Prime

Prime INFORMATION ESCAPE

Features

- Complete fourth generation application development product for designing, developing, documenting and maintaining applications using Prime INFORMATION™ software.

- Fully compatible with Prime INFORMATION.

- Generates fully functional INFO/BASIC™ source code from English-like sentences.

- Generates and maintains up-to-date documentation including on-line help, user manuals and system administrator manuals automatically.

- Includes ESCAPE:ESP, an easy-to-use interface that guides you through the application development process.

- Provides unlimited alternate access through automatically maintained cross-reference files.

- Offers after-image record logging and database recovery.

- Supports both non-procedural and procedural syntax.

- Complete in-line control of procedure flow.

- Extensive on-line help facilities.

Product Description

Prime INFORMATION ESCAPE (English Sentences Creating Application Programs Easily) is a fourth generation applications development tool for the Prime INFORMATION environment that dramatically accelerates application development and increases productivity. It works in conjunction with Prime INFORMATION to form a complete system for designing, developing, documenting and maintaining applications.

The components of Prime INFORMATION ESCAPE are ESCAPE:ASL, ESCAPE:ESP, and ESCAPE:DOC.

ESCAPE:ASL (Application Software Language)

ESCAPE:ASL is an English-like, non-procedural application development language. You create the application concept, leaving the details of programming to the computer. You tell the system what to do (but not how to do it) by constructing English-like ESCAPE:ASL statements that Prime INFORMATION ESCAPE converts into INFO/BASIC source code.

For example, an 18 line ESCAPE:ASL sentence might produce 1200 lines of INFO/BASIC source code. To maintain the application, you need to only modify the ESCAPE:ASL sentence.

The features of ESCAPE:ASL include:

■ English-like sentences that are converted into INFO/BASIC code.

■ Support of both non-procedural and procedural syntax.

■ Support of INFO/BASIC source statements directly within the sentence.

■ Standard and expanded dictionary structure with in-line user override.

■ Fully supported single, multi-valued and sub-valued data structures.

■ Unlimited windowing and browsing within a screen.

■ Unlimited edit pattern matching, range checking and data conversion.

■ Unlimited alternate access through automatically maintained cross-reference files.

■ After-image record logging and database recovery.

■ Complete in-line control of procedure flow.

■ Internal and external subroutine execution.

■ Extensive on-line help facilities.

Cross-reference files

Users often need to access records by fields other than the primary key. For example, assume the primary key to the personnel file is the employee number, but you only know the employee's last name. Prime INFORMATION ESCAPE has cross-referencing capabilities that allow the user to access records by any number of fields. If you enter "SMITH," you can choose from a list of all the employees named Smith. If you enter "SMITH CHICAGO," you can choose from a list of all the employees named Smith who live in Chicago.

Prime INFORMATION ESCAPE automatically maintains cross-references by inverting a file on the values of user-specified fields in the file. The cross-references can be by literal and/or phonetic values. For example, entering "SMITH" would find the names Smith, Smithe, Smyth, and Smythe.

On-line help

Extensive on-line help facilities make the development of Prime INFORMATION ESCAPE applications even easier. You can ask for help about a specific word or a topic. For example, you may ask for help about the PROMPT.FOR keyword or for anything having to do with the concept PROMPT. In the latter case, a list of all the keywords, options, and example programs that have anything to do with prompting is displayed. You can choose which pieces of help information you wish to view.

Record logging and recovery

Prime INFORMATION ESCAPE has the ability to log all disk writes and re-apply them to recover the database. If the logging facility is used, an after-image of each record that is written to data files is also written to a log file, which also contains a date and time stamp. To recover the database, you simply tell Prime INFORMATION ESCAPE to re-apply the writes to a valid backup copy of the database.

ESCAPE: ESP (Extra Sensory Programming)

If you have no knowledge of ESCAPE:ASL syntax, let the ESCAPE:ESP interface guide you through the steps of application development.

First, you "paint" the screen format on the terminal. Then you define the screen through a series of dialog windows. Each window poses a question and provides a list of answers from which to choose. Once the screen format has been defined, the ESCAPE:ASL sentence is created.

During an ESCAPE:ESP session, you can:

■ "Paint" the screen format using full cursor control

■ Define the screen format by answering questions posed by ESCAPE:ESP

■ Use existing files and fields or create new ones

■ Define the characteristics of the screen items (edit patterns, data validation, conversions, etc.)

■ Establish alternate access paths through cross-reference files

■ Reorganize the screen by moving items from one area to another

■ Ask for help at any time

ESCAPE:DOC (Application Documentation Facility)

ESCAPE:DOC, the application documentation facility of Prime INFORMATION ESCAPE, uses the ESCAPE:ASL sentences to automatically create comprehensive documentation. The documentation includes on-line help as well as end user and system administrator manuals that contain system flowcharts and database diagrams. When an application is updated, the documentation is updated automatically.

On-line application help is available at every operator prompt, providing you with the definition of all the fields on a screen. Also, all possible values or commands that can be executed at a prompt are displayed.

For every application produced with Prime INFORMATION ESCAPE, ESCAPE: DOC will produce the following manuals and their associated chapters:

User Reference Manual

■ Table of Contents
■ Introduction
■ Operator Instructions
■ File/Field Definitions
■ Index

System Administrator Reference Manual

■ Table of Contents
■ Introduction
■ Operator Instructions
■ File/Field Definitions
■ System Flowchart
■ Database Organization Diagrams
■ Procedure Definitions
■ Dictionary Listings
■ Procedure/File Cross Reference Table
■ File/Procedure Cross Reference Table
■ Procedure/File/Field Cross Reference Table
■ File/Field/Procedure Cross Reference Table
■ Field/File/Procedure Cross Reference Table
■ Index

As an added advantage, you can customize the application manuals produced by Prime INFORMATION ESCAPE. Page size, copyright notice, and "trade secret" declaration can all be altered to meet your specific needs.

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