

DATA BASE newsletter

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IBM, On the Record Again!

An Interview with

Lois Dimpfel

Manager, Data Systems Products
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Recent performance improvements in DB2 have reopened continuing questions about the future of IMS and DL/I, and related products, as well as about IBM's positioning of the respective database products. Meanwhile, Fast Path is making an important bid to become a mainstay high-end database capability. Adding to the current confusion has been misleading commentary in the trade press concerning the possibility that DB2 and the much-anticipated repository might become required components of MVS.



Lois Dimpfel

In the following exclusive *Newsletter* interview, Lois Dimpfel, who has management responsibility for both the IMS and DB2 product development groups, goes on the record for IBM once more to set matters straight. In doing so, she gives a sweeping view of requirements as IBM sees them for database product development over the coming years.

Newsletter: It's been said that by the early 1990s IBM's database system products must support a transaction arrival rate of perhaps 4000 transactions per second. Is that range achievable within IMS?

Dimpfel: This is a requirement customers say they have, especially for systems that support consumer transaction pro-

"Within IBM today, the investment that we are putting into the IMS product is roughly equivalent to the investment being put into the DB2 product. I think this clearly demonstrates that IBM anticipates both products to be around for many decades to come."

cessing. We recognize the need to support this requirement. We believe in particular that Fast Path could be used success-

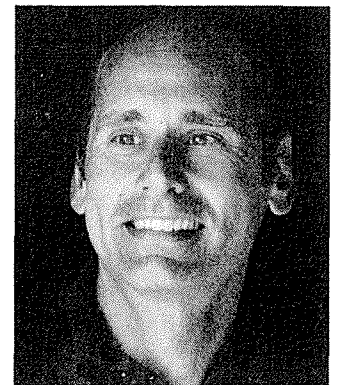
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A Taxonomy for Productivity Software

By George Schussel

Digital Consulting Associates, Inc.

During the last ten years, the marketplace for productivity tools has changed significantly. Today, the market for such software products is large and complex. Instead of simply DBMS versus DBMS, the typical software vendor today sells a broadly functional, integrated set of software. Some buyers also want tools for the Information Center, whereas others wish to build large-scale production systems. Still others have eschewed the mainframe entirely and are building applications on stand-alone or networked micros.



George Schussel

This article looks at the current market for high productivity software and comments on the different categories of software available in that marketplace.

1. Integrated Development Software

This is "major league" software—the guts of the 1980s EDP department. It usually consists of a DBMS, an integrated

"... the computer performance of a system developed with a 4GL may suffer compared with a comparable application developed in a COBOL/CICS environment, but this performance degradation is normally no worse than 100%."

active data dictionary, query language, transaction processing monitor (often CICS), report writer, micro-to-mainframe link, and interfaces to various other packages frequently including applications. A key portion of the integrated software package is the data dictionary/directory, which controls data definitions and is therefore primarily important in coupling the different software pieces.

Examples of products that compete in this market are Cincom's TIS/XA-SUPRA, Cullinet's integrated software line based on IDMS/R, Applied Data Research's DATACOM/IDEAL, Software AG's ADABAS/NATURAL and Computer

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