Software Product Description

PRODUCT NAME: **DECdecision, Version 1.1** **SPD 25.G2.01**

DESCRIPTION

DECdecision is a VMS, workstation-based, decision support application that runs under the DECwindows Desktop Environment.

DECdecision is comprised of four major software components: Access for ad-hoc database queries, Calc for analyzing financial and business data, Chart for generating business graphs, and Builder for recording and automating repetitive tasks across components.

DECdecision runs under the DECwindows X-Window environment and incorporates its common appearance and operation for pull-down menus, dialog boxes, windows, component cut/paste operations, and mouse pointing device support. Therefore, DECdecision has a consistent appearance across the entire product, shared with other applications (such as DECwrite) written under DECwindows.

Features

DECdecision Access (Database)

Access is the database management component of DECdecision that provides distributed access to local and remote data, a simplified windowed approach to data query and manipulation, and personal database creation.

Access is comprised of:

- Data manipulation functions including "Show Fewer" for sub-setting a data collection, "Show More" for expanding the collection, "Show Unique" for displaying one instance of a value, etc., and "Sort" for rearranging data in ascending or descending order by one or more fields.
- Data editing including easy data entry, update and deletion, cut and paste, "Undo" of last typed entry, etc..
- Calculate functions including Total (Sum), Average (Mean), Maximums and Minimums by sub-groups of records, and Computed columns where a column is based on one or more other columns or based on one column multiplied by a constant value, etc..
- Public Folders for sharing databases in a workgroup and Private Folders for personal databases.
- Data Protection Services including "Protection" for enabling or restricting users to read or modify tables, and "Access Mode" to determine how users can open a table (Read Only or Update).
- Draw Chart utility for automatically invoking and passing data to DECchart.
- Record and Playback for capturing commands for use later.
- View Document utility for storing and displaying a reference within the database to a DDIF document such as, a letter created by DECwrite or a scanned image that has been converted to DDIF.
- Join function for combining other DECdecision tables, or a variety of data files from other supported sources.
- Reference utility for creating and maintaining references to data outside of Access includes: Rdb/VMS databases, DATATRIEVE domains, RMS files and DBMS databases through DATATRIEVE, and IBM® IDMS/R™ and DB2 files through VIDA. (RMS files, DBMS databases, and IBM data are read only.)
- Simple Report generation using data from single or multiple data sources. It provides the user with the ability to subset and sort data, establish line and page control breaks, and save or print the result to ASCII, PostScript® or DDIF formats. DDIF Reports are used in DECwrite.

DECdecision Calc

Calc is the major analytical component of DECdecision which combines its windowed spreadsheet interface for ease of formula and expression construction, a spreadsheet macro language, and mathematical, statistical, and financial functions.

Calc is comprised of:

- Financial Functions including Future Value (FV), Internal Rate of Return (IRR), Net Present Value (NPV), Payback analysis, Interest calculation, Payments, etc..
- Mathematical Manipulations such as Absolute Values, Exponentiation, Logarithms (Base 10 and E), Square Roots, and Rounding.

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™ HPGL is a trademark of Hewlett-Packard Corporation.
™ IDMS is a trademark of Cullinet Software, Inc.
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- Statistical Functions for calculating Mean, Counts, Maximums, Minimums, Variances, Standard Deviations, and Sums.
- Trigonometric Functions for Sine, Cosine, and Tangent calculations and transformations.
- Boolean Operators including And, Or, Not, and conditional statements.
- Constant Values which include E (2.71828), PI (3.14159), If for conditional values, and NA (not available) for missing values.
- Date/Time Functions including calendar functions, weeks, years, today, now, etc..
- Chart Function for dynamic updating of a chart. When values are changed in cells the chart is automatically updated.
- Linking and Consolidating capabilities to combine several (local and remote) spreadsheets into one master spreadsheet.
- Hide and Lock capabilities for protecting sensitive data.
- Record and Playback for capturing spreadsheet commands for later use.
- A What-if Table is provided for performing analysis on different values using the same formulas.
- An internal procedural programming language for the advanced user who wants to develop a complex macro.

DECchart (Graphics)

Chart is DECdecision's integrated charting component that works directly with data from Calc, Access and external (DECgraph, ASCII, and Lotus WK1) source files. Chart has a Chartbook that presents the user with a sequence of predefined charts that can be further customized through legends, grids, titles, etc.. Chart offers a wide variety of 45 chart styles based on the following basic graphics styles: Line, Area, Bar, Column, Histogram, Pie, Scatter, High-Low-Close, and Combination charts.

Chart is comprised of:

- Graphic annotation - overlay: text, lines, rectangles, and arrowheads anywhere on a chart for emphasis and customization.
- Color on-screen support - assign color attributes to: axis, baseline, frame, grids, legend, tags, tick marks, column and bar fills, and overlay objects.
- Easy modification of chart attributes including: axis, baseline, data values, frame, grids, legend, tags, tick marks, drop shadows, bar spacing, and bar overlap.
- File flexibility: save data, chart style, chart overlay, and color selections separately or save everything together.
- Selectable fill patterns, line patterns, marker types, and color attributes.
- Easy to use worksheet interface for graphical "What If".
- Easy modification of text attributes - change: font size, family, weight, and slant.

DECdecision Builder (Procedure Automation Tool)

Builder is DECdecision's cross component automation tool that builds procedures by recording cross-window operations (e.g., application invocation, data flow, and control flow) between components to produce automated procedures. Builder has the capability of recording, storing, and playing back frequently repeated procedures performed by DECdecision's integrated components.

Builder is comprised of:

- Automatic Record Mode to automatically capture information flow and command sequences.
- Manual Record Mode to choose non-integrated applications, tools and arrows for data flows.
- Playback Mode to run the Builder procedure either viewed interactively or in the background.
- Debug Mode to identify and correct errors in procedures constructed with Builder.
- Guide Utility for storing and viewing a description of a procedure.
- Toolbox for storing connections to a non-integrated application such as MAIL. A non-integrated application is any application or program that can be invoked from DCL. Nonintegrated applications cannot be automatically recorded by Builder.
- Editing features including cut, paste, duplicate, and delete.
- Nesting capabilities to create embedded procedures within other Builder procedures and for embedding Calc and Access procedures.

System-wide Features

Ease-of-Use

DECdecision features a control panel for convenient startup of the components, customization for modifying various characteristics of the DECdecision environment, and Help for a general overview of each component. In addition, DECdecision incorporates the use of Pop-up windows throughout the product for a quick listing of currently available functions, and accelerator keys and command line entry for experienced users.

HELP

DECdecision offers the user two ways to invoke HELP. From the control panel, users can choose "Overview" to receive an explanation of each component. Throughout each DECdecision's component, HELP can be invoked to obtain a detailed explanation of the specific function.

Import and Export Capabilities

DECdecision includes import and export capabilities that assists the user with transferring files to and from popular application formats. DECdecision utilizes the Compound Document Architecture (CDA) converter architecture to interchange data with these application formats. The following lists the converters shipped with DECdecision:

Import Capabilities

Formats:	Access	Calc	Chart
ASCII Tabular	x	x	x
WK1 (Lotus 1-2-3™ V2.0 and V2.1 files)	x	x	x
CALCGRD (VAX DECalc V3.0A, VAX DECalc-PLUS V3.0A)	x	x	x
DIF (Data Interchange Format)	x	x	x

Export Capabilities

Formats:	Access	Calc
ASCII Tabular	x	x
WK1 (Lotus 1-2-3 V2.0 and V2.1 files)	x	x

Additional converters are available through the VMS CDA Converter Library. Refer to the System Support Addendum (SSA 25.G2.01-x) for further information.

Relationship to DECwrite

DECwrite is a compound document processing application that allows VMS users to create and format documents which contain text, graphics, images, and supported application data.

Reports generated within Access, Calc, and graphs from Chart can be incorporate into DECwrite through the use of DECwrite's LiveLink utility. In addition, DECwrite can read DECdecision's Digital Document Interchanged Format (DDIF) report files directly.

Documentation

DECdecision Installation Guide and System Management Guide

DECdecision Overview

DECdecision Calc User's Guide

DECdecision Calc Macro Guide

DECdecision Access User's Guide

DECchart User's Guide

DECdecision Builder User's Guide

Converter Reference Guide

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

VAX, MicroVAX, VAXstation or VAXserver configuration as specified in the System Support Addendum (SSA 25.G2.01-x).

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

For Workstations Running DECwindows:

VMS Operating System (and necessary components of VMS DECwindows)

For PC DECwindows Interoperability:

DECnet PCSA Client for DOS V3.0 - PC DECwindows Display Facility V2.0 (SPD 55.07.xx) and VMS Services for PCs V3.0 (SPD 30.50.xx). For more information, refer to the DECwindows Interoperability Compliance Matrix Software Product Description (SPD 01.25.xx).

Refer to the System Support Addendum (SSA 25.G2.01-x) for availability and required versions of prerequisite/optional software and for information regarding components of VMS DECwindows.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Software License: QL-VW3A*-**
Software Media: QA-VW3A*-**
Software Documentation: QA-VW3AA-GZ
Software Product Services: QT-VW3A*-**

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LICENSE MANAGEMENT FACILITY SUPPORT

This layered product supports the VMS License Management Facility.

License units for this product are allocated on a user/activity basis.

For more information on the License Management Facility refer to the VMS Operating System Software Product Description (SPD 25.01.xx) or the License Management Facility manual of the VMS Operating System documentation set.

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