

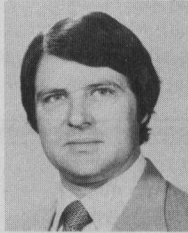
IGES provides a way to achieve that integration. It holds great potential as a common communications format among automated functions in design, engineering analysis, manufacturing, and part inspection. Additionally, it may serve as a vehicle for meaningful communication of product definition data among different companies over the full lifetime of a product.

In the future, additional CAD/CAM applications will be demanded by users. A standardized communications interface will be essential among the various modules of a CAD/CAM system—essential if these systems are to be flexible enough to adapt to changing priorities and essential if users are to realize the full potential of their equipment. IGES provides that interface.

The present specification is well developed and tested and is further strengthened by the wide range of supporting technical literature, all of which is in the public domain. Its data exchange technique is well supported by the vendor community. While IGES is not perfect yet and does not solve all CAD/CAM data exchange problems, it goes a long way toward solving users' current problems and has the capability of being extended to meet the needs of this growing and maturing field. ■

## Acknowledgment

I wish to thank Joan Wellington and Mary Marello for their valuable assistance in the preparation of this article.

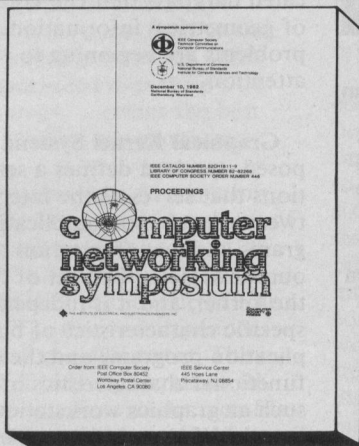


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enable all control data to be generated and verified before being sent to the shop floor. Presently, he serves as the IGES program manager.

Smith received BS and MS degrees in electrical engineering from Cornell University in 1965 and 1966, respectively. He is vice-chairman of the ANSI Planning Panel on Industrial Automation and serves on the Board of Directors of the Numerical Control Society.

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