

Applied AI News

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Inference Corp. (El Segundo, Cal.) has entered into a joint agreement with software giant Microsoft Corp. (Redmond, Wash.) that will enable Microsoft to leverage Inference's case-based reasoning technology and engineering services in future versions of the Microsoft Windows operating system. Inference's client/server, object-oriented, 32-bit technology will be used for intelligent user assistance as a component of Windows.

Bank Bandeirantes (Sao Paulo, Brazil) has teamed up with another Brazilian company, Software Marketing International, to develop SISCREED, a credit analysis expert system that operates in real-time. The intelligent system has helped the bank experience dramatic gains in development productivity. The bank anticipates deploying the system in all 100 Brazil offices.

SNCF (Paris, France), the French national railway company, has developed an expert system that helps its telecommunications operators improve their productivity and the quality of their services. The expert system supervises the 150 switches and 350 connections that make up the network, as well as monitors the backup installations and a range of equipment, such as access ports and connections.

Metropolitan Federal Bank (Edina, Minn.) has deployed an automated mortgage loan underwriting system. The bank is using the expert system to automatically underwrite and approve loans with LTVs less than 70%. The bank hopes to automatically underwrite 65-70% of its total loan volume with the system.

Three financial firms have signed agreements with **Nestor Inc.** (Providence, R.I.) to institute pilot projects as the first step toward installing Nestor's neural network-based Fraud Detection System. The firms involved are Bank of America, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and Europay International. The Fraud Detection System, a mainframe-based application designed to detect fraud in the credit card industry, is used to protect individual cardholders and banks against losses due to fraud, making use of neural networks to learn a cardholder's pattern of credit card use.

Kaiser Electro-Optics Inc. (Carlsbad, Cal.) will team up with VR1 Entertainment Inc. (Boulder, Colo.) to deliver virtual reality to the home via cable TV by the end of 1994. Kaiser has given VR1 the exclusive rights,

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for use in the home cable market, to its VIM Personal Viewer, a lightweight head-mounted display.

Mitek Systems (San Diego, Cal.) has completed a test phase for an automatic cash letter scanning (CLS) system at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. The neural network-based CLS system is now entering a full production environment.

The Royal Air Force Research

Branch, based at RAF Brampton (Cambridgeshire, England), is developing a virtual reality system for fire safety assessment, in collaboration with the Fire Departments of the Ministry of Defense/RAF. This project will involve simulating fires in buildings and assessing how a VR system might be used as both a training aid and as a method of helping in the design of safer buildings.

Price Waterhouse Technology Center (Menlo Park, Cal.) has developed two knowledge-based systems to provide more efficient and effective audits. Planet is an expert system that provides strategic and detailed planning for financial audits. It produces risk assessments for a variety of financial statement errors by integrating many qualitative and quantitative factors. Venus is a flowcharting tool for auditors who specialize in auditing computer systems running accounting applications.

SWIFT (The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications), a Belgian telecommunications network, has developed an expert system-based international user support system. SIRIUS (SWIFT's Intelligent Resource for International User Support) comprises various functionalities, including real-time deductions, an event manager and hypertext manuals, and fields hundreds of telephone calls per day.

Intellution Inc. (Norwood, Mass.) and Symbologic Corp. (Redmond, Wash.) have teamed up to develop Intelligent Alarming, which integrates industrial automation software with an expert system. Intelligent Alarming provides an operator with decision support for determining such factors as: whether an alarm is a significant or a nuisance alarm; how to respond to statistical deviation of product; and how to troubleshoot malfunctioning equipment.