CODASYL

DATA BASE TASK GROUP REPORT

April 1971

CODASYL DATA BASE TASK GROUP REPORT

April 1971

FOREWORD

It is the pleasure of the Conference on Data Systems Languages (CODASYL) to submit a second report of the Data Base Task Group (DBTG) for general distribution. This report reflects many of the changes, improvements and extensions suggested as a result of publication of the first report. It also reflects the request of the CODASYL Executive Committee that the specifications be separated into two categories, namely 1) those elements that would be necessary for an independent data description language and 2) those elements that would enable COBOL to interface properly with data described in that independent data description language.

With this report as the base, CODASYL has now established a new standing committee, the Data Description Language Committee, independent of and equal to the Planning, Systems and Programming Language Committees. It is envisioned that from the base already established by the DBTG report this new committee will finalize the specifications for a common data description language, independent of but common to many other higher level programming languages. Simultaneously, the Programming Language Committee will develop COBOL extensions based on Section 4 (COBOL Sub-schema) and Section 5 (COBOL Data Manipulation Language). It is hoped that organizations responsible for other programming languages will develop the appropriate sub-schema and data manipulation language features for their language.

While this report is not classified as a final CODASYL specification of a common language, it does represent many years of work and the best thinking of many recognized experts. Therefore we believe it is practical and appropriate for implementations to be made based on these specifications so that a foundation of experience may be established from which to further evolve and refine the specifications of a common data description language.

Your comments and participation in this exciting new endeavour are welcome and encouraged.

J. L. Jones
Chairman,
Executive Committee
Conference on Data Systems Languages

ADDITIONAL COPIES AVAILABLE
for $6.00 prepaid from:

Association for Computing Machinery
Order Department
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y 10026

In Europe inquiries should be addressed to:

British Computer Society
29 Portland Place
London W1N 4AP, England

or:

IFIP Administrative Data Processing Group
6 Stadhouderskade
Amsterdam 1013, Netherlands

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE DATA BASE TASK GROUP

The current members of the Data Base Task Group are:

A. Metaxides (Chairman)	Bell Telephone Laboratories
W. B. Helgeson (Vice-chairman)	Honeywell Information Systems
R. E. Seth (Secretary)	NCR
G. C. Bryson	Honeywell Information Systems
M. A. Coane	Montgomery Ward
G. G. Dodd	General Motors Research Laboratories
C. P. Earnest	Computer Sciences Corporation
R. W. Engles	IBM Corporation
L. N. Harper	IBM Corporation
P. A. Hartley	UNIVAC
D. J. Hopkin	RCA Corporation
J. D. Joyce	General Motors Research Laboratories
S. C. Knapp	Honeywell Information Systems
J. R. Lucking	International Computers Limited
J. M. Muro	United States Navy
M. P. Persily	Equitable Life Assurance Society
M. A. Ramm	Control Data Corporation
J. F. Russell	RCA Corporation
R. F. Schubert	B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company
J. R. Sidlo	Computer Sciences Corporation
M. M. Smith	IBM Corporation
G. T. Werner	UNIVAC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This version of the Data Base Task Group Report was prepared by the members whose names are listed above. In performing this work these members were supported by their respective organizations. Inclusion in the above list, however, does not necessarily imply that either the individual or his organization endorses the Report.

Throughout the life of the Task Group many others have made significant contributions. Some of these have been acknowledged in previous Data Base Task Group publications. Appreciation is expressed by the Task Group to all who have contributed with apologies to those who have not been named. A special note of thanks goes to Mr. W. G. Simmons of the United States Steel Corporation who had the foresight to initiate this work in 1965 and who steered the Task Group until 1969.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence relating to the technical content of this report should be addressed as follows:

> Chairman, CODASYL Data Base Task Group
> P.O. Box 124
> Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTE: Each of the above sections is prefaced
         by its respective TABLE OF CONTENTS.