

TG^c Release: A New Face for TOADS

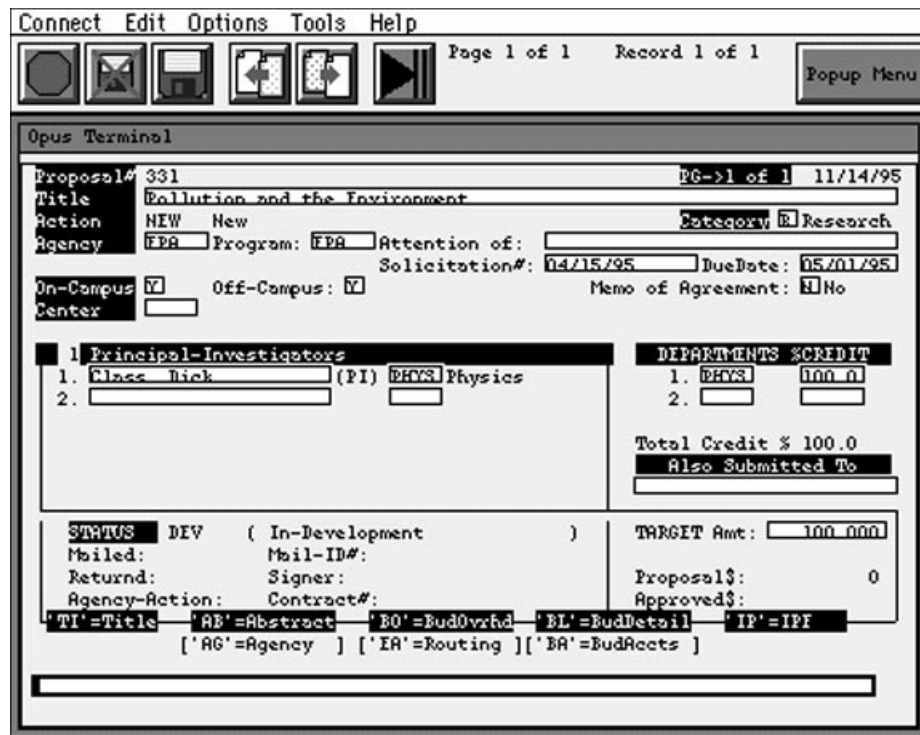
USC Software Systems recently announced the release of TG^c, a cross-platform client/server solution.

TG^c gives users a powerful graphic interface design with a remarkable feature: it works across computing platforms. This innovative product expands the hardware choices available to current users of TOADS and adds to the dynamic appeal TOADS already inspires in developers.

GUI Revolution

Before graphical user interfaces (GUIs), computing platforms were largely character-based. Commands were entered as character strings or function key sequences. The inordinate amounts of time taken to carry out simple commands limited the advantages computers could bring to a business.

GUIs changed all of this by employing a graphic solution. 'Point and click' is now the standard computer interface. The computer mouse has opened up the mysterious world of computers to legions of neophytes.



Cross Platform Dilemma

Ironically, GUIs haven't quite provided a complete solution to businesses. While GUIs take a radical, user-friendly step forward, the drawback has been that several operating systems—each with its own GUI strategy—needed to be in every enterprise.

Choice in the marketplace may be ideal, but incompatibility became the new problem businesses encountered because of the differences among systems. No two systems can truly work in conjunction with each other without modifications or integration services.

USC Software Systems found this same problem setting up the popular GAMS (Grant Application Management System) TOADS-developed application for North Carolina State University. Universities often use more than a single computing platform. Academic computing demands rank among the most diverse.

At NCSU, computers run with Windows, Macintosh, and X- Windows platforms. TOADS, until then, ran on PC's with Windows, or on character-based terminals.

A Unique Challenge

The situation at North Carolina State presented a unique challenge to USC Software Systems developers. The only solution possible was a true client/server solution. A simple terminal emulator couldn't meet the demands set forth by the challenge.

Early on, Software Systems' developers set goals the client/server solution would have to meet. First, it needed to work across computer platforms or it wouldn't resolve the concerns North Carolina had about

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Tech Talk: TOADS 10.0 Release

You've heard TOADS 10.0 is here. You've heard it's new and improved. Now you want to know what is new, and how it's been improved. Well—here they are—the new features of TOADS:

Painting a screen has never been easier. You can scroll from page to page within screen mockup, and even create a new page without exiting. When you move or copy fields, you

can pull their TSP popup definitions with them to their new location.

New features let you easily and quickly move lines or parts of lines, join two lines into one or break one into two, center a line, clear a line (AND the TSP definitions for the fields that were in it), delete lines or parts of lines, and restore deleted lines.

When typing data to your painted screen, you'll notice lots of changes in

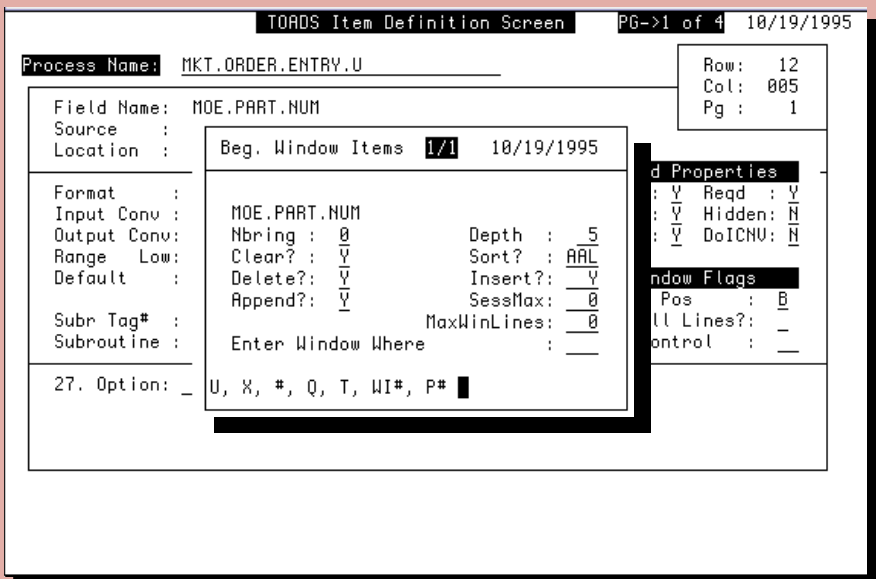
the TSP popup. You can rename or delete a field right from the popup.

You can limit defaults and data entry depending on whether the record is new or not and whether the field previously had data in it or not. Reorder lists are replaced by a simple "Next Field" feature.

Exciting new parameters let you do things you used to need UNI code for: sort windows, specify whether window insertions or deletions are allowed, specify which window items are required for every line, check TASS security masks automatically, jump to another process if a translate isn't found...there are too many "UNI-less" features to list here, but you'll find yourself writing a lot less code!

You can even tie a subroutine directly to an individual field without writing a full-blown UNI.

Also, there's a really nifty text window enhancement: you now have the choice of always showing some of your text or of saving screen space and popping it up only when asked for.



A New Look at TOADS Window Definition.

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Changing The Face of The World Wide Web

Today's changing business world balances on a very unusual spiderweb. The spokes and rings of this web are only a few micrometers thick, but millions of miles long. They branch out endlessly, spanning the globe many times over.

This World Wide Web, though made of little more than fiber optic cable, holds infinite potential for the future of modern business. USC Software Systems announced the debut of its own Web site with hopes to inform, entertain, and explore the business applications possible through the Web.

Like the Internet, the World Wide Web consists of a global computer network. The computers of this network are linked together in a 'web' that prevents the loss of communication between computers in the event one link is lost.

Other pathways exist for information to follow to its destination. The World Wide Web,

unlike the Internet, provides innovative graphic interfaces.

These graphic interfaces have the most to offer businesses jumping onto the Web. Where the Internet primarily offers text, the Web combines text, graphic art, sound, and even real-time movies and

animation. The applications for the Web's features are limitless, especially when it comes to business.

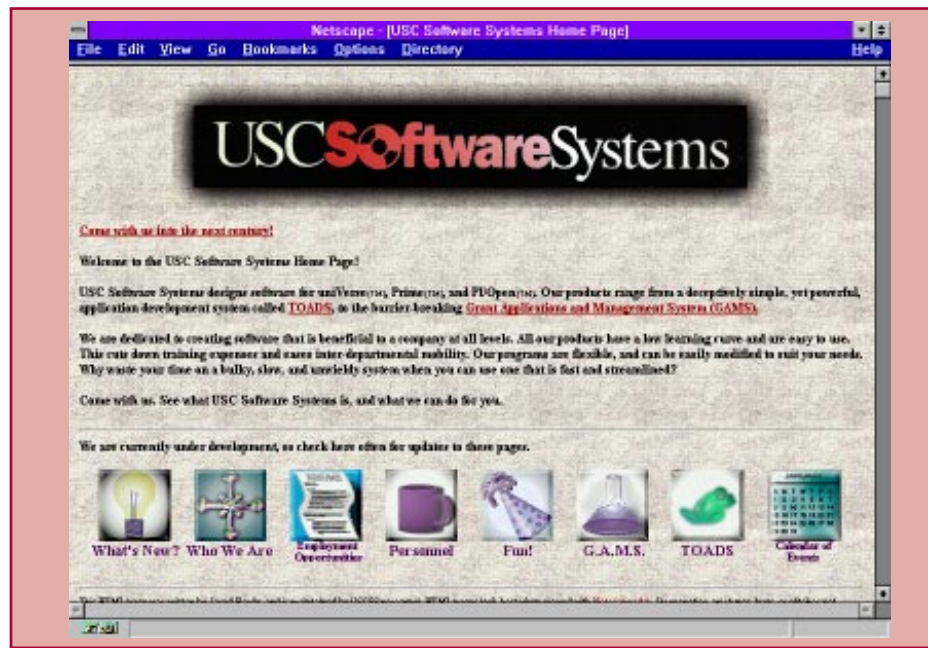
USC Software Systems recently debuted its own Web site. USCSS's 'page' of the Web takes the standard level of graphics found on the Web a

step further, and still provides a concise, informative presentation of its product and organization.

Several options to retrieve in-depth coverage of TOADS 10.0, GAMS, and TG^c come wrapped in a stunning graphic presentation. (If we do say so ourselves!) Employee Profiles introduce readers to USCSS employees and easily allow contact via email. There are even a few fun surprises to be found at the site meant to entertain visitors.

The innovative options the Web offers businesses remain the next logical step in the continuing computer revolution at the workplace.

The extent of the Web's interactivity constantly improves, opening up the potential for more business to actually be conducted on the Web. As this happens, expect to see USC Software Systems leading the charge. For now, you can catch a glimpse of the business computing future at <http://www.usc.edu/dept/uscss>. 🌅



USC Software Systems' World Wide Web Homepage can be found at <http://www.usc.edu/dept/uscss>.

HelpNet's Flexibility Assists Physicians at LAC + USC

Healthcare providers at the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California (LAC+USC) Hospital know the benefits HelpNet can offer a clinical environment.

"HelpNet's strength," says Dr. Jeff Sipsey, Assistant Professor of Clinical, Emergency Medicine of LAC+USC Hospital, "is its ability to collect all of this medical data and make reports about what that data means." HelpNet, a healthcare information system, is employed by LAC+USC. There, HelpNet proves daily to providers like Dr. Sipsey the flexibility and power of an application developed in TOADS.

With HelpNet, data can be collected and entered in a real-time clinical environment while a procedure is being performed on a patient, or later by data entry

personnel. How data is entered is not dependent on HelpNet, but on the needs of the providers that use it. At LAC+USC there are several departments currently using HelpNet's clinical data capture feature, and each department enters information uniquely.

Major LAC+USC departments employ HelpNet: Radiology, EMG/Neurology, Ophthalmology, the Ambulatory clinic, Internal Medicine, Surgery, and Bronchoscopy. The kinds of procedures performed at each department are as different as the way each department enters data about the procedures. Information at LAC+USC entered into HelpNet comes in from forms that use standardized CPT codes, real-time data entry, FTP (File Transfer

Protocol), HL7 (the protocol used to interface with CompuCare), and others. HelpNet integrates into the existing healthcare environment. No older system need be dropped or forgotten.

Different also are the kinds of reports each department generates with the data it collects. Reporting stands above HelpNet's other remarkable features because of the extraordinary assistance it provides healthcare professionals. "We can now track the patterns of disease using outcomes reports and the patient chart to look at admittance, diagnosis, and procedures," says Dr. Sipsey. HelpNet reports to providers and administrators. Besides tracking healthcare, HelpNet can track the use of facilities, equipment, and resources.

"HelpNet represents a forward-thinking attitude in how computing can be integrated into healthcare," says Dr. Sipsey. The broad range of applications each department finds for HelpNet at LAC+USC Hospital proves that HelpNet can work for any healthcare environment. Flexibility, a standard aspect of any TOADS application, is often the element that guarantees success wherever TOADS is implemented as an information management solution. To find out more about HelpNet, call the USC Healthcare Information Systems offices at (818) 457-4150/ fax: (818) 457-4155, or write c/o Healthcare Information Systems: HelpNet Questions, 1000 South Fremont Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803-1363. 🌅

What Is Available From USC Software Systems

USC Software Systems develops software for uniVerse™, Prime™, PI/Open™, and Unidata™ databases.

TOADS (Total On-line Application Development System)

The award winning 4GL can be yours. Click, cut, and paste the business computing solutions you need most. No other system is easier to learn and use, or as flexible a development tool. And now, the TOADS 10.0 release brings a new generation of functionality features. (For more information see 'Tech Talk: TOADS 10.0 Release' on Page 1.)

TG^c (TOADS GUI Client)

This new client/server solution brings GUI to TOADS developers across computing platforms. A unique design makes it possible to work with TOADS on Windows, Macintosh, and X-Windows to develop your applications. (For more information see 'TG^c Release: A New Face for TOADS' and 'Tech Talk: TOADS 10.0 Release' on Page 1.)

GAMS (Grant Application Management System)

Easily meet all of the requirements for any grant proposal with GAMS. GAMS provides

extraordinary grant application and tracking features ideal for the academic, university environment.

FAS (Financial Accounting System)

The USC Software Systems FAS offers powerful accounting features for any business. Keep track of your accounts, budget, purchasing, clients, and investments.

HelpNet (Healthcare Information System)

Few other healthcare information systems match the unique design of HelpNet. Scheduling, registration, real-time

clinical data entry, outcome reports, credentialing, managed care, and billing are only some of HelpNet's many powerful capabilities.

For more information on the products listed below please contact our Sales Department.

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USCSS To Be At '95 VMARK Symposium



On Sunday, November 5th, VMARK users from around the world will meet in Albuquerque, New Mexico for the 5th Annual VMARK Symposium. The Symposium offers users, consultants, vendors, and VMARK personnel the chance to gather and discuss new technologies. There will be pre-conference intensive tutorials, presentations, networking events, product education sessions, exhibits, and roundtable discussions. USC Software Systems will be there not only as an exhibitor; Melvin M. Soriano, our Associate Director, and Marty Feldman, will be teaching one of the tutorials and giving two of the presentations.

The tutorial, "uniVerse for Unix, OS/2, and NT: Choosing the Best Operation System for Your Company," will be held on Sunday, November 5th from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.. It will help Symposium delegates learn about the differences among platforms, the advantages and disadvantages of each, and how to decide which solution is right for them. The first presentation, "Comparing Characteristics of Post-Relational Databases: An INFO/BASIC Programmer Looks at Prime INFORMATION, uniVerse, and PI/Open," will explore the commonalities and differences between those databases and will look at likely modifications facing the typical INFO/BASIC

Sandra and Jannette, just two of the faces you'll see at the 1995 Symposium.



1994 Symposium at Disney World! From left to right: Beth McGregor, Minnie Mouse, Marty Feldman, Sandra Scott, Mickey Mouse, Melvin Soriano, and Jannette Sánchez.



programmer. The second presentation, "uVSQL and DCE: Open Systems Access to Remote Relational Databases", will examine accessing remote databases using VMARK's uVSQL. This will allow the programmer to tie a relational database to the post-relational database of uniVerse. This

presentation will also look at new networking protocols such as OSF and DCE.

USC Software Systems will also have a booth set up in the Exhibit Hall displaying literature and demonstrations of our software. Stop by to see what's new and exciting at USC Software Systems!



USC Software Systems' Display Booth. Once it's set up (no task to sneeze at) there's always a friendly representative around to greet conventioners.

TG^C from page 1

the GAMS installation. Second, it needed to utilize all of the advantages of a graphical interface so that users drawn to computing solutions because of the GUI revolution wouldn't be alienated.

Most importantly, the new client/server solution needed to utilize a consistent interface. Such consistency levels the playing field for users experienced on one system but not another. By this approach, no matter what the operating system the user found themselves confronted with, the interface that linked them to the server would remain the same.

Users could be productive in any computing environment. The learning curve would also be significantly reduced: users needn't learn vague nuances each system employs differently to accomplish the same tasks. TOADS users, new and old, can now take advantage of this unique client/server solution.

Cross Platform Paradise

USC Software Systems' developers have stayed true to their word and delivered a client/server solution that works across computing platforms. TG^C runs on Windows, Macintosh, and X-Windows: the three most common

graphical interfaces. No office that counts these systems among their client hardware need worry that a machine might become an isolated island. Additionally, no office need be limited in its choices of operating system. TG^C supports them all.

TOADS' New Face

TG^C puts a new face on your TOADS applications. Users familiar with TERMITE, the terminal emulator most widely used with TOADS, will see the greatest difference. The most common commands entered at the Command Line, a field at the bottom of every TOADS screen, have been incorporated into the GUI toolbar. This toolbar is at the heart of TG^C's graphical interface.

Save, exit a record without update, exit the current TOADS process altogether, scroll forward and backward, print, get on-line help: those commands use the new TG^C toolbar. Every major command TOADS employs is represented with an easy to understand iconic button imbedded into a strip across the screen. And you can simply click on the field you want to edit without having to enter information in other fields and wait for the server's response.

Client Server Solution

While business rules may remain solidly on the server, TG^C slashes communications by performing many commands locally on the client.

This routine may seem complex depending on how much you know about client/server relationships. What it means to the end user can only be interpreted in one way: speed.

This system resolves heavy traffic problems on a server. The more client PCs there are accessing a server, and the more they need to access it, the slower the server will respond to them all. TG^C resolves this situation by reducing the attention needed from the server and instead utilizing a client PC's processor to do the brunt of the work.

The Missing Link

TG^C provides TOADS users with the missing link between their server and client PC's, and then between each PC in their office. It is a true GUI client/server solution that works across computing platforms. No other terminal emulator offers as much as TG^C really delivers. TOADS' new face has teeth. 🌅

Leap from SB to TOADS

Maybe you're a SB user happily running under uniVerse and are a little uncomfortable with the Unidata/System Builder merger—you wonder whether you'll get the same SB support you're used to. Well, we're not saying you won't. However, if you do feel the need to change 4GLs at some point, it's nice to know converting your existing SB applications to TOADS is a snap with our new SB-to-TOADS migrating service. Give us a call and we'll be glad to demo how quickly you can be up and hopping on TOADS!

INSIDE NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of *Horizons* is scheduled for release in the first quarter of 1996. Look for special coverage of TOADS in action at North Carolina State Universities and community colleges, News Bytes, and more...

news BYTES

News of all shapes and sizes happens everyday at USC Software Systems, not all of it printable, but most reportable. 'News Bytes' takes solid chunks of news and serves them up within three paragraphs or less just to make the whole course more digestible.

For the office with everything...

USC Software Systems announced the release of TG^c, a unique client server solution. TG^c stands apart from other products of its kind because it offers true cross-platforming capabilities. Now the office with almost every widely used computing platform—Windows, Macintosh, and X-Windows—can take full advantage of every machine they have. TG^c runs on them all with the exact same interface, and still utilizes each machine's own strengths.

TG^c also relieves pressure from over-burdened servers. A special design allows TG^c to carry out commands using the client PC's processor. Servers with heavy traffic will no longer produce slow response times. Work can be accomplished faster and more efficiently.

For a more detailed look at TG^c read the articles in this edition of *Horizons* titled 'TG^c Release: A New Face for TOADS' and on page 1.

Case closed...

Though it may not be as highly publicized a verdict as others, USC Software Systems and North Carolina State have won in a lawsuit brought against the North Carolina State Purchase and Contracts Department. The lawsuit, filed by Stauffer Information Systems, alleged that NC State had not fully considered the applicants for a contract that would supply a 4GL development tool to the North Carolina State community colleges. NC State chose TOADS and USC Software Systems.

After several hearings, trials, and appeals, the lawsuit was finally settled with a Superior Court decision to uphold every previously rendered verdict, finding that USC Software Systems had been chosen appropriately.

USC still does business with several groups in North Carolina as well as all 58 community colleges.

USCSS and PIXEL announce partnership...

In an exciting move for TOADS users and USC Software Systems' customers, USCSS and PIXEL Innovations, Ltd., announced a new business



At a recent business trip to North Carolina, from left to right: Dianne Bozler, Cindy Wittmer, Marty Feldman, and Allen Mehta

partnership. The relationship will bring a new variety to the products each company offers, as well as increase the availability of these products.

USCSS plans to introduce PIXEL to the higher education vertical market. In return, PIXEL will begin an intensive study of TOADS. Each company hopes to develop new products as well as plan marketing strategies together.

The combination promises to bring a wealth and diversity of both USC Software Systems and PIXEL Innovations, Ltd., products to the market.

Web site offers something different...

Visitors to the USC Software Systems' World Wide Web site will find something different waiting for them. The site features descriptions of TOADS and GAMS (Grant Application Management System) as well as bulletins about the most recent events at USC Software Systems. If visitors are in the mood for fun and want to put business aside for a moment, there are even pages devoted to putting a smile on the faces of Web browsers. TOADS jokes and songs can be found at the USCSS site in the 'Fun' section.

The goal of the site is to inform and entertain. Point toward <http://www.usc.edu/dept/uscss> to take a look for yourself. New and experienced users alike are invited to visit. For more information about the USCSS site see the article 'Changing The Face of The World Wide Web' on page 2.

TOADS 10.0 from page 1

Table lookups are enhanced, too: you can show the pick list as soon as the cursor hits an empty field, without having to enter the question mark first, and you can exclude certain codes from use depending upon the process using that table.

A most exciting new feature: Mini TOADS screens that you can popup on any other TOADS screens you want! These have all the functionality of full-size screens, so that no retraining is needed—you can start to take advantage of minis right away!

Recompiling is now a snap—screen titles are always updated, the window depth prompt is gone (window depth is now specified in the TSP popup for the Beginning window item), and you don't have to recompile your process every time you make a change to its Process Definition.

New Lotus-style pull-down help menus let you execute each possible function you'd want directly from the

menu, even if no keyboard equivalent has been defined at your site. (This really simplifies the whole "key binding" issue.)

File Definition has some new features as well. You can now flip a file's audit flag on or off from your production area. Alternate Key Paging display titles have been enhanced with report-type heading options: D for current date, T for Time, C to center the heading line, and G to add gaps between labels. A new "preview" feature lets you see how your finished Paging display will look so that you don't have to exit out and run your process just to check your layout.

Well, these points offer just a taste of what's available in TOADS 10.0. We had some initial slowdown getting it out the door (with such a huge release, there were bound to be quite a few "kinks"), but now we're like proud parents.

We hope you'll be just as pleased.



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