

SESSION 8

VIEWS OF OFFICE DATA

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Panel Members

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Office applications will eventually be defined and executed by office personnel rather than professional programmers. There are many scientific disciplines and technologies that are contributing to this goal. This panel will explore a few of these areas: databases, artificial intelligence, and linguistics. Today the active database research areas are in highly distributed. real-time transaction oriented systems, and dynamic expressive data organizations such as the relational model. The extending of the database models to cover the requirements of the office is a major concern in office systems research. Artificial Intelligence has been directly involved with the problems of interfacing with end-users for a considerable period of time. The AI knowledge base systems are much closer in spirit to the way humans accumulate and use partial knowledge to solve problems than the database models. Using AI techniques, expert systems have been built for various application areas. One can envision the use of expert office systems to help in solving business and organizational problems. Much of the communications done in the office is in terms of natural language. Linguistics is concerned with the structure of language and how people generate it and understand it. The greater the extent that an office system can deal with natural languages, the more useful that system will be to end-users.

This panel will discuss how intelligent the next generation of office systems can become using these technologies.