

PrimeTM

SIMPLETM

Features

■ Comprehensive, menu-driven, user-friendly, data management product, available only on Prime INFORMATIONTM systems

■ Provides interactive database definition, data entry/update, inquiry/reporting, free-form screen design, program generation and automated documentation facilities

■ Easy to learn and use

■ Contains extensive online HELP facilities

■ Eliminates the need to write any programs for many applications

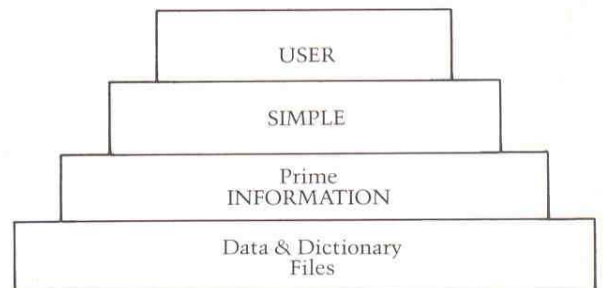
■ Offers excellent prototyping facilities for complex applications

■ Maintains cross-reference files on selected fields in a record automatically

■ Updates database automatically across multiple files

■ Offers default or easily customized data entry screens and reports

■ Allows automatic conversion of screen definitions into INFO/BASICTM programs



SIMPLE Architecture

Description

SIMPLE™ software is a comprehensive, easy-to-use data management product that allows a user to define and manage databases interactively, produce reports and screen designs, generate programs, and enter and update data. It uses the power of Prime INFORMATION, together with the INFO/BASIC programming language, to eliminate program writing for many applications and to develop prototypes of larger, more complex ones.

User applications are generated by creating one or more formatted screen processes. SIMPLE generates formatted screens automatically; the user can create one in an interactive, menu-driven design session, or by using a free-form screen painting facility. Once the screen exists, a screen customizer helps the user further define such functions as data validation or verification, database updating and security.

SIMPLE generates reports through either the INFORM report generator or the SIMPLE custom report writer.

The ability to create files and dictionaries, maintain dictionaries more easily, and update multiple files in multiple ways allows the user to manage databases more easily. INFORM's I-type descriptors provide computation, decision logic and database retrievals within any formatted screen process, further enhancing database management.

Ease-of-Use

While SIMPLE is designed for those with little technical training, sophisticated users will find a wealth of advanced features to aid them in developing more complex applications.

There are two primary menus in SIMPLE. The Main Menu is oriented toward creating and using files, dictionaries, screens and reports. The Utility Menu is used for maintaining accounts, establishing cross-references, maintaining global files and cataloging data.

Assistance is available on demand within the most commonly-used menu options. Additional HELP instructions can also be inserted to assist users during entry or updating sessions.

A reference manual, explaining everything from SIMPLE's basic operations to its most advanced features, offers numerous examples to simplify learning the system.

Documentation

On demand, SIMPLE will print up-to-date, comprehensive documentation for any entry/update process. This documentation includes:

- an image of the screen and its attributes
- all screen fields in the process/prompt sequence
- the file/field relationships, within the database, for each screen field

- the relationships of each screen field to the others
 - the details of each screen field, including default and user-tailored attributes
 - HELP instructions that the user has entered
 - a complete list of the associated dictionary
- SIMPLE software can also document the detailed specifications of a custom-report template.

Files and Dictionaries

SIMPLE uses Prime INFORMATION files and dictionaries exclusively. Under a prompted, easy-to-use process, users can create files and define dictionary fields. All the power of Prime INFORMATION is available to tailor file sizes and types, and to enter and use data descriptors, I-type descriptors and phrases.

Data Entry

Data is entered online on a formatted screen. The following SIMPLE features preserve the accuracy of data upon entry or updating:

- data type validation
- size- and pattern-matching conformance
- upper/lower limit checking
- table, record and field verification
- mandatory entry
- date, time and monetary format checking
- visual verification before database update

Features that increase productivity include automatic duplication, initial and default data values, current date generation, seven cursor movement commands, and optional force field entry, and display-only data fields.

Database Update

Any data element in the database can be updated through the formatted screen. When designing the screen process, the user defines which files and fields can be updated, under what circumstances, and in what mode. Formatted screen processes can be as straightforward or complex as the application demands. Also, SIMPLE handles any necessary calculations.

Screens

Data entry, database update and custom form printing are done by using formatted screens and their associated processes.

There is a variety of ways to create and maintain screens. Once a dictionary is defined, SIMPLE automatically generates full or partial screens for updating a particular file. Partial screens may be used for selected fields, or created as a "skeleton" screen containing the file's key fields and the first data field entered.

The user may also create a new screen by using the free-form screen designer. This feature allows users to do their own spacing of selected fields, and to insert text into the screen in a random manner. Extensive HELP and operational aids are available when designing free-form screens.

Once the initial screen is established with the correct fields, the screen customizer is used to define the screen's entry process further. Various definitions for the screen include additional field and screen attributes, and database updates to files other than the file from which the screen was created. INFORM descriptors provide computations and decision logic.

Multiple Screen Windows (JOB)

Formatted screens may be linked to form a job in which the user may view and/or update different elements of an individual record, different records and/or different files within the database. Both viewing and updating are automatic and sequential. Either the operator, or predefined decision parameters set up during screen design, can alter dynamically the display sequence of the linked screens.

While at the prompt on any formatted screen, any other formatted screen can be displayed. SIMPLE will hold the current screen aside while the user scans the database from other views with the desired formatted screens. When the user is finished, SIMPLE redisplay the screen it has been holding.

Screen Program Generation

Under a main menu option, an INFO/BASIC program can be generated for any existing screen definition template. This program can be modified and run like any other INFO/BASIC program, or it can be run from within SIMPLE.

End-of-Screen/End-of-Job Exits

The user can specify the execution of an INFO/BASIC subroutine at the end of either a particular screen or series of screens that form a job. This end-of-screen or end-of-job exit procedure can be used for processes like transaction logging and audit file maintenance.

Cross-References

Any file can be cross-referenced (inverted) on any number of fields defined for that file. For example, a customer file could be cross-referenced by name, city, state and zip code. When the cursor is placed at the customer number prompt on any formatted entry screen, a customer's record can be accessed by entering one of those variables alone or in combination. If more than one record meets the cross-referenced selection criteria, SIMPLE displays a list of the records: the user can pick whichever records are appropriate. The formatted entry screen is redisplayed with the record.

Creating a cross-reference for a file is very easy. Once the cross-reference is established, SIMPLE automatically maintains it so the user need never be concerned about updates.

Reports

SIMPLE allows both online reporting to the video terminal or to a character or line printer.

For columnar reporting, SIMPLE prompts data fields, total fields and INFORM phrases. It then builds the appropriate INFORM sentence and displays or prints the report. For such preprinted forms as checks and invoices, and for non-columnar, custom reports, SIMPLE lets users create report templates by linking up to three formatted screens. Once the report template is built, the report can be printed on demand.

Security and Integrity

All of the security features of Prime INFORMATION and the PRIMOS® operating system are active when using SIMPLE. SIMPLE also provides password protection at the entry-update process level. Certain critical menu items and update options may be negated by account, and within a process.

When appropriate, SIMPLE performs automatic arithmetic reversals for all affected fields within the database. If, for example, an existing quantity was changed or deleted through the entry/update process screen, SIMPLE would reverse all entries throughout the database for the affected entities (such as inventory on hand, order total and customer balance) before updating the new quantity.

Flexibility

SIMPLE can be used to develop completely new applications, or it can be integrated into existing ones. Functionally, it can be used for data entry only, online transaction processing, custom report or form printing, or for any combination.

SIMPLE has two verbs, UPDATE and REPORT, for access to SIMPLE screens and reports. They may be invoked at the Prime INFORMATION-level command prompt, or executed within an INFO/BASIC program, thus greatly enhancing the flexibility of SIMPLE.

U.S. Offices

Alabama <i>Birmingham</i>	Connecticut <i>E. Hartford Stamford</i>	Indiana <i>Carmel</i>	Minnesota <i>Bloomington</i>	Ohio <i>Cincinnati Columbus Middleburg Heights Tbledo Worthington</i>	Tennessee <i>Knoxville Memphis Nashville</i>
Alaska <i>Anchorage</i>	District of Columbia	Iowa <i>Iowa City</i>	Missouri <i>St. Louis</i>	Texas <i>Austin Dallas Houston</i>	
Arizona <i>Phoenix Tucson</i>	Florida <i>Hollywood Jacksonville Maitland Tampa</i>	Kansas <i>Overland Park</i>	Nebraska <i>Omaha</i>	Utah <i>Salt Lake City</i>	
California <i>Culver City Irvine Mountain View Sacramento San Diego San Francisco Walnut Creek Woodland Hills</i>	Georgia <i>Atlanta</i>	Kentucky <i>Louisville</i>	New Jersey <i>Parsippany Princeton</i>	Oklahoma <i>Oklahoma City Tulsa</i>	Virginia <i>Williamsburg</i>
Colorado <i>Colorado Springs Englewood</i>	Hawaii <i>Honolulu</i>	Louisiana <i>Metairie</i>	New Mexico <i>Albuquerque</i>	Oregon <i>Portland</i>	Washington <i>Bellevue Olympia</i>
	Idaho <i>Boise</i>	Maryland <i>Baltimore Rockville</i>	New York <i>Albany Amherst Brighton Dewitt Melville New York</i>	Pennsylvania <i>Allentown Bridgeville Camp Hill King of Prussia Rhode Island Providence</i>	Wisconsin <i>Brookfield</i>
	Illinois <i>Chicago Oak Brook Schaumburg Wheeling</i>	Massachusetts <i>Framingham</i>	North Carolina <i>Charlotte Greensboro</i>	South Carolina <i>Columbia</i>	
		Michigan <i>Flint Grand Rapids Lansing Troy</i>			

International Offices

Argentina * <i>Buenos Aires</i>	Chile <i>Santiago</i>	Hong Kong	Kuwait <i>Hawally</i>	Saudi Arabia <i>Al Khobar Riyadh Yanbu</i>	United Kingdom <i>Bedford Birmingham Bristol Central Park City of London Edinburgh Feltham Grange Hounslow Leeds Maidenhead Milton Keynes Southampton Stevenage Sydenham Warrington Wilmslow</i>
Australia <i>Adelaide Brisbane Canberra Hobart Melbourne Neutral Bay * North Sydney Perth</i>	Colombia * <i>Bogota Medellin</i>	India <i>Ahmadabad Bangalore * Bombay Calcutta Madras New Delhi</i>	Malaysia * <i>Selangor</i>	Singapore	
Austria <i>Vienna</i>	Dominican Republic <i>Santo Domingo</i>	Indonesia * <i>Jakarta</i>	Malta * <i>Msida City</i>	South Africa <i>Capetown Durban</i>	
Belgium <i>Zaventem</i>	Denmark <i>Copenhagen</i>	Ireland <i>Dublin</i>	Mexico <i>Guadalajara Mexico City</i>	* <i>Johannesburg Pretoria</i>	
Bolivia <i>La Paz Santa Cruz</i>	Ecuador <i>Quito</i>	Israel <i>Tel Aviv</i>	Netherlands <i>Zoetermeer</i>	Spain <i>Barcelona Madrid</i>	
Canada <i>Calgary Edmonton Halifax Lachine London Montreal Ottawa * Toronto Vancouver Winnipeg</i>	Fiji <i>Suva</i>	Italy * <i>Milan Padua Rome Turin</i>	New Zealand * <i>Auckland Christchurch Wellington</i>	Sweden <i>Stockholm</i>	
	Finland <i>Helsinki</i>	Japan <i>Fukuoka Nagoya Osaka</i>	Nigeria <i>Lagos</i>	Switzerland <i>Berne Geneva</i>	
	France <i>Aix Angers Grenoble Lyon Nantes Orvault * Paris Segres Suresnes</i>	Jamaica <i>Kingston</i>	Norway <i>Sandvika</i>	* <i>Zurich</i>	United Arab Emirates * <i>Dubai</i>
	Greece <i>Athens</i>	Korea <i>Pusan * Seoul</i>	Panama	Taiwan <i>Taipei</i>	Uruguay * <i>Montevideo</i>
	Honduras <i>Tegucigalpa</i>		Papua New Guinea	Thailand <i>Bangkok</i>	Venezuela <i>Caracas</i>
			Peru <i>Lima</i>	Turkey <i>Ankara Istanbul</i>	West Germany <i>Dortmund Düsseldorf Hamburg Hannover München Stuttgart * Wiesbaden</i>
			Puerto Rico <i>San Juan</i>		
			Qatar * <i>Doha</i>		

* Main Office
(1/86)

PRIME and PRIMOS are registered trademarks of Prime Computer, Inc., Natick, Massachusetts.
The Prime logo, SIMPLE, INFO/BASIC, and Prime INFORMATION are trademarks of Prime Computer, Inc., Natick, Massachusetts.

Copyright © 1986, Prime Computer, Inc. All rights reserved.
Printed in the U.S.A.

The materials contained herein are summary in nature, subject to change and intended for general information only. Details and specifications regarding specific Prime Computer software and equipment are available in the appropriate technical manuals, available through local marketing representatives.



Prime Computer, Inc.
Prime Park
Natick, Massachusetts 01760