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ARCSEP

Last edition of the newsletter:

## MINISIS NEWSLETTER

Electronic version No.1 February 1997

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Friendship - Przyjazn - Reut - Freundschaft  
Amistad - Amit? - Vriendschap - Amicizia

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The MINISIS Systems Group would like to extend a joyous, peaceful and  
prosperous salutation to all MINISIS clients, distributors and future  
clients. Happy 1997!!

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW (1996)

1996 was a year of tremendous change for the MINISIS Software.  
The official release of Version 8.0 spawned the new micro version of  
the software. The new micro version can run in DOS, Network  
environments, UNIX and SUN/SOLARIS operating systems. Also, the  
MINISIS software saw several additions to the product line. These  
additions included the creation of STEMMA (the multilingual thesaurus  
tool) and the Internet Interface. In addition, the map was charted to  
include the release of the WINDOWS NT/95 version, canned applications  
using the MINISIS software for Museums, Archives and Libraries. The  
focus of R&D will be concentrated on developing the MINISIS screen  
painter toolkit (AST) and further enhancements to the engine and SMA.  
The MINISIS Systems Group has evolved to encompass an entrepreneurial  
spirit with our philosophy for information management progress amongst  
the development community. Director of the MINISIS Systems Group,  
Terras Gavin stated, "...the MINISIS Systems Group has made dramatic  
changes in focus, structure and activity to accelerate the

commercialization of the MINISIS Suite of products and services. Simultaneously, we remain sensitive to developing country requirements. We have put in place mechanisms to make MINISIS products and tools easily accessible to potential users in all parts of the world. We look forward to significantly enlarging the MINISIS community of users during the upcoming year."

## MINISIS HEADLINES

### January 1997 DEMANDS FOR A "WEB" INTERFACE ALLVIATED

Since January 1st, 1997, the Web Interface product has been made available to the market. In response to requests and suggestions from clients and prospects, the Internet Interface has finally arrived. The Web Interface will enable users to hook their MINISIS (V.8) databases to the net. Utilizing the Web Interface, clients can then allow 'internet surfers' to search their databases. Users can also use the Web Interface to create an internal INTRANET within their own organizations. This tool, maximizing the use of the powerful MINISIS search engine, facilitates information and dissemination processes. The Web Interface can be purchased as part of the MINISIS Suite or on its own. With customization, it can be utilized for almost any database software. This add-on component has enabled MINISIS to take-off and be a strong contender in the software marketplace.

### January 1997 NEWS FLASH: WINDOWS NT/95 UPDATE

The much anticipated release of the Windows NT/95 version of the MINISIS Software is well on its way! The MINISIS Systems Group's Window-i-zation team has been working around the clock to produce the final version for the New Year. Unfortunately, due to some untimely delays and the holiday season, the release date for the Windows version has been slated for the final Friday of February, the 28th. To date, all of the various modules have been completed except that of the MAINTAIN worksheet module. However, this module is expected to be finished by mid to late January. The February release date will ensure testing of the new software has been executed. This product will add to the functionality of the existing DOS version of the SMA/MINISIS by incorporating the benefits received from Windows programming.

According to MINISIS marketing projections, the windows release of the software will put MINISIS in direct competition with tools such as: INMAGIC, EMPRESS, ACCESS/FoxPro to name a few. The Windows version and

especially the \*canned\* applications being developed for archives, museums and libraries will place the software suite significantly ahead of the competition. MINISIS is ready and poised for 1997. Christopher Burcsik, the MINISIS Marketing Manager mentioned, "...and despite our newly found interest in commercialization, we believe we are now a contender in the RDBMS market. The MINISIS database engine, the generalized SMA tool, the thesaurus and new Web Interface is a total solution. The ability to store, manipulate, manage and now disseminate information world-wide provides answers to solid information management and practices. Also, existing, new and future clients can be rest assured that we will do what it takes to be as resourceful, client-oriented and dedicated to be the leader in this marketplace."

#### December 1996 THE FINAL RELEASE OF THE SMA/MINISIS FOR '96

On November 25th, 1996 the final free release of the SMA/MINISIS Version 8.0 was packaged and shipped to all existing HP3000 MINISIS users. Bill Swift, Manager of Quality Assurance and Distribution via memorandum in these kits clearly stated, "...I strongly encourage users to return the MINISIS Product Registration Card to IDRC to take advantage of the final free release of V 8.x. It is critical that if you are an existing HP3000 user contemplating micro development initiatives, to send in the Product Registration Card as soon as possible." If you are an existing user and did not receive a package from the November release, please advise the MINISIS Systems Group and they will correct the situation.

#### December 1996 WELCOME NEW MINISIS USERS

We would like to officially welcome Medical Aid for Palestine (Montréal, Canada), the Archives of the University of Ottawa (Ottawa, Canada) and the Huronia Museum (Midland, Canada) to the International MINISIS User Community. As well as, Commission Nationale Algerienne pour L'UNESCO et L'ALECSO (Kouba, Algeria), The Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (Cairo, Egypt), CAB International (Wallingford, UK), IWOKRAMA International Rainforest Programme (Georgetown, Guyana), Jordan University of Science and Technology (Irbid, Jordan), Department of Agriculture Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), Ali Ben Abdallah Al-Thani Public Library (Doha, Qatar), King Faisal University (Al-Ahsa, Saudi Arabia), Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (Damascus, Syria), National Information Centre (Damascus, Syria), International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (Damascus, Syria), Arab States

Broadcasting Union (Tunis, Tunisia), Dubai Municipality (Dubai, UAE),  
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Ali Almahmoud Library (Sharjah, UAE)

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To subscribe to our electronic format newsletter, or for further  
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