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Interfacing Macintosh and Cullinet

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This article describes how to interface Macintosh to Cullinet using InTalk CCL scripts. Note: Palantir Software no longer publishes InTalk. A similar package is FutureSoft's DynamComm. Search the Tech Info Library for "FutureSoft".

It developed from an actual case in which an all-IBM customer was running a package from Cullinet on a 370-type host. The package consists of IDMS-R (database), IDMS-DC (communications monitor), and ICMS. Their PCs communicate with Cullinet using a package called Golden Gate.

Golden Gate is an MS-DOS-based, multi-module application designed to work with IDMS applications. It contains a relational database, spreadsheet, a document processor, and business graphics.

There is no equivalent package to Golden Gate for the Macintosh. However, you can achieve similar results running InTalk with Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Works. Here's how:

Using the CCL script of InTalk, a Macintosh can log on as a TSO user, and issue TSO commands. These commands can extract data from a mainframe file, format the data into a tab-delimited text file, and transfer the formatted file to the Macintosh via the mainframe's PCTrans (or similar Yterm transfer). A script these actions could make the whole process transparent to the user of the Macintosh/InTalk workstation.

Once the tab-delimited text file has been transferred to the Macintosh, a variety of Macintosh applications can open the file. Microsoft Works has most of the functionality of Golden Gate. Omnis 3, Double Helix, 4th Dimension, or other stand-alone database management systems could handle more sophisticated database activities, if needed.

Besides emulating Golden Gate, InTalk CCL scripts can navigate other Cullinet applications via point and click buttons.

MultiFinder allows the InTalk connection to be maintained while working with a Macintosh application.

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