

XEROX

Information Technology Group
Systems Development Division
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To: Wendell Shultz

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From: Charles Irby

Subject: February Status Report for Common Software

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User Interface:

A presentation was made to PARC staff reviewing the recent workshop on "Desktop Concepts and Display Windows." Also presented were the results of a recently conducted "display characteristics" survey. The results of this will be incorporated into a memo on displays to be released in the near future.

The followup visit to the legal firm in San Francisco has not yet taken place. We are awaiting permission from the firm. We are also making arrangements to visit some technical publication departments.

We have been conducting intensive, regularly-scheduled meetings with Charles Simonyi, discussing user interface ideas and problem areas.

A *sneak preview* of the Diamond User Interface Specification was released within SD for internal review of direction before things get too solid. Four major areas were discussed: a) text selection and editing, b) graphics, c) formatting and layout, and d) document creation, filing, distributing, and printing. A more polished release will be made sometime within the next month or so. We are also carefully tracking and reviewing the *requirements* document being written by the Applications Software Group. To a very large extent, our work seems to be in agreement.

Betty Burr has officially accepted our offer and is expected to join our User Interface Group half time on 1 March going to full time on 1 April.

Data Management:

Data management activity is being focused on *streams* and *document* interfaces and on the format of directories. We also expect to participate in an upcoming series of meetings on the Pilot file system. In addition, we are making arrangements to help Ron Rider and Bob Sproull specify an improvement on the current Press file format for use with printing engines.

Peter Bishop is expected to join our data management group in the second quarter, when he finishes his dissertation. The exact status of his situation is somewhat unclear, however. We are also talking with Richard Moore (of PARC) about joining our group.