

CONNECTIONS

Fall 1996, No. 35

Ten Ways to Improve CV Performance

Many new and interesting products have been introduced to the CA-IDMS environment: SQL, client/server, and, most recently, ICE. For many database administrators, however, the primary responsibility is to maintain the CA-IDMS CV on the mainframe and to improve performance and end-user response time whenever possible. Below are 10 proven methods of improving system performance in a CA-IDMS CV.

1. CV BUFFERS - Define the CV buffer w/OPSYS storage, and size them as large as possible. An 11:1 found-in-buffer to physically read ratio has been used as a "standard" for buffer efficiency. Due to newer buffer-checking algorithms, create fewer but larger buffers, and do not assign files from separate applications/segments to the same buffer.

2. STORAGE PROTECT - CA-IDMS support is now recommending PROTECT on the SYSTEM statement, and NOPROTECT on the PROGRAM statements. This negates the recommendations of PIB GI76847, which stated that PROTECT/NOPROTECT had no effect

on performance. (PROTECT at the system level does, however, allocate in 4K minimums). If storage is in short supply, OR below-the-line storage is heavily used, consider specifying NOPROTECT on the SYSTEM statement.

3. SCRATCH IN XA - Utilizing this feature will remove all physical I/O from SCRATCH processing, and removes the single-thread logic imposed upon standard SCRATCH processing. SCRATCH IN XA will, however, use storage!

4. MULTITASKING - This feature has significantly improved end-user throughput in many sites (but in fact may make the CV busier). Check TCC for multitasking-related fixes for your specific gen-level before engaging this feature.

5. TP LINES - Assign 3270 data screen lines the option COMPACT. The reduction in transfer time may be worth the CPU compaction time. Assign VTAM lines the option EXPRESP. This will tell VTAM to notify DC of transmission errors only.

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Note: these suggestions may not be suitable for all releases of CA-IDMS or all platforms upon which CA-IDMS runs, and may not be suitable for a specific CA-IDMS site. They have, however, improved performance in many CA-IDMS CVs.

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Pass it on!

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Look Inside for Important Materials:

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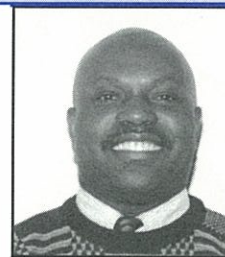
James Winn

Welcome to the Hall of Fame!

I was honored to introduce the 1996 inductees into the IUA Hall of Fame at CA-World '96 in New Orleans. The IUA Hall of Fame was founded in 1991 to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the development and growth of both the IUA and the software it represents.

This year, we added two more names to the IUA Hall of Fame. Both Nancy Leslie and Kay Sussman have been equally influential in the building of the IUA.

Nancy Leslie, Senior Systems Analyst in Information Technologies for Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, was a member of the IUA team from 1987 through 1995. During that time, she served in a number of capacities. She has spoken at numerous IUA and CA conferences and workshops, and served as the National Vice Chairperson, Executive Board Member, Planning Committee Chair, Nominations and End User and Development Tools Advisory Committee Chair for IUA. Some of her major contributions to the IUA include working on *IUA Connections* as one of its technical staff members and developing of the OLQ Guide. She worked tirelessly to ensure that these two pieces became quality publications.



*James Winn
IUA National
Chair*

Although Nancy has gone on to other things in her career, her efforts and contributions to the IUA will not be forgotten.

Our second inductee to the IUA Hall of Fame is Kay Sussman. Kay currently works for CA in their Herndon, VA office. She has been an asset to the CA-IDMS user community for a several years. For those of you who know Kay, you know that she is an outstanding speaker. From 1988 to 1992, she spoke at a minimum of five CA-IDMS user conferences. Each time, her topics have drawn hundreds of people to her sessions. At our 1990 spring conference in Seattle, WA, Kay's session, *Release 12.0 for the DBA*, drew at least 700 people in a room that only held 400 people. This popularity caused the fire marshal to threaten to shut her down. Kay's devotion to users has certainly earned her this special award.

As IUA Chair, I am fortunate to be able to present these awards to the special people who have worked hard to make the IUA a value-added organization. Thank you from all of us at the IUA. And, if any of you would like to nominate a hard-working member to be inducted into the IUA Hall of Fame in 1997, please contact IUA Headquarters at (312) 321-6827. ♦

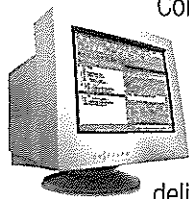


IUA Hall of Fame inductees Nancy Leslie (left) and Kay Sussman with James Winn.

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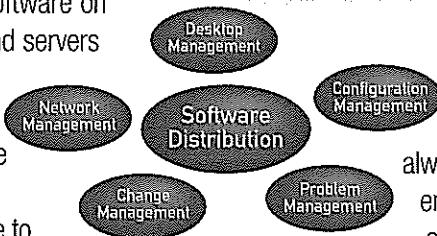
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IDMS-L News

Each issue of Connections will now include IDMS-L News. This column contains excerpts from CA-IDMS-L, an electronic discussion forum for users of CA-IDMS software. Discussion includes technical and administrative issues associated with operating a CA-IDMS systems software environment. All messages distributed by the forum are recorded and stored in log files for future reference.

How does IDMS-L operate?

IDMS-L is one of the thousands of discussion lists that is managed by a software tool called LISTSERV. The server distributes mail messages in an efficient manner by grouping mail traffic into packets. A list subscriber sends a message to the server and it distributes the message to all of the list's subscribers. Traffic originating from the NETNEWS gateway must be approved by the List Coordinator, prior to retransmission by the LISTSERV. This may cause a slight delay in material being forwarded to the LISTSERV for redistribution. Inappropriate traffic originating via the NETNEWS gateway is summarily rejected/deleted.

How many people are on IDMS-L?

Over 450 subscribers at more than +200 sites read IDMS-L. The subscriber base includes representatives from around the world. Since IDMS-L is hosted on BITNET/CREN (an international network, primarily composed of higher education institutions), many of the subscribers are at colleges/universities and other government agencies. Connectivity to the Internet, CompuServe, MCI Mail, and other commercial networks has increased subscribers from the corporate community. IDMS-L is also transmitted to NETNEWS and other local redistribution points throughout "netland."

HOW does one subscribe to IDMS-L?

Subscribers submit their request to the Listserv processor using the command described below. Listserv sends a verification message after receiving the subscription request. The subscriber then responds with an OK command to the verification message.

If you need assistance, please send an E-mail message to the list coordinator.

Subscription Command: SUB IDMS-L <your name>
The subscription command should be the only line in the body of your message. Any contents in the

Subject line is ignored. Subscribers send their request to: LISTSERV@UGA.CC.UGA.EDU

How does one send a message to IDMS-L?

A subscriber's message is distributed to IDMS-L's membership by using the address:
IDMS-L@UGA.CC.UGA.EDU.

The list's distributions options are set to reject traffic from non-subscribers. Their material is redirected to the List Coordinator. This may result in some "false" rejections of traffic from a subscriber whose network address has changed. Instances of this nature will be handled on a case by case basis. This configuration option, as well as the daily traffic limit of 15 messages, were implemented to assist in the prevention of various types of mailer loops.

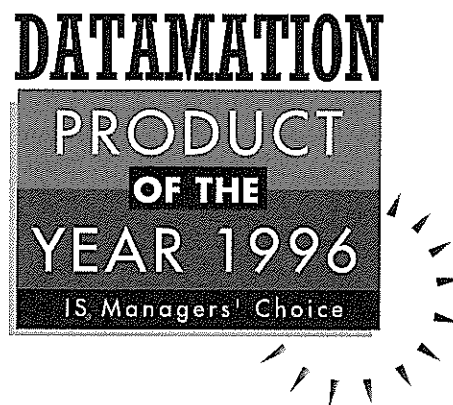
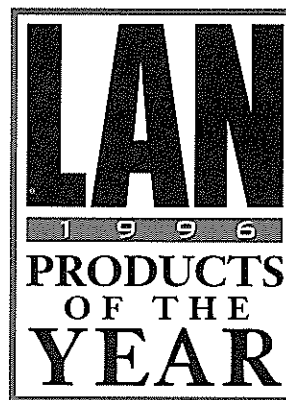
Below are some excerpts from the IDMS-L. Check this column every issue for more user communications.

PERFMON will display invalid dbkeys in the "dbkey waiting on" field. Not only are these dbkeys not correct, they may be pointing to page ranges that are not used by the CV. TC21124 is a potential fix..

I just ran into a problem so unusual I thought I would pass it along. It seems that if the loadlib (MVS) from which you desire to re-load a program (v nc) has multiple extents ALLOCATED (not necessarily USED), your program MAY NOT NEWCOPY !!! of course, with me this occurred with my DMCL, but level 1 assured me that this could happen with any program, and that in fact it was a 10.2 problem as well ... When in the described situation, we have found that a quick "DCMT V CDMSLIB OFFLINE" followed by a "DCMT V CDMSLIB ONLINE" clears the problem up.

The following problem was reported to CA: We are linking to RHDCMT00 from a dialog. 12.01 results are shifted by an extra blank compared to 12.0. Is this a deliberate change? A BUG? Should code be changed? We provided SNAPS of the record returned by into each

Continued on page 6



Who Says You Can't Win 'Em All?

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Ways to Improve CV Performance

Continued from page 1

Finally, assigning VTAM lines the option PERMREADBUF forces a one-time terminal buffer allocation, rather than reallocation upon each mapin. This may, however, increase storage allocation.

6. JOURNALS - The extra CPU and I/O generated by the JOURNAL FRAGMENT statement may not be worth the savings to a warmstart, so consider disabling this feature. Setting JOURNAL TRANSACTION LEVEL to an appropriate level will defer JRNL I/O to a less busy interval.

7. PREDEFINED RUN UNITS - Allocating PRUs eliminates the runtime CPU of binding/finishing system run-units to perform system chores: loading load modules, retrieving messages, security checking, etc. Since the storage overhead for each PRU is comparatively small, it seems over-allocation is better than under-allocation, and adjustments should be made until there are NO overflow run units. Also note that EVERY dictname that could be DCUF'ed should have a secondary loader PRU defined.

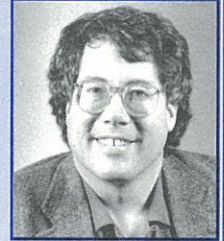
8. LOADLISTS - Loadlists determine the order in which load module repositories (load areas and loadlibs) are searched. Built correctly, loadlists can greatly speed load processing.

9. DBNAMES/SEGMENTS - At run-unit bind time, the areas to be readied (as specified in the subschema) are compared against the areas in each segment defined to the binding dbname (either DCUF'ed, SYSIDMS'ed, DBTABLE'd, or coded in the program). The SEGMENTS within the DBNAME are searched ALPHABETICALLY, while the AREAS within the SEGMENT are searched FIFO. Tailoring the DBNAMES and SEGMENTS (and subschemas) to optimize this search sequence will improve system performance. PIB GI78787 contains more information on this topic.

10. MAX TASKS/MAX ERUS specifying appropriate values to these parameters is essential to acceptable performance. Values too small may result in users unnecessarily being delayed in accessing the system. Values too large may result in users deadlocking or stalling while waiting for resources. See PIB GI16001 for how the sysgen'ed values become the runtime values. ◆

A Fond Farewell

It is with much sorrow that we announce the passing of IUA's dear friend and Executive Board Member, William Val Morgan. On the morning of September 19, 1996, Val Morgan died as a result of an accident outside of his Bangkok office. Val was a member of the IUA for 15 years and played a critical role in the development of *Connections* by contributing several articles, as well as his technical expertise.



Val Morgan

Val was always ready to contribute his time and efforts in assisting the IUA and his colleagues in the IDMS community. He was an integral member of the TAC committee, in which he developed the AIDA product. He was also the architect of the IUA bulletin board.

James Bradshaw, Director of IUA, remembers Val fondly. "Often times, we tend to think of user associations as faceless and nameless entities, but nothing could be farther from the truth. User associations exist because of people that share their time and energies with others. Val was one of those caring individuals that shared himself with us, and the IUA and its members have benefited from his contributions. It's people like Val that give the IUA its character, strength, and reason for being."

Val will be greatly missed by his many friends, colleagues and IUA family around the world, and by his wife of eight months, Thida.

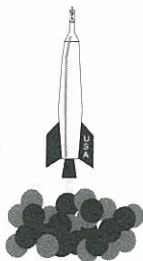
IDMS-L News

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RHDCMT00 which show the extra X'40' being built output lines for 12.01. If the DCMT command was issued from the terminal, output was identical. The same terminal was being used for 12.0 and 12.01 runs. The answer from level 2 is that it is possible that a change to either RHDCLINR or RHDCTIRH (among other things) could be causing something like this to occur... but the bottom line is that software does change from release to release and that user code should be changed to work with the new method. RHDCMT00 coders beware of this undocumented feature! ◆

Now that CA-World is over,
it's time to start planning
on...

**Launching
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at
IUA Workshop '97



Join us for IUA Workshop '97, March 9-11 at the JW Marriott at the Galleria, Houston, TX. The intensive sessions give you the latest insights into the world of CA-IDMS and the tips and tricks that can improve your performance. Bob Dobbs joins the workshop as a special guest speaker.

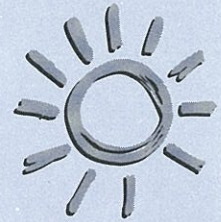
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INFORMATION USER ASSOCIATION

FALL MEETING

**NOVEMBER 1-3, 1996
SHERATON MESA HOTEL**



Come to where the action is! The IUA cordially invites all of its members to attend the IUA Executive Board Meeting and committee meetings November 1-3 at the Sheraton Mesa Hotel, Mesa, AZ.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, November 1

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Planning Committee
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Communications Committee
5:30 p.m.	Social Function at Carol Silberstein-Locker's House

Saturday, November 2

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Nominations Committee
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Products & Services Committee Advisory Committee Chairs
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Executive Committee
2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Planning Meeting with Richard Branton

Sunday, November 3

7:30 - 8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	End User & Development Tools Advisory Committee Technical Advisory Committee
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Applications Advisory Committee
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	IMC97 Committee
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting

The room rate is \$85 single/double. **To make a room reservation, please contact the hotel directly at 602/898-8300.** Be sure to tell them you are with IUA to receive our special rate. Reservations should be made **no later than October 10, 1996** to ensure room rate and availability.

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The IUA at CA-World

CA-World '96 continues to be one of the nation's largest forums for technology users. This year, the five-day event drew approximately 15,000 CA users to New Orleans for an in-depth look at Computer Associates software and the technology that supports it. As is every year, IUA actively participated in CA-World by hosting the IMC96 and a portion of BAC96.

IMC96

All participants were officially welcomed to CA-World '96 by Charles Wang on Sunday evening. He surprised just about everyone with the announcement that registration to CA-World '97 would be FREE to all registered attendees of CA-World '96!

Monday, Don LeClair and Judy Krontorad unveiled the vision and future trends of the CA-IDMS world. They announced that CA-IDMS Release 14.0 was planned for general availability in the fall of 1996. That afternoon, education and user presentations began, and at night, attendees were treated to a very entertaining and inspiring presentation by General Colin Powell, followed by the artwork of Denny Dent.

Tuesday, education and classes continued, and the World Resource Center opened to the public. That evening, Bill Gates demonstrated the newest version of CA-Unicenter-TNG for the audience. Wednesday, Performance/Tuning, UCF internals and Year 2000 user implementation drew large crowds. Thursday, as education and classes finished up, attendees packed up, said good-bye, and planned to get together July 13-18, 1997 in New Orleans for CA-World '97. A round of applause should be given to Ken Reiff and the CA staff who organized IMC; and Anita Todd and the Corporate Events Staff who made it all come together.



Users and exhibitors swap "trade secrets" at the trade show.

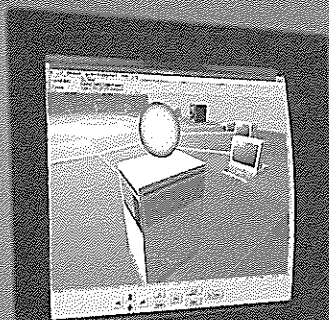
BAC96

BAC96 gave attendees the chance to exchange information that can be applied to day-to-day activities back in the office. On August 24, the CARE Conference held a Q&A session that was facilitated by Charles Wang. Wang answered questions submitted before the session and then requested questions from the audience. He confirmed that TCC will be available through the Internet, with implementation this month.



IUA's Janet Schwartz tries her hand at cooking at the IMC '96 Cajun Cookoff

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Information User Association
Workshop '97
Call for Presentations

In response to attendee evaluations, IUA has revised the format of the workshop to include more focused presentation topics, expanded vendor sessions and a general training session for all attendees. Now, we need your participation! We invite you to submit a paper for presentation and publication for IUA Workshop '97.

If your presentation is selected you will receive:

- * **FREE registration for IUA Workshop '97**
- * **Publication in the IUA Workshop '97 Proceedings Book**
- * **The opportunity to present your paper and to educate others in the CA-IDMS community**

This is your opportunity to share your successes, your triumph over everyday challenges, and your company's proven short-cuts and strategies!

We are currently looking for presentations on Performance Tuning, the Year 2000 and Release 14.0. All submitted presentations will be reviewed by the workshop committee and all members who submit presentations will be contacted.

Please send the following information to IUA for consideration:

Name: _____
Presentation Title: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____

Presentation Abstract

(Please attach 2-3 paragraphs on your presentation for promotional materials. This should include session content and what participants will learn from your session.)

Please return to:
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IUA Workshop '97

Information User Association Call for Nominations

.....

The IUA is searching for candidates for the general election of the IUA Executive Board. The election is open to all members of the association. To be considered as a candidate, or to nominate someone else for consideration, please **print or type** the following information:

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ SITE NUMBER: _____

What qualities and contributions would this candidate bring to the IUA if elected?

Please request the candidate to complete the following: background, years of experience, years of CA-IDMS, CA-CAS, CA-DB and CA-HRS usage, types of Computer Associates products used, and past participation in the IUA or related activities.

Please confirm member company support to attend three meetings per year for the three year executive board term beginning March 10, 1997 prior to submitting this nomination.

Please return this form to the address below:
NO LATER THAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1996

Tonia Thomas
Information User Association
401 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611-4267
OR
FAX: (312) 527-6783