XEROX

Information Technology Group
Systems Development Division
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From: Charles Irby

Subject: April Status Report for Common Software

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User Interface:

Work continues on the Diamond User Interface Specification. Progress has been somewhat slower than expected because of unexpected distractions, vacations and sick leave. Work to date has focused on the user's conceptual model of the overall system. Although there remain open issues in this area, we are now turning our attention to scenarios based on that model and then on to details of the command language. This process should clarify the issues and allow more reasoned decisions possible at the model level.

The user interface as specified is more grandios than is necessary for Janus-1. We feel it is necessary to take this step and then to scale back to Janus-1 to insure that the user interface will extend gracefully to Janus-2 and beyond. Consequently, when this specification is complete, we will have to determine the appropriate subset of the facilities for Janus-1 Early Bird and help the Prototype Software Group implement that. The Applications Software Group will assist in the subset selection and we will help them write the Janus-1 Funtional Specification. Activities are just beginning in these areas.

Some resources have gone toward helping Harold Hall staff the Functional Test Group, helping to select and interview prospective people. We are also helping to write a follow-up action plan for assessing the need for and specifics of a pointing device for Janus-1.

The *desktop* and graphics prototype built by Bob Ayers (in Mesa) has contributed very significantly to the development of a conceptual model and command language for these areas. This program is complete enough to be used as the basis of some user tests and demonstrations of the ideas we have been exploring.

Data Management:

The data management group is participating heavily in the newly organized file and data management working group. Several meetings have taken place to date. The series is expected to last about two months and to result in possible modifications to the Pilot funtional Specification and contribution to the Data Management Funtional Specifications plus a design for the file and data mangement facilities.