

New software tools from ALPS

In response to demand for more powerful editing capabilities, ALP Systems has released the Document Revision Facility (DRF). DRF is a powerful set of software tools based on natural language parsing, which can be integrated into virtually any mini- or mainframe editing environment.

The Document Revision Facility checks word-processed documents for a wide range of writing errors and grammatical problems, including:

Sentence Fragments, Garbled Sentences, Subject-Verb Agreement, Comma Splices, Long Sentences, Long Phrases, Passive Constructions, Nominalised Verbs, Pre-translation Editing, Spelling, Capitalisation, Extra Punctuation, Omitted Punctuation, Doubled Words, Non-standard Words and Phrases, Use of Jargon, False Synonyms.

In many cases, DRF presents a suggested correction on the screen which the user may incorporate into the document with the touch of a key.

The Document Revision Facility will be released for VM/CMS operating systems by autumn 1986. The software, however, is highly portable and ALP Systems can port DRF into most hardware and text-editing environments.

The other tool recently launched by ALPS is PeriPhrase, a unique and powerful development environment for rule-based linguistic software. The result of many man-years of experience in the key artificial intelligence fields of machine-assisted translation and natural-language processing, PeriPhrase is suitable for many tasks requiring sophisticated linguistic processing and context-sensitive parsing, including: Natural-language interfaces for application programs, database packages, expert systems, and operating systems; and Compiler development.

According to David Hefner, ALP Systems' Manager of Linguistic Tools, "PeriPhrase could change the way a lot of people think about natural-language software. A parser

development tool with the power of PeriPhrase means that a whole new level of linguistic sophistication can be incorporated into software in the short- to medium-term. In fact, ALP Systems' own development of language translation systems has already been significantly accelerated by PeriPhrase."

ALP Systems offers two levels of PeriPhrase licence for Unix and Xenix-based environments. Level I consists of the PeriPhrase development environment itself. Level II consists of the PeriPhrase development environment, plus one or more source-language modules. A source-language module consists of dictionary support, morphological (word-level) processing, baseform reduction, automatic sentence segmentation and character set (alphabet) support. Complete documentation is provided.

In addition to the PeriPhrase licence, ALP Systems provides customer support in the form of telephone consultation, training, face-to-face consultation and contract development for custom applications.