OVERVIEW

The Wang Powerful Resource for Information and System Management (PRISM) is an integrated, data-dictionary based, software system that controls all phases of data management. The features available through PRISM include entering information into the data base, selecting information from the data base that meets your criteria, processing the selected data according to your conditions, and printing or displaying results in a variety of formats. With PRISM, you can perform many operations that would normally require the services of a software professional.

The PRISM user-interface, with its menu format, is flexible enough to allow nontechnical users to get immediate results, but sophisticated enough to handle even the most complex applications. All components of PRISM are heavily defaulted to allow you to perform operations with a minimum number of keystrokes. Simply by varying selected parameters, you can immediately modify output to suit your changing needs. PRISM also provides the capability to store frequently used requests for use or modification at a later date. Because data is defined in the data dictionary, the data processing manager can maintain the data base in a consistent manner.

Without any programming knowledge, you can perform the following operations on a data base:

- Formulate a query upon the data base by establishing selection conditions. PRISM automatically selects information that satisfies these conditions. Additionally, you can choose to process the selected information in a variety of ways.
- Print or display the results of a query in reports and merge documents. To edit PRISM output, you can use the 2200 word processing editing features.
- Enter data into the data base. Through PRISM, you can place conditions on the entered data so that only appropriate values can be entered.

When performing a query, you specify selection and processing operations. The results of a query on the data base can have a variety of output formats, including preselected letters and reports. You can design screens for data entry and edit default report formats by using PRISM editing facilities.

SELECTION

The method for creating selection criteria is highly interactive. With a minimum number of keystrokes, PRISM leads you through the creation of a selection criterion, consisting of parameters that you select, such as data fields, comparison values, and relational operators (equal, not equal, greater than, less than, greater than or equal to, less than or equal to, is between). Using
a step-by-step process, you easily build selection criteria that can consist of over 150 selection conditions, depending on field attributes.

PRISM automatically provides box graphics that display a clear representation of the selection criteria. The software provides a simple-to-use editing capability, so that you can review and modify a selection condition at any time during its creation.

With PRISM, you can easily create the following examples of selection criteria for query against a customer information data base that contains the following customer information: customer name, address, city, state, zip code, sales territory, customer's salesman, and balance past due.

- Select all records for customers with past due balances.
- Select all records for customers in the greater New York territory.
- Select all records for customers in Boston, or San Francisco, or Dallas, and with past due balances greater than $1000.

PRISM allows you to save a selection criterion to be recalled at a later date. When you recall the selection criterion, you can use it as is or modify it before using it.

**PROCESS**

In addition to making a query upon the data base, you can process selected data by creating a process definition. The process definition allows you to specify how PRISM sorts and processes fields from the selected records. Like the first phase of query, the method for creating a process definition is highly interactive. PRISM provides you with prompts and default values to serve as guides.

When creating a process definition, you choose fields from the data base and process operators, such as add, subtract, multiply, divide, total, average, count, maximum, or minimum. You can select multiple fields, excluding derived fields, for sorting in a process definition. In addition, you can quickly regroup the selected records, so that you can formulate and reformulate inquiries on the data base with ease.

PRISM uses box graphics to visually represent the relationship among fields in the process definition and to represent the hierarchy created by sort groups. Powerful editing capabilities enable you to review and modify the process definition at any time during its creation.

PRISM processes the customer data base previously described by:

- Grouping selected records by territory and calculating the total of the past due balances.
- Grouping the selected records by territory, then by salesmen within the territory, and calculating the total of the past due balances for each salesman.
- Alphabetizing the selected records for each city by customer name.
DATA ENTRY

Through PRISM, you can define and edit screens called templates. To do this, you employ the field attributes for templates described in the data dictionary. You use the template as the form for entering data into the database and for performing a query upon the database.

PRISM includes many other data entry features. Through data validation, you can ensure that the data you are entering meets the specified criteria. For example, you can specify that sex can only be of two values: M or F. If you enter any other value, PRISM does not accept it.

PRISM allows you to select from three different field types: security fields, in which the characters you enter are not displayed on the terminal; required fields, which require you to enter data; and display-only fields, which you can view but can not change.

OUTPUT

Two output formats are available: reports and merged documents. PRISM output can be handled in the following ways, regardless of the format you choose for output:

- Viewed on the terminal, optionally followed by printing.
- Printed immediately.
- Edited before printing or saving.
- Saved for future use or for historical purposes.

REPORTS

You can easily produce a report from the output of a query. The speed and ease of report generation makes it possible for you to preview several report formats and to select a particular format for its visual impact, clarity, or any of its other attributes. PRISM provides a default report format that you can modify to suit your needs through an easy-to-use interactive editor. If the reports that PRISM creates are word processing documents, you can edit them with the 2200 word processing editing facilities.

MERGE DOCUMENTS

PRISM can automatically merge the results of a query upon the data base with a previously created word processing document, providing another output option. The word processing document contains the field names to be integrated with the document. You can place fields in any order within the word processing document and repeat the fields any number of times. You can edit a field through PRISM so that output is in its proper form prior to substitution into the merge document. The processed records and the merge document can be presented as a word processing document on the terminal, so you can preview or edit them.
**DATA DICTIONARY**

All files registered in the data dictionary constitute your data base. To add a file to the data base, supply the following field attributes information to the data dictionary: field size and field type (any character or numeric, single or list). The Data Definition Editor (DDE) of PRISM helps define the data dictionary. The DDE provides such extensive field editing capabilities that even a novice finds it easy to use. The data dictionary supports multiple file formats and access methods, including BASIC-2 sequential files and IDEAS-2 files.

The DDE provides multiple levels of service to enable both the inexperienced user and the programmer to effectively use PRISM. Data definitions are independent of your application programs, giving you centralized control over the definitions. Defining the data base with the Data Definition Editor allows for minimum data redundancy. For ease of use, the data definitions in the data dictionary automatically become default values for PRISM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Definition</th>
<th>Field Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Record: Customer File</td>
<td>All Customers with Current Accounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Name</td>
<td>Definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Name</td>
<td>First/Middle Init/Last</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Number/Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>Contains up to 20 characters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Post Office Abbreviation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip Code</td>
<td>Contains up to 2 characters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

PRISM has certain technical requirements. If you want to generate merge documents or reports as documents, the 2200 Word Processing Software system must be installed on a 2200 Series system. PRISM requires 40K of user memory.

*Standard Warranty Applies*

Sample Data Definition

_Wang Laboratories, Inc., reserves the right to change specifications without prior notice._