



Tech Info Library

Intermedia: General Information

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Article Change History

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- For technical accuracy

Swami

TOPIC -----

This article describes the Intermedia software product.

DISCUSSION -----

Intermedia, developed by Brown University's Institute for Research in Information and Scholarship (IRIS), in conjunction with Apple Computer, is a tool that lets users build "webs" of information consisting of text, graphics, timelines and scanned images. Intermedia runs under A/UX, using the Macintosh Toolbox interface. Documents are shared using NFS (Network File System).

Intermedia consists of four integrated applications:

- InterWord, a word processing program
- InterDraw, a structured graphics editor that with InterPix, a scanned image viewer, lets users create and display diagrams and bitmap images
- InterPix, a scanned image viewer
- InterVal, a timeline editor that helps manage temporal events by displaying them in chronological order. It has the capability to link together materials created by those applications into an exploratory web of ideas.

The IRIS Intermedia system has two parts. First is the IRIS Intermedia Server. It runs on a Macintosh system connected to a network and manages both the document file system and a network-accessible database. The database contains the information about interdocument links and the Intermedia Client.

Intermedia Client runs on individual workstations and

includes the four applications--InterWord, InterDraw, InterPix, and InterVal. The IRIS InterLex Server is an optional Intermedia component, providing network-wide access to a full version of Houghton Mifflin's American Heritage Dictionary from any of the other applications.

In a sample IRIS Intermedia web, "Exploring the Moon," students interested in lunar exploration can browse through a collection of materials about the Apollo Missions, including details of the scientific objectives and goals of each mission.

The IRIS Intermedia system is available through APDA for or through IRIS. When purchased through APDA, customers in the U. S. are eligible for up to two hours of free A/UX hotline support for the first 90 days. The package includes the Intermedia Server and Intermedia Client software, tutorials, and documentation. Available directly from IRIS at Brown are "Exploring the Moon" and the IRIS InterLex Server.

In a stand-alone installation, Intermedia requires one dedicated Macintosh II, IIX, or IICX system running A/UX 1.1, with at least 4 megabytes of RAM to act as both the server and client. In a networked installation, Intermedia requires one dedicated Macintosh II, IIX or IICX running A/UX 1.1, with at least 4 megabytes of RAM to act as the server and any number of similarly-configured Macintosh systems to run as clients. An additional 40 to 80 megabyte hard disk is recommended for storing documents and data of any significant size.

For more details, search the Tech Info Library under "APDA" and "IRIS".
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