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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:

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

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