

POINT 4's IRIS™ THE OPERATING SYSTEM FOR MULTI-USER TIME-SHARING

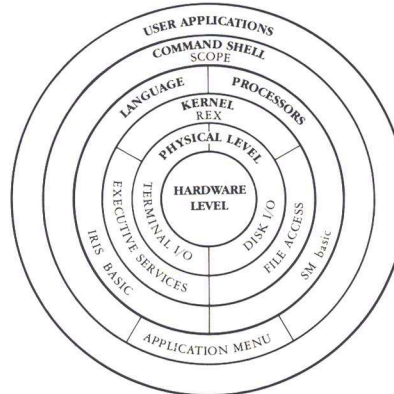
IRIS™ (Interactive Real-time Information System) is a powerful, multi-user operating system designed for the business environment. It is a proven operating system that has over 25,000 installations. It has been updated and refined to offer new technology, and continues to evolve to meet new requirements. With high-speed, multi-tasking capabilities, IRIS supports over 100 users on a single system with efficient scheduling of work, multi-level security protection and a powerful data management system. IRIS has a Business BASIC orientation, one of the most popular, easy-to-learn and -use computer languages in existence today.

IRIS FEATURES

- Powerful, real-time, multi-tasking operating system designed for the business environment
- Supports over 100 users
- Efficient scheduling of multiple concurrent users based on dynamic priority assignments
- Security and privacy through multi-level password system
- Data-protection and integrity through record and file locking
- Powerful data management facilities
- Business BASIC orientation
- Transaction processing personality

Because IRIS was designed as a multi-tasking operating system for the business environment, it has a full set of data management facilities which offer efficient processing of and rapid access to the many kinds of information which constitute a company's data base. POINT 4's support of multi-key indexed files is of particular importance in a business environment as it provides the

means for company data to be displayed where, how, and when it's required.



IRIS can support over 100 users quickly and efficiently, because it was created from its inception as a time-sharing system. IRIS responds to each user as if that user were the sole possessor of all of the resources of the computer system. Multiple users, therefore, may each perform a variety of different tasks at their video display workstations concurrently.

Each task has a priority that was assigned when it was initialized and indicates its relative importance to other processes in the system. Their priorities are modified dynamically by IRIS to provide the optimum desired response and throughput.

SECURITY, integrity and privacy of a company's data base are of growing importance today, especially in a multi-user system. IRIS provides a multi-level password security mechanism to ensure that only authorized users are granted access to the system. Privacy of individual files can be controlled by restricting read, write, and copy access. IRIS' record lock adds to its other data integrity features by automatic-

ally preventing more than one user from modifying the same record at the same time—an extremely important capability in a multi-user system.

TEXT files, in which data may be accessed either sequentially or directly, provide storage for variable, unformatted data. Treated by IRIS simply as strings of ASCII data, text files are suited for storing word processing information and programs where format and organization are variable. When printed or displayed at a workstation, the contents of text files are typically readable by the user.

FORMATTED files offer random storage and direct access to data whose structure is already known and offers random access to information down to the item level. By declaring the attributes of each data item in a record to IRIS in advance, the user allows the system to control such characteristics as length and data type, and translation of one class of item to another. Formatted files offer system-level control over data elements that are shared among several programs.

SPACE for the storage of both text and formatted files is handled automatically by IRIS and is transparent to the user. IRIS allocates space dynamically from the free space on disk.

CONTIGUOUS files, as the name implies, are allocated a single, contiguous portion of space on disk. Within this space, data are stored randomly by relative record number, and access is direct by record number. Contiguous files offer very high performance since access is direct and all records are in close physical proximity to one another.

