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<u>Advanced Retrieval Strategies Unveiled</u>

<u>By Leading CD-ROM Software Designer</u>

Toronto, June 1992... Free source code and the secrets of indexing and retrieval for massive databases are offered in a unique tutorial package by a leading developer of retrieval engines. The MIR Tutorials - an interactive publishing series - have been developed by Douglas Lowry, former chief scientist of Reteaco Inc. He has produced some of the world's most innovative and successful CD-ROM products.

In the seven years since challenging the industry with his trend-setting FindIt retrieval software, Dr. Lowry has continued to develop advanced techniques for handling large data indexing and retrieval problems. His first high speed, full-text retrieval system for personal computers had to break many of the supposed barriers in file size, indices, and ease of use of Boolean logic and he continues to change the rules.

In the MIR Tutorials, he shares his knowledge of advanced techniques. Written for programmers and interested information industry participants,

the tutorials include free source code under the Free Software Foundation GNU Public License.

Dr. Lowry is determined to change the ground rules in information software development. "We must recognize that the demand today is for a more open approach," he explains. "We must enable professionals to concentrate on the needs of information users. To do this we have to change the rules.

"Too much of the development of indexing and retrieval systems is being done behind closed doors. If we develop a strong cadre of people in the industry who reject that secrecy, we can have far better software. We can have people sharing ideas, accelerating improvements. The alternative is to have the information industry controlled by a few billion-dollar corporations who will dictate how information is to be stored and retrieved. The MIR Tutorials are simply going to level the playing field," he said.

The MIR (for Mass Indexing and Retrieval) Tutorials consist of five interactive tutorial sections and a final wrap-up, complete with a CD-ROM, that will be published at the end of the interactive process. Each tutorial includes printed learning materials on eight or more topics, plus diskettes with software tools, source code and response forms.

Participants are encouraged to communicate with Dr. Lowry as tutorial

instructor through electronic or normal mail and by facsimile. "This is a process of sharing. One of the first things I learned in teaching at the university level was that more is learned in open discussions than from one-sided lectures. The final result of this process of MIR Tutorials will reflect the interests and insights of many of those who want to further the ability of people to access and use information," he said.

The MIR Tutorials have been partially funded by the Canadian government to promote ease of information distribution. This is in recognition of the growing awareness that effective distribution of, and access to, information are keys to economic growth.

Dr. Lowry earned his doctoral degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1985 he introduced a high-speed retrieval engine for full text and statistical data that broke many of the supposed limitations of personal computers. One of his first CD-ROM series was originally 4.5 gigabytes of data which he put on a single disc. His highly successful visible indexing interface for CD-ROM is now used widely in the industry.

Dr. Lowry has been instrumental in the design of leading CD-ROM series for statistical research, chemical data, journals, books, directories and multimedia programs. Many continue to be among the most sought-after CD-ROM products in the world and discs based on his designs are sold in the thousands every month. He also collaborated in the original design for the

award-winning CD-ROM books from Discis Knowledge Research.

MIR Tutorial ONE is due to be released in September 1992. It deals with the problems of database analysis. The tutorial provides automated analysis programs and a discussion of the many problems facing the information provider and some of the possible solutions.

MIR Tutorial TWO which will be sent out in December gets the participant involved in the secrets of how to prepare data for indexing and retrieval. The various software programs provide highly useful tools for not only cleaning up some of the common database problems but greatly accelerating the process.

MIR Tutorial THREE, scheduled for March 1993, offers the programs and background on automated indexing. Programs such as these used to take many hours to process on mainframe computers and can today be performed as routine on high-powered personal computers.

MIR Tutorial FOUR, due for release in June 1993, shows in detail how to get split second response when searching for combinations of words and phrases across massive sets of data. The software includes a powerful retrieval engine. This tutorial also delves into the concerns and opportunities for standardizing user interfaces.

Tutorial FIVE examines a wide range of related applications... records management, archiving, encryption, correlation tools, etc. It projects the future in which high powered search is a basic tool at all levels of society.

The five interactive tutorials will be followed late in 1993 by a compilation of all the previous releases of text and software, together with new material jointly developed by Dr. Lowry and participants during the process. The accompanying CD-ROM will include software that has been adapted to work on other computers, further worked examples, and a compendium of insights and program enhancements from participants.

The five MIR Tutorials are priced individually at $95. each. This includes the software diskettes and a paper copy of the particular tutorial. An update on the tutorial will be supplied without charge to participants who follow through with significantly helpful response materials. Others will have to wait for the final version of all five tutorials with CD-ROM that will be published late in 1993. This completed reference work and CD-ROM will be made available without charge to purchasers of all five tutorials.

Companies ordering tutorials in bulk for technical teams can obtain individual copies of all materials at a cost of just $49. per person for copies included with the original order. While unlimited copying of all software is encouraged under the Free Software Foundation GNU License, all printed materials are

subject to copyright restrictions.

Dr Lowry's company, Marpex Inc, will start to ship the first of the interactive tutorial materials in September, 1992. A sampler including six topics and software is available immediately for $5 on diskette or $15 on paper. The sampler may be copied freely for friends.

Orders for the MIR tutorials can be made through electronic mail via Compuserve 71431,1337, Internet doug.lowry%canrem.com, or UUCP canrem!doug.lowry. The FAX number is 416 963-5677. Orders may also be placed through Marpex Inc., 5334 Yonge Street, #1102, North York, Ontario, Canada, M2N 6M2.

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