1. INTRODUCTION

NoteCards is a hypertext system that helps you formulate, structure, manage, and present ideas. WYSIWYG text and graphic editors let you create semantic networks of electronic notecards connected by typed links. NoteCards provides specialized tools for manipulating and navigating through these networks.

> NoteCards is a computer environment designed to help people work with ideas. Its users are authors, researchers, designers, and other intellectual laborers engaged in analyzing information, constructing models, formulating arguments, designing artifacts, and generally processing ideas. The system provides these users with a variety of tools for collecting, representing, managing, interrelating, and communicating ideas. NoteCards is based on the notion that creative intellectual work is a hand-craft, a uniquely human skill that cannot be easily automated.
>
> NoteCards provides the user with a "semantic network" of electronic notecards interconnected by typed links. This network serves as a medium in which the user can represent collections of related ideas. It also functions as a structure for organizing, storing, and retrieving information. The system provides the user with tools for displaying, modifying, manipulating, and navigating through this network.

From: *NoteCards in a Nutshell*, by Frank G. Halasz, Thomas P. Moran, Randall H. Trigg of the Intelligent System Laboratory in the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, Proceedings of the ACM CHI+GI '87 Conference, Toronto, Canada April 1987

Operating System Conventions

SunOS is Sun Microsystems' version of the UNIX operating system. AIX is IBM's version of the UNIX operating system. For users unfamiliar with the Sun Workstation or RS/6000, the following operating system conventions, which differ from corresponding Lisp conventions, are used in the manual.

For complete information on UNIX and your operating system, refer to the documentation set provided with your operating system.

case, filenames	Type-in to UNIX is case sensitive. Typically, input is in lowercase letters. When UNIX searches for a name, it is case sensitive; it distinguishes between lower- and uppercase characters. By convention, most names are in lowercase characters.
shell	Command interpreter. The commands shown are in the C-Shell, unless otherwise noted.

System Components

Functionally, the NoteCards system consists of the following components:

emulator	A UNIX-executable program, which performs sexecutes the NoteCards system contained in the sysout and provides access to the host's hardware.

sysout	A virtual memory image (the sysout) containing both the NoteCards program and data structures. The sysout provided can be used both on the RS/6000 and Sun Workstations.
notefiles	A file containing your cards on a particular topic and all their links. This is your data and its organizational structure.
fonts	Data describing the "looks" of printed characters used by NoteCards' graphics, windowing, and hardcopying subsystems. Font directories are in four groups: display fonts, PostScript printer fonts, InterPress printer fonts, and Press printer fonts.

NoteCards Device-Naming Conventions

NoteCards lets you interact with UNIX file systems (including file systems mounted from other machines) by using host device names. The two device names are as follows:

`{DSK}` A host name which gives you access to the UNIX file system using Xerox workstation local disk conventions.

`{UNIX}` A host name which gives you access to the file system using normal UNIX conventions.

The `{DSK}` device name provides an interface to the Sun Workstation and RS/6000 for users who want to maintain compatibility with existing development tools and applications originally developed on a Xerox workstation. The `{UNIX}` device name provides a way for new applications to interact naturally with UNIX. Chapter 5 explains, in greater detail, some important exceptions and restrictions to the `{DSK}` and `{UNIX}` device name.

Notation Conventions

Text marked by a revision bar in the right margin contains information that was added or modified since the last release. Fonts, packages, and prompts have the following types of notation.

Fonts

`Bold text in TITAN font` indicates text you should type in exactly as printed.

`Regular TITAN` font text indicates what the system prints on your workstation screen. Lisp functions and variables and UNIX files and programs are also shown in `TITAN FONT`.

Text in Bold Classic indicates menu and option names, menu commands, and NoteCards parameters.

Text in Classic italics indicates variables or parameters that you should replace with the appropriate word or string.

Prompts

All examples which include UNIX dialogues use the following conventions for the UNIX prompt.

A number sign (`#`), part of the system prompt, indicates that you are logged on as `root` or are running `su`; for example,

```
prompt#
```

A percent sign (`%`), part of the system prompt, indicates that a user other than `root` is logged on; for example,

```
prompt%
```

Keyboard Conventions

Keys that you press are in uppercase (e.g., COPY, for the Copy key). A carriage return is indicated as RETURN. Instructions that ask you to press two or three keys simultaneously are indicated as follows:

Press CONTROL-E

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