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VITAL (Virtually Integrated Technical Architecture Lifecycle)

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TOPIC ---

This article describes VITAL.

DISCUSSION --

VITAL (Virtually Integrated Technical Architecture Lifecycle) allows
desktop computer users in an enterprise to view data and applications in a
way that appears integrated. Users don't have to be concerned about where
the data resides or how it's accessed. It also provides information
professionals with a framework to develop vendor-independent corporate
information systems that use the power of desktop computers in a
client/server environment. It further allows information systems
executives to maximize the systems they already have in place, and to plan
cost-effective migration paths to new systems.

The VITAL framework was initially developed by Apple's internal
information systems division, with early collaboration with Digital
Equipment Corporation (DEC). VITAL was further refined over a period of
three years, with input from some of Apple's largest corporate
customers. Apple's internal guidelines encompass more than 1,000
pages of documentation, which aided Apple's information systems and
technology division in building a number of information systems.

The VITAL framework groups information activities and resources in an
enterprise into five areas:

• Data capture
• Data access
• Repository
• Desktop integration

- Systems infrastructure

Corporate customers commonly have all of these functions, often running on
a variety of platforms. The VITAL framework provides a series of decision
matrices and design templates which help customers make design decisions.
VITAL is an open architecture.

Systems Integrators Announce Support

KPMG Peat Marwick, a major systems integrator, along with KPMG.ExIS,
a Macintosh-focused integrator, have announced support for VITAL. They
have staff trained and experienced in VITAL to help clients who want
to implement VITAL in their own organizations.

Apple Announces Supporting Documentation and Programs

Corporate customers can obtain more information about VITAL through a
series of white papers from Apple, the first of which, "Introduction
to VITAL: Designing Information Systems for the 1990s," is available
to U.S. customers by calling (800) 635-9550, ext. 502 -- or through
their Apple National Account executives. Apple plans to deliver five
more white papers, which are based on over 1,000 pages of IS&T
documentation, over the next 18 months.

Apple also created a Customer Advisory Board, an independent board that
will guide Apple in the further evolution of VITAL. Charter members
include Liberty Mutual Insurance Group and Stanford University.

Apple will provide briefings to its corporate customers through its
corporate briefing program. In addition, Apple will offer a series
of Corporate Enterprise Computing Conferences beginning this summer.

A Persuasion presentation, and a Microsoft Word Q&A document are available
on AppleLink:

  The VITAL Presentation (Persuasion) article can be found in:

  Apple Sales & Mktg
    Presentations Library
      Markets
        Large Business
          VITAL Presentation

  The VITAL Q&A article can be found in:

  Apple Sales & Mktg
    Presentations Library
      Markets
        Large Business
          VITAL Q&A

For more information, order the booklet "Introduction to VITAL, Designing
Information Systems for the 1990s," part number L0189LL/A.

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