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The Mass Indexing and Retrieval (MIR) Project
"Finding Information in a Gigabyte World"
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- For: Directors of Information Services
- and Custom software providers
- and Data publishers
- and Educators
- and Programmers

If you are interested in the technical side of enabling people to find information within large quantities of data, here's an opportunity, at minimal cost...

to do your job better;

to cut development time and costs;

to learn and to have fun;

to start with world class technology, tinker with it, modify it, make it yours and make it better.

With some assistance from the Canadian Government, Innotech Inc. and Marpex Inc. are developing a revolutionary indexing and retrieval system that deals with multiple data types using a regular 386 based PC as an index building platform.

Developing an indexing and retrieval system for large databases normally requires an investment of several hundred thousand dollars. The Mass Indexing and Retrieval (MIR) project seeks to cut everyone's costs. We are exploring an innovative software distribution method. By providing source code under the Free Software Foundation GNU Public Licence, we are encouraging people to develop the product further. Whether this concept will work depends on your level of support. With

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enough participation, we can indeed make these powerful tools available to a lot of people at extremely affordable prices.

The Free Software Foundation license maximizes your freedom to improve upon and to distribute the project's copyleft software. "Copyleft" means you can do almost anything with the software except copyright it. See the file 05LICENS for detail. The sampler contains outlines of five sets of tutorials plus source code and DOS executable versions of representative MIR software tools. Copy the software, tinker, improve, port to another machine, enjoy, distribute freely the sampler and the software!

Here's our approach:

We plan five sets of printed tutorials, plus related software and source code under these headings:

- ONE Database Analysis
- TWO Secrets of Data Preparation
- THREE Keys to Automated Indexing
- FOUR Search Engines and Information Retrieval
- FIVE Related Topics and Applications

Improvements and innovations from subscribers are edited into later releases. Through cooperative development under "copyleft" rules, everyone benefits, most of all those who subscribe to successive MIR tutorials.

Features:

- > "Copyleft" C language source code
- > Detailed "how to" hands-on tutorials
 - > Interactive publishing - inviting your improvements
- > Compatibility with emerging interface/server standards

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- > Support on indexing/retrieval technology by Marpex Inc.
- > Custom system integration services by Innotech Inc.

Sampler:

The PC-compatible diskette sampler introduces the Mass Indexing and Retrieval (MIR) project. Insert the diskette, and input the command "TYPE A:README.MIR" or "TYPE B:README.MIR" to get started. Topic # 1 (the file 01WHAT) describes each Tutorial and shows the schedule of releases. You may make copies of the sampler for your friends.

Terms of sale:

The sampler (\$5 on diskette, \$15 on paper) may be copied freely, provided no changes are made. The printed tutorials are copyright, and are not to be copied. The software accompanying each tutorial may be copied under terms of the Free Software Foundation GNU Public License, included in the sampler. The first copy of each tutorial together with software costs \$95; additional copies in the same shipment to the same address are \$49 each. United States and overseas prices are in United States dollars. Shipments within Canada may be paid in Canadian funds, but are subject to G.S.T.

Support services:

We welcome reasonable quantities of questions from those who have purchased releases directly from us. Address questions re CD-ROM and client server software to Innotech (FAX 416 321-0095, voice 416 321-3838). Support on text chapters and copyleft software is provided by Marpex, (FAX/voice 416 963-5677). Marpex makes no charge for support provided you FAX your questions in advance and then phone between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Eastern time.

For those who wish help in applying the technology to specific situations, two kinds of consulting are available.

Innotech has extensive experience in CD-ROM publishing and

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preparation of "FindIT" indexing for text and multimedia. Innotech also builds integrated custom search and retrieval systems compatible with standards that are emerging (SFQL, CD-RDx and "split code" techniques).

Marpex' strength is in teaching, database analysis, and creative development of indexing and retrieval technology. Text and initial "copyleft" portions of software for the MIR project are written by Douglas Lowry (Ph.D. in Management, M.I.T.), creator of the FindIt CD-ROM system in 1984-85.

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