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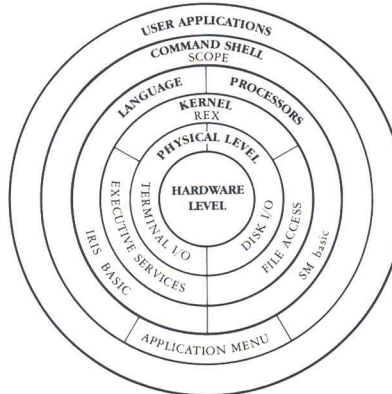# THE OPERATING SYSTEM FOR MULTI-USER TIME-SHARING

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.

MULTI-USER SYSTEMS DESIGNED WITH YOUR NEEDS IN MIND

INDEXED files are the best-suited for most business applications due to their ability to access data records according to one or more keys. A customer file could be accessed by customer number, name, salesperson, or zip code, for example, and by one or more users concurrently. The user has an extremely broad range of options to organize, structure, and present his information. And IRIS provides automatic management of keys and space allocation, freeing the user to concentrate on his business application. Furthermore, IRIS' Polyfile capability offers virtually unlimited range to the size of the file and number and length of keys. Polyfiles include the ability to span multiple disk volumes.

BUSINESS BASIC is one of the key reasons for IRIS's widespread acceptance in commercial applications. BUSINESS BASIC is one of the most popular easy-to-learn and use computer languages in existence today. IRIS supports two popular dialects of the BASIC language; IRIS Business BASIC and SMbasic. Application software written in IRIS Business BASIC is in use by over 150,000 users at over 25,000 installations worldwide. Thousands of application programs, written in Basic Four™/SMC BASIC™ for use with hundreds of computer systems manufactured by dozens of vendors, can be run on POINT 4 hardware under IRIS SMbasic.

TRANSACTION PROCESSING complements IRIS' timesharing efficiency and Business BASIC orientation, a critical factor to the success of a well-designed business data processing system. The reason is simple: businesses are run on a transaction-by-transaction basis. An order is placed, merchandise shipped, an invoice is produced, records are updated...a series of single, but sometimes complex, transactions. The ability of IRIS to manage applications which support this natural sequence of business events is a major reason for its successful and widespread use. IRIS is designed to support business data processing the way businesses themselves are run: transaction by transaction.

CONFIGURATION FLEXIBILITY has always been a hallmark of IRIS. The value-added reseller and end-user alike have a choice of a broad range of disks, printers, and video display terminals from which to choose. This provides a precise, cost-effective solution to a business requirement.

EASE-OF-USE is the common thread which runs through all of the individual components of IRIS. It offers friendly, end-user orientation like support of individually tailored workstation menus and embedded help text prompts for the unfamiliar user. User-friendly features allow the business computer system to become useful and productive faster and more efficiently.

MULTI-USER capabilities were designed into IRIS to support a large number of users on a single computer system. IRIS accomplishes this without the compromise so often found in other products. It's both fast and efficient. It supports a large number of users with a minimum of hardware resources, and does so in an easy-to-use, friendly manner. IRIS is all of the features discussed above: time-sharing performance, Business BASIC orientation, transaction processing efficiency, fast and flexible data management, and more. Yet IRIS is more than the sum of its parts. IRIS' clear-cut advantage is the successful integration of all of the features into a compact, fast, and economical package. IRIS is the means by which POINT 4 Data Corporation achieves its business objectives: supplying quality, low-cost, multi-user systems to businesses through a network of value-added resellers.

POINT 4 SYSTEMS: RESPONSIVE TO OUR CUSTOMER'S NEEDS

At POINT 4 Data Corporation, our business is multi-user systems with a personal touch. We design and manufacture computer systems, distribute them through a worldwide network of value-added resellers and support those resellers with personal service.

POINT 4 computer systems are flexible, cost-efficient, expandable and upward compatible. And we're working for the future, developing new and better products and planning more and better ways to support our customers.

The materials contained herein are intended for general information. Details and specifications concerning the use and operation of POINT 4 Data Corporation's equipment and software are contained in the applicable technical manuals, available through local sales representatives.