Software Product Description

PRODUCT NAME: EDCS II, Version 2.1 **SPD 26.39.04**

DESCRIPTION

The Electronic Data Control System II (EDCS II) is an integration tool that provides tracking, access control, change notification, and archiving of data across a network regardless of the application that was used to generate the data. EDCS II manages important information about the documents it is controlling. EDCS II manages non-electronic data such as design drawings stored on microfilm or hardcopy. In addition, it manages the same files electronically. It provides revision tracking of work in progress, work in review, and released documents. EDCS II provides an automatic notification capability that maintains lists of persons affected by changes and informs them of the current status.

EDCS II is a management tool that enables users to efficiently share data. It frees users from concerns over the existence of multiple originals, latest revisions, and change notification issues. EDCS II uses a Client/Server Architecture where the client provides the user interface and connects to the server, which performs all data management tasks.

EDCS II supports several interfaces for integration. For the end-user, EDCS II comes with both a terminal and DECwindows interface providing a common menu system for both character cell terminals and workstations. For system integrators, EDCS II has a complete, callable interface providing a mechanism to integrate EDCS II into any application suite. Command line interface is also supported.

Features

- File Management
  - — Configuration Control
  - — Hierarchical Data Structures
  - — Unlimited User Definable Attributes
- Version Control
- Access Control
- Automatic Notification of Changes
- Configurable Review Manager
- History
- Archive and Retrieve
- Query and Database Access
  - — 4GL Querying Capabilities
- Distributed Architecture
- Ability to Manage Heterogeneous Data
- Four Types of Interfaces
  - — Callable Interface
  - — DCL command line
  - — DECwindows Menus
  - — Terminals Menus (DECforms)

File Management

EDCS II manages the creation, use, modification, and storage of files. The user can also track the hierarchical relationships these files have to one another. The simplest entity EDCS II tracks is called an element. A collection of elements is a group. Users can define data relationships to represent part assemblies and subassemblies of a product or other collections of data. EDCS II also allows users to create dependencies for the purpose of notification, which are file relationships that are not hierarchical.

When using EDCS II to track files, the user will know who created the files, when they were created, what changes have been made, and where the file is stored. The user can also track information about their files by defining attributes. For example, an attribute might indicate what language the file is in, or what material the part in the file is made of.

EDCS II can also manage paper documents or aperture cards by storing pointers to offline data. In this way, the user can monitor the project development electronically and manage hard-copy data.

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Version Control

Every time an entity is changed in EDCS II, a new generation is created. EDCS II keeps copies of each successive generation and gives each new entity a generation number. Users are able to find out what the latest generation is and can view the latest version. EDCS II provides the latest version automatically, unless the user specifies otherwise. EDCS II records all operations on entities and keeps a detailed history of transactions.

Access Control

With EDCS II, the user can maintain a double security system. Access control is assigned to the entity and specifies whether a user can read, make changes on, or delete an entity. When a change is being made, EDCS II prevents other users from updating the same file; however, the file can still be viewed.

Privileges are assigned to each account. There are six privilege levels associated with user type (these privileges are cumulative). The privilege level assigned to each user determines whether the user is allowed to view, create, change, or delete data.

Automatic Notification of Changes

The user can set up automatic notification through the use of mailing lists. This ensures that project members in different departments or locations learn about important changes as soon as they occur.

Configurable Review Manager

The Review Manager in EDCS II enables users to review completed work and approve or disapprove it. This allows project members to be certain that all the appropriate team members have reviewed the data. A review leader plans the review and creates the review process by assigning review teams and a review path. Team members review the entity and register their opinion. The review can be configured as teams on serial paths, or levels, or several teams may conduct the review in parallel.

History

EDCS II tracks information about entities and maintains an audit trail on the entities it manages. The user can obtain all the information kept in the Rdb/VMS database and can sort it in different ways, such as how many entities a user has created or how many entities have the same attribute.

Archive and Retrieve

When a file is no longer needed online, EDCS II allows the user to archive those files to other storage devices, while it retains the history of the file online.

Query and Database Access

Powerful and comprehensive SHOW commands allow the user to display formatted information on entities and their characteristics, as well as access and mailing lists, user account information, or the reviews in progress. EDCS II has a callable interface for added reporting capabilities that can be used to return user-customized information. Information can also be accessed directly from the database using SQL or other query languages.

Distributed Architecture

EDCS II consists of server software and client software. A user may issue commands from any node in a particular network that has the EDCS II client software installed. The server processes all of the commands and communicates back to the users. The information about the files (meta-data) is managed in the Rdb/VMS database. The electronic files are stored in RMS. Nonresident files are tracked by use of pointers.

Ability to Manage Heterogeneous Data

EDCS II is an application-independent file manager. The system is capable of managing electronically formatted data or hardcopy data such as paper documents or fiche cards.

Four Types of Interfaces

EDCS II provides four options to the user for interfacing with EDCS II. There are two menu interfaces; one that runs under DECwindows on workstations, and a similar interface (DECforms) for character cell terminals. For the more advanced user, EDCS II commands can be executed at DCL. For those users who are interested in tailoring EDCS II to their specific environment, a callable interface is provided. The callable interface adheres to the VMS Operating System calling standards. Fully supported languages are: BASIC, FORTRAN, C, BLISS-32, Pascal, and PL1.

Documentation

- *EDCS II User's Guide*
- *EDCS II Reference Manual* (Bookreader format, online only)
- *EDCS II Administrator's Guide*
- *EDCS II Installation Guide*
- *EDCS II Programmer's Guide*
- *EDCS II Pocket Reference Guide*

EDCS II Client Option

The purchase of an EDCS II Client Software License is mandatory each time an EDCS II Client is purchased. DECnet must be installed on each CPU Executing EDCS II software.

The EDCS II client option provides the user on a remote VMS system with the EDCS II client software needed to interface with the EDCS II server.

HELP

Online HELP is available in EDCS II.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

VAX, MicroVAX, VAXstation, or VAXserver configuration as specified in the System Support Addendum (SSA 26.39.04-x).

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

For Systems Using Terminals (No DECwindows Interface):

VMS Operating System
DECnet-VAX
VAX Rdb/VMS

For Workstations Running VWS:

VMS Operating System
VMS Workstation Software
DECnet-VAX VAX Rdb/VMS

For Workstations Running DECwindows:

VMS Operating System (and necessary components of VMS DECwindows)
DECnet-VAX

Refer to the System Support Addendum (SSA 26.39.04-x) for availability and required versions of prerequisite/optional software and for information regarding components of VMS DECwindows.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Server:

Software Licenses: QL-518A*-**
Software Media: QA-518A*-**
Software Documentation: QA-518AA-GZ
Software Product Services: QT-518A*-**

Client:

Software Licenses: QL-380A*-**
Software Product Services: QT-380A*-**

* Denotes variant fields. For additional information on available licenses, services, and media, refer to the appropriate price book.

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This software is furnished under the licensing provisions of Digital Equipment Corporation's Standard Terms and Conditions. For more information about Digital's licensing terms and policies, contact your local Digital office.

LICENSE MANAGEMENT FACILITY SUPPORT

This layered product support the VMS License Management Facility.

License units for this product are allocated on a CPU-capacity basis.

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

For more information about Digital's licensing terms and policies, contact your local Digital office.

SOFTWARE PRODUCT SERVICES

EDCS now has two DECstart service offerings. The DECstart services familiarize the customer with the EDCS II system software and provide orientation and hands-on experience for the customer's staff. The two services offered are: DECstart (QS-518AA-4R), which provides basic installation and start-up services over a ten day period; and DECstart Plus (QS-518AA-45), which includes DECstart with additional customization for two weeks in a subsequent session. Additional customization services (QS-518AA-4T) are sold separately as well. EDCS II DECstart Service is available throughout the U.S. during normal working hours of the local Digital Software Services office. EDCS II sales require purchase of DECstart Services except with signed customer waiver.

A variety of service options are available from Digital. For more information, contact your local Digital office.

SOFTWARE WARRANTY

Warranty for this software product is provided by Digital with the purchase of a license for the product as defined in the System Support Addendum of this SPD.

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