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# MINISIS V8.03 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS, WORTH THE WAIT!

OTTAWA- (MMR00TERS) Not unlike other software solutions such as MicroSoft, the MINISIS release of V8.03 has been delayed. However, the delay is only until the 14th of November. The version is undergoing its second round of benchmark testing through MINISIS headquarters in Ottawa, but the release launch will not occur until the 14th of November. Despite the delay, market research has predicted that this release will be the most desirable and functional. The V8.03 will contain a several new features that were not scheduled originally to be included in this release. These features include: several user exits (as a result of special requests), fully working assist menu in query, ability to import and export database definitions, all searching capabilities including dot, date, range, occurrence, descriptive year type searches. Other advantages consist of global change, one-to-many views, ability to use worksheets within report for viewing information (useful in an OPAC situation), rename of field names within a view and support for hyper-text report specification. The hyper-text features is similar to the way the World Wide Web works a report specification can have field which are hyper-text sensitive. This will allow a researcher to search on a new record based upon the existing record rather than going back to query.

With the 8.03 DOS release we will be shipping a demonstration version of MINISIS for Windows (which supports both Windows 95 and Windows NT). In addition to the above features found in the DOS version the windows version will have full support for multimedia files by the use of a file handle type within maintain, the ability to define helper functions for outputting to a web browser or word processor, graphical screen designer (much easier and faster to use than the dos version), and multilingual support. Other features consist of scanning graphic images directly from within MINISIS, viewing and zooming of images from within MINISIS and automatically generated Acontact sheets@ for viewing thumbnail images

With the release of V8.03, the MINISIS Systems Group can turn attentions to improving the Windows version, and the development of the client server and ODBC release - scheduled for next year. These improvements will significantly enhance the MINISIS toolkit. For the record, in-house at the MINISIS Systems Group, all development is performed in the Windows 95/NT environment. Yes, the Windows version is now on sale. The MINISIS Systems Group will to send a demo copy of

the Windows Product to all existing users in an effort to entice people to move from the HP3000/MPE and DOS environments to Windows 95/NT. Windows NT is the platform of choice and the MINISIS Systems Group strongly encourages people anticipating a change of operating systems to select Windows NT.

For more information, contact your local distributor or the MINISIS Systems Group directly in Ottawa.

#### MINISIS SUITE =97

OTTAWA - The official M-Suite >97 release will contain 3 key products. The products are: the MINISIS database engine, the application toolkit and specialized applications. The engine details have been listed above.

The application toolkit consists of the: AST (Application Specification Toolkit), the generic SMA (Standard MINISIS Application), and the WWW\_Interface. One can use the AST to customize and create pull down menus to deliver specific applications. The AST although not in its completed form is usable now and will be a fully integrated tool within or it may be purchased separately from the SMA.. For now the AST is a separate utility.

However, the SMA is delivered with the MINISIS engine. This ensures that now, more than ever, MINISIS users have the ability of easy, rapid application development. The SMA is available with the new worksheet designer tool to permit expedient development of data-entry and query worksheets. This toolkit enables for user-friendly, multi-lingual and multi-faceted applications to be developed. The WWW\_Interface, allows MINISIS databases to be web enabled so that searches can be performed via the Internet or an intranet. Four databases (Site, User, Database and Statistics) combine with generic templates to enable the dynamic creation of web pages.

The third aspect of the Suite contains specialized applications including: M2A (Archives) and M3 (Museums). A third product currently under development is M2L (Libraries). The M2L application will be an integrated library management system concerned with acquisitions, cataloguing, serials, OPAC and circulation, .

#### SPOTLIGHT: M3 (MINISIS Management for Museums)

OTTAWA - The M3 application designed specifically for the museum community. This application was developed using the MINISIS toolkit and engine. It is fully multi-media compliant and contains over 1000 data elements, 15 reports and several searching strategies. It is Internet enabled. Using the MINISIS WWW.Interface product, it can allow users to search via an intranet solution or the Internet itself. In the core M3 application there are over 20+ worksheets that one can adapt for the specific type of museum or cultural institution. As a

result of several client wishes, this application will be further enhanced to have a specific view/template specialized explicitly for art galleries, natural sciences and technology museums (ie: nature, aviation etc.), as well as continue to enhance the core humanities database structure.

Some of the features of the M3 application include: Executive Administrative Processes (Acquisitions, Human Resources, Membership), Cataloguing and Object Attributes, Location, Loans and Exhibition Management, Conservation and Risk Management (detailed assessments, treatments, insurance, incident reporting, report cards for borrowing organizations), Image/reproduction services, Photography management and a Film Catalogue component.

The MINISIS Systems Group recognized that the cultural industry is heavily underfunded and that is the main motivation behind the creation of M3. Also, many of the developing countries are currently losing hundreds of cultural artifacts to illegal trading and theft. M3 will enable some of the countries to quickly catalogue their artifacts to make the selling of these objects much more difficult as they will be able to post electronic records alerting proper authorities and other museum officials to help locate missing objects. It is the belief of the MINISIS Systems Group, that museum objects are often not merely cultural objects but icons. These icons are instrumental in identifying one historic culture and identity.

M3 is 100% customizable and uses the power of MINISIS to achieve effective Cultural Information Management. The M3 application is the newest in the field of electronic cultural assets management. And, already, it has received significant notoriety amongst the museum community as a result of several top 10 finishes with respected institutions searching for new systems. The fact that the MINISIS software has been approved by CHIN (Canadian Heritage Information Network), there is no doubt that the M3 application will soon find tremendous success in Canada and abroad. For further details on M3, contact the MINISIS Marketing Group in Ottawa. The coordinates are at the end of this newsletter.

#### NEW MINISIS CLIENTS

The MINISIS Systems Group would like to welcome several new clients to the MINISIS International Community. Some the latest organizations to jump aboard with MINISIS include: the Office of the Prime Minister Trinidad and Tobago, ISNAR in the Netherlands and The Association of Carribean States.

#### CALLING EUROPE

Any organization wishing to see a live demonstration of MINISIS and related products in Europe is asked to immediately contact the MINISIS Marketing Group in Ottawa. Christopher Burcsik, Principal, World-wide Marketing will be traveling through Scotland, England, France and the

Netherlands from November 15th to December 13th . If you would like to see the software please, contact Ottawa and every effort will be given to try to accommodate your request.

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To subscribe to our electronic format newsletter, or for further information on the MINISIS Suite of Products, get in touch with the newly formed MINISIS Marketing Team by:

Visit the Minisis web site:

<http://minisis.idrc.ca/minisis/newsltr.htm>

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