SOFTWARE

Space management system runs on Vax computers

Decision Graphics, Inc., has released an interactive graphics package for space management and planning. Fames allows the facility manager to accurately capture space allocations, report on them, and plot drawings showing the space utilization. Tracking the past and planning for the future are also supported by the system.

Fames is linked to the other packages included in the general-purpose PEAC CADD system, which provides capabilities for detail drafting, schematic planning, layout design, and inventory.

The Fames graphics package runs on a Vax computer system, supports a variety of terminals and plotters, and sells for $10,000. Fames combined with graphics hardware sells for up to $40,000, depending on configuration.

Reader Service Number 46

Advanced graphics tool kit announced for IBM PC

Metagraphics' Metawindow is an advanced graphics tool kit designed for use with the IBM PC. The kit provides IBM application developers with graphics capabilities similar to those on the Xerox Star and Apple Lisa workstations.

Metawindow allows users to create and delete pop-up menus, windows, and icons; interactively move graphical objects or text on a screen; display multiple, proportionally spaced fonts; control raster-op transfer modes; and perform rapid bit-mapped screen transfer operations. Written from assembly language for maximum speed and minimum code size, the tool kit is designed for developing window managers rather than for use as a window manager itself.

Metawindow is available on three system diskettes with both Pascal and C libraries, contains integrated support for graphics display adapters and mice, and costs $150.

Reader Service Number 47

Engineering, educational programs announced

BV Engineering is offering three software packages designed for the engineering and educational markets. Acnap, SPP, and Plotpro are stand-alone programs that share common data files.

Acnap is a general-purpose electronic circuit analysis program that analyzes passive and active circuits consisting of resistors, capacitors, inductors, controlled-current sources, operational amplifiers, transistors, and FETs. The program analyzes the response of any linear network having up to 21 nodes and 60 components. Commands are either menu driven or program prompted. Circuit topology data is stored in a named file or retrieved from a previously generated file for further analysis or editing. According to the company, Acnap's optimized code can calculate the response of a typical five-node circuit in 0.4 seconds.

SPP is a general-purpose signal processing program containing an integrated set of routines that analyze linear and nonlinear systems and circuits and their effects on user-specified time-domain waveforms. The basis of much of SPP is a 512-point fast Fourier transform and its inverse. Linear processing is conducted in the frequency domain, and nonlinear processing is performed in the time domain. The utility of this program is enhanced by its ability to switch rapidly between the time domain and the frequency domain.

Plotpro is a set of four linked Microsoft Basic programs that produce scientific graphs on 80- or 132-column printers. Plotpro can create linear, semilogarithmic, and full logarithmic plots with one or two Y axes and plot multiple functions on the same graph. Forced scaling and autoscaling are both supported, along with optional grid lines to aid in graph interpretation.

The Plotpro program also creates templates of the physical appearance of a graph. These templates specify the type of scaling (linear, log, forced, or autoscale); graph, axis, and plot labeling; and ranges for each axis. It is compatible with the Acnap electronic circuit analysis program and the SPP signal processing program. Data files for Plotpro can be generated by a user program in Basic or Fortran, or data can be entered manually.

All three software programs are available in both 5 1/4- and 8-inch CP/M formats, including the Apple II+, CP/M, IBM PC, and Victor 9000, and in TRS-DOS for the TRS-80 models 1/II/IV. Acnap sells for $49.95, SPP for $59.95, and Plotpro, Version 2.0, for $49.95.

Reader Service Number 48

Hierarchical design system runs on IBM PC-XTs

Strides, a hierarchical CAE design package for use on IBM PC-XTs, is an editing system from Future Net Corporation that can eliminate redundant drawing of common elements. As an add-on package enhancing the company's Dash-1 schematic design workstation, Strides can be used for complex computer-aided engineering projects that must be segmented into subparts, use low-level elements, or require accurate block diagram documentation.

Strides is designed to simplify the management of up to 99 subordinated levels of documentation, managing an entire document tree from the top block diagram down to individual components that include VLSI equivalents at the gate-array or chip level. Progressively finer detail emerges as successively lower levels in the document tree are selected. A change in one document is automatically incorporated into the overall design, including updates of pin lists, net lists, and lists of materials.

Priced at $1900, Strides is available immediately.

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