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FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENTS, CONTINUATION

SPAWAR Contract No. N00039-84-C-0211 T12

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1 PROJECT SUMMARY

The Stanford Advanced Development Environments project is designing a new generation of machine processable languages and automated environment tools to support formal and rigorous development methods in all phases of systems production. New methodologies, based on automated applications of powerful design and specification languages, are required in order to revolutionize current methods of building, maintaining, and modifying large distributed computer systems. Formal development methodologies are the most promising emerging technology for increasing the trustworthiness of future computer systems, lowering their cost and production time, and managing the growing complexity that must be expected of twenty-first century systems.

2 OVERVIEW OF EFFORT UNDER TASK 12

Under DARPA contract N00039-84-C-0211, Task 12, the Stanford Advanced Development Environments project has developed preliminary designs for two specification languages, Anna-1.5, for specifying large, modular Ada systems, and TSL-1.5 (Task Sequencing Language) for specifying concurrent/distributed Ada programs. The project is simultaneously developing tools supporting applications of these languages, including analysis of specifications and testing and debugging of complex software.

Tools supporting Anna-1.5 subsets have been distributed to over 30 research and industrial organizations to fulfill technology transfer requirements, and to carry out applicability and acceptability experiments. A current list of distribution sites is included in Appendix A of this report.

Research accomplished during the Task 12 effort towards applying Anna to industrial problems, and further developing Anna and TSL tools as high-level, portable, Ada environment tools, is documented in Appendices A, B, C, D and E to this report.

As requested by the sponsoring agency, DARPA, interim progress reports have been forwarded electronically to Dr. William L. Scherlis at six month intervals. Dr. Scherlis also undertook a one-day site review of the project in July 1989, at which time all tools and deliverables were demonstrated to him. Project presentations were also made to DARPA personnel including to Dr. J. Schwartz in Third Quarter 1988 (at DARPA) and to Dr. B. Boehm in Third Quarter 1989 (at Stanford).

This research effort is continuing under Task 22. Under Task 22 the project is also developing new formal and semi-formal methods of systems production based on these languages and tools. This work will form the basis for a new wide spectrum specification language and support tools. This will extend our present work to enable the total development process of large systems, from requirements and design through to testing and maintenance, to be subject to new automated analysis techniques.
based on machine processable formal specifications. The new wide spectrum specification language and environment tools will be targeted to large systems implemented in Ada, and particularly concurrent, distributed, trusted, and time-critical systems. It will provide features for specifying systems containing both software and hardware components. The environment support tools will automate applications of formal specifications to every stage of the systems development process.

3 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Development of the Anna-1 runtime checking and debugging system
   Under Task 12 the Anna support tools for transforming annotations into Ada code have been developed to alpha status for distribution. This toolsuite is described in detail in Appendix C. It provides a very flexible and portable facility for testing and debugging Ada programs utilizing high level annotations written in Anna. It now includes a substantial user interface for interactive debugging, and support of new methodologies, such as two-dimensional pinpointing, for debugging hierarchically structured Ada software such as nested packages. A current distribution list for this toolsuite is given in Appendix A.

2. Computational checking of algebraic specifications
   Under Task 12 we have developed algorithms for runtime computational checking of algebraic specifications. This includes, for example, Anna package axioms used to specify the interfaces of Ada packages. This work represents a breakthrough in developing automated techniques for applying high level formal specifications in software engineering. Previously, runtime checking methods were applicable only to assertion-like specifications such as input/output annotations of subprograms, type annotations, Ada range constraints, and assertions.
   These new checking algorithms have been implemented in the Anna checking system, and their practicality and applicability is the subject of a number of studies under task 12, task 22, and also by other organizations. This work is documented in Appendix C.

3. Semi-formal methods of applying formal specifications
   Under Task 12 we have developed and experimented with new methods of using formal specifications in software development processes. These methods are called "semi-formal" because they utilize formal specifications, but do not require use of formal proof. They are therefore not as demanding as strict formal methods. The objective is to develop practical methods that are acceptable in present-day industrial software engineering practice, and improve upon current practice. The automated Anna and TSL toolsets are used as a support base for semi-formal methods. In particular we have developed semi-formal methods for locating errors in complex layered Ada software, whenever an inconsistency between top level specifications and code is detected by the tools. These methods are independent of any Ada compiler/environment. The user interacts with the toolset using only the formal specifications of the software.
This work is documented in Appendix B of this report, and is scheduled for publication in IEEE Software in 1990.

4. Anna package specification analyzer
Under Task 12 an Anna package specification analyzer has been developed for interactive analysis of formal specifications of Ada packages. The analyzer applies logical rules to package specifications written in Anna to predict the behavior of a package prior to implementation. It provides facilities to hypothesize various uses of a package, and to answer questions about the consequences. This tool is built using formally specified module interfaces for component tools. Component tools include the Ada/Logic prover, the Ada/Anna incremental semantic rule checker, and a graphics windowing system.

This work is documented in Appendix D of this report.

5. Multi-processor debugger for Ada tasking programs
Under Task 12 the TSL-1 toolset has been engineered as an environment tool for debugging Ada tasking programs running on multi-processor machines such as Encore and Sequent. It monitors Ada tasking programs at runtime for consistency with TSL-1 pattern specifications, and automatically provides traces of predefined Ada tasking actions. Traces are automatically produced by an Ada program after it has been processed by the TSL toolset. This tool fills a gap in current Ada environments for multi-processors, since there is no viable commercial debugger for multiple processors. It is expected to gain wide commercial acceptance in the Ada community.

Appendix E is a draft implementation guide for the latest TSL support tool.

4 TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER UNDER TASK 12

1. General distribution
Anna tools are distributed worldwide, and are usually requested by universities for teaching and research, and by industry for evaluation of applicability to specific problems or for general Ada environment enhancement. Recent distributions include, for example: University of New Mexico, Martin Marrietta Corp., Northrup Corp., Software Engineering Institute at CMU, Florida Atlantic University, and Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Appendix A gives a list of distribution of Anna tools under both Task 12 and the ongoing Task 22.
5 OTHER INFORMATION

5.1 Major personnel changes

None.

5.2 Recent publications during last year of Task 12


