World-Class Education. Attendees were treated to CA-IDMS education, training, and user-experience sessions. They also had the chance to meet CA-IDMS support staff in the "technical campground."

Entertainment. As always, New Orleans was New Orleans. Entertainment was provided by the internationally-renowned Penn & Teller. Attendees consumed plenty of cajun cooking at the CA-jun cook-off, and IMC won the CA-jun cook-off's Critic's Choice Award. Attendees also participated in CA-World's Art Attack, held at the New Orleans Museum of Art.



(Archive of IDMS-L, cont. from page 9)

For those of you who have already applied either these APARs or the 9607 tape, are they good APARs, or are they big trouble? Are we being too cautious?

We had exactly the same problem when installing 9607. There was no problem loading another SVC. You have to remember to point to the right SVC in your system definition.

Does anyone know of problems with running 10.21x on a CMOS machine?

I have a few 10.213 CVs that just ran with no changes when OS/390 was installed. Recently, we brought up IDMS 10.214 on our new CMOS IBM 9672-R75 box. We had been running on an Amdahl 5995-4550ME. There were absolutely no problems with this hardware upgrade as far as IDMS 10.214 was concerned. All we changed was the actual CPU hardware: only a few PTF's to the MVS/ESA 3.1.3 operating system were required to run on a CMOS; no changes or PTF's for IDMS were necessary. Computer Associates did provide authorization codes for CA-90s services (IDMS included), which your CA-90s technical support will have to apply (standard for most CPU changes).

Has anyone performed an expand page under release 12.01? We have an area with more than 800,000 pages, page size of 9,076 characters, and space utilization of more than 90 percent. We need to decrease the utilization, but an unload/reload will take about three weeks to complete. How long did it take to complete one file, how large was the original page size, and how many pages and files comprised the area?

Yes, we have—many times with files of different page sizes and numbers of pages. It will take you 1.6 million IOs to expand your file—one to read each page, one to write each page. Multiply how long each IO takes in your shop, and you'll have a WAG. My guess is 10 to 20 hours. Notice that I talk about expanding a file—you can only expand files. Remember the basic rules. One area can be in many files. One file can contain many areas. Each file has a fixed size. Each area is limited to a fixed size, even if it is contained in many files. Hence, if your area is mapped to many files, all of these files must be expanded. Don't forget the "original page size" clause for your areas.

After converting 10.2 to 12.0, it finally became necessary to validate an application schema. Two of the records copied into the schema have non-unique elements. This was fine, since they can all be qualified in COBOL programs. Under 10.2 this generated a warning message from the schema compiler, but under 12.0 this is a level-E diagnostic. Is there any way around this so that existing programs will not have to be modified?

We have this problem, too. Apply optional apar GS07703 until you can get the records fixed. (continued on page 12)

Our Software Secures More Corporate Data Than All Our Competitors Combined.



More clients — including 462 of the Fortune 500 — trust CA security software than all the partial, proprietary solutions offered by IBM/Tivoli, Platinum and Boole & Babbage.

CA Security Software Is #1.

CA holds more security "firsts" than any other vendor. CA was the first to secure IBM's DB2 platform (two years before IBM). CA was the first to identify and address all the security risks of



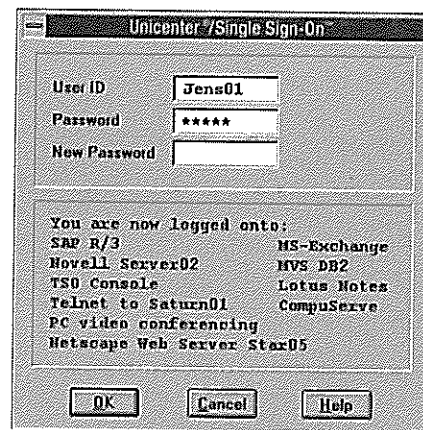
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● CONFERENCE ATTENDEES WIN RAFFLE

IMC attendees at CA-World '97 who stopped by the IUA booth to add their names to the IUA mailing list or update their contact information were entered in a prize raffle. David James of Electrolux won the grand prize, a Palm Pilot Professional Handheld PC made by U.S. Robotics. Sherry Schneider of Bi-State Development Agency won a New Orleans t-shirt. Bert Brand of OHRA won a New Orleans hat. Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to everyone who took time to stop by the IUA desk and enter the drawing.

● IUA CONNECTIONS

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(Archive of IDMS-L, cont. from page 10)

Yesterday we discovered that the 10.2 to pre-12.0 DMCL source converter does not carry forward the appropriate syntax for correctly defining native KSDS VSAM files used for CALC records—specifically, the syntax. KSDS FOR CALC FOR SET setname was not generated; only the word KSDS was present. This led to 0383 errors and other strange messages. Help!

To my knowledge, the DMCL converter has never supported the generation of the extended elements (FOR CALC/FOR SET) that are required for VSAM files. It has always been the user's responsibility to add the applicable clauses. I always pointed this bug out in my 12.0 conversion presentations, circa 1993-1994. My December 1992 copy of the Conversion Notebook (R205/&12MIB) clearly defines the user requirements for VSAM files on pages 2-12.

The utilities manual states that the restructure utility should not be used to modify calc and sort keys. Is this just a recommendation for efficiency, or will bad things happen if we ignore this? If we change the size of an index key with the restructure, we can just rebuild from members afterwards, right? If we add blanks to a sort key in a regular (not an index) set, what's the problem?

At times you must restructure a calc-key or target of an indexed set. I encountered this when I completed the Year 2000 conversion at a site two years ago. If you must do so, you must rebuild the system index (FROM MEMBERS) and re-organize the area which contains the CALC area. User indices are a bit more messy. In the past, CA has provided a generic COBOL program to link to the IDMS system program to handle the unload of user indices, but another technician told me she would feel safer if we wrote a program to manually unload the indices before the restructure (saving the owner symbolic or DBKEY and the member symbolic or DBKEY), then disconnecting from the set and re-attaching after the restructure. This approach worked well, but with lots of user indices, it took longer than the restructures themselves (or close to it).

Does anyone have a nice, easy, and reliable method for identifying optional or other APARs applied since the last release? The DCPROFIL task code used to be helpful in this endeavor, but Computer Associates removed that particular screen from the task.

The SMP/E LIST command can probably help you. Use:

```
SET BOUNDARY(target_zone)
LIST SYSMODS APARS USERMODS
```

to list APARs that have been applied. To narrow the list (and depending on your needs), several other LIST options are available. Check out the SMP/E reference manual for more information. Your MVS systems programmer could also probably help.