Client/Server Relay Database Debut

The Client/Server version of the ASPEN Relay Database™ is available now. This version of the database utilizes a client/server architecture, with either an Oracle or MS SQL Server engine running at the database server.

The development of this version was a major undertaking that took over a year. During the program re-write, we decided that it was a good time to also redesigned the data schema and the user interface to make them more flexible and easier to use. Feedback from users has played a major part in our new design. The following are the major improvements over the existing version:

- Dramatic speed improvement.
- A new transformer data form.
- Ability to show or hide individual fields.
- An improved query form with ‘and’ and ’or’ (see figures.)
- Ability to link any two objects in the database.
- New ‘Copy/Paste Settings’ commands.
- New sign-off control for settings.

Prior to the official release, we have put the Client/Server Database though its paces at five utilities with very large databases (>10,000 relays). We were encouraged by the lack of any database corruption problems, despite some bugs in the beta release.

Users who tested the program were surprised by the speed improvement. Some operations that took minutes are now done in mere seconds. They also told us that they liked the new user interface, which is even more flexible and customizable than before.

The new report designer was a big hit. This report designer is built into the database front-end and is much easier to use than Crystal Report.

We plan to release a major update of the Desktop and Network versions of the Relay Database within the next few months. The data schema and user interface of these programs will be very similar to that of the Client/Server version. The new versions will work with Access tables instead of Paradox tables.

Year-End Roundup

We have decided to name our programs after the year. For example, V1998 and V1999 are the major releases in 1998 and 1999. Minor updates are distinguished by a letter, such as ‘A’ or ‘B’, appended after the year. Under this naming convention, the programs we plan to release before the yearend are ASPEN DistriView™ V1998, ASPEN OneLiner™ V1998 and ASPEN Power Flow™ V1998.

DistriView V1998

This version of DistriView is packed with new features. It is also the first 32-bit release. The most important improvement in this version include:

- A built-in line and cable constants calculator. The program computes the electrical parameters for you when you give it the position of the conductors and name of the wire or cable.
- A capacitor allocation algorithm. It finds where and how much capacitance you can install to reduce losses.
- A voltage-profile view. A graph shows you the rise and fall of the voltage magnitude along the feeder. There are three curves, one for each phase.
- Ability to store GPS coordinates. Once you enter the GPS coordinates of the buses, you can direct the program to

The result of the above query

A query with nested and’s and or’s

IN THIS ISSUE

Client-Server Relay Database .......... Cover
Year-End Roundup ....................... Cover
ASPEN Employees Profile .............. 2
Upcoming Events in 1999 .............. 2
New Users .................................. 2

ASPEN
34 North San Mateo Dr., San Mateo, CA 94401
Phone: (650)347-3997 FAX: (650)347-0233
schan@aspeninc.com www.aspeninc.com
rearrange them graphically according to their coordinates.

- Import/export features and a PSS/U data conversion program. This is made possible by a new text data format.
  
  *DistriView* has been available since June 1997. About 20 companies are using the program.

**OneLiner and Power Flow V1998**

Version 1998 is the first 32-bit release of these programs. The 32-bit version supports long file names and has a more robust print engine. The file I/O is also notably faster, especially when reading or writing files across local area networks. The OneLiner V1998 update also comes with a number of new relay curves and new distance relay types.

**Employee Profile**

At the age of 18, Sherman Chan got a summer job as a student aid at the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in Portland, Oregon. He was assigned to the Methods Analysis Section where he learned FORTRAN on the job and later had a hand in the development of the power flow, transient stability, EMTP and other programs. Sherman soon fell in love with this line of work and decided to pursue a degree in electrical engineering when the summer was over. In the next 8 years, Sherman returned to work at BPA during the summer and went to school the rest of the time. His training assignments during this period included testing transformer bushings, counting flashovers in the high-voltage lab, and doing chores in the control center. This experience has taught him most of what he knows about power systems. After graduation, Sherman spent 4 years at Systems Control, Inc. before founding ASPEN in 1986.

Sherman’s hobbies include computer programming, which also happens to be his principal responsibility at ASPEN, and piano playing. Sherman started taking piano lessons when he was 5. Later, during his college years, he studied music and piano performance at Scripps College and at the New School of Music. Sherman played Beethoven and Chopin daily for his 5-year-old son, and occasionally for attendees of the ASPEN users group meetings. He wants to resume playing Prokofieff and other 20th century works as soon as his son would let him.

Sherman holds a B.S. degree from Harvey Mudd College and a Ph.D. degree from MIT, both in electrical engineering. He is a senior member of IEEE and a member of the IEEE Computer Analytical Method Subcommittee.

**Upcoming Events in 1999**

**OneLiner Training Class**

**Booth in Shows**
- DistribuTech, San Diego, CA, Feb. 15-17.
- T&D World Expo, New Orleans, LA, April 11-16.

**New Users**

**ASPEN DistriView**
- City of Anaheim, CA
- Palo Alto Electric Utilities, CA
- Midstate Electric Coop., La Pine, OR

**Line Constants Program**
- CEEE, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- CFE, Mexico
- City Public Service, San Antonio, TX
- Heberly & Associates, Havre, MT
- Oklahoma Gas & Electric

**OneLiner**
- CEEE, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- City of Anaheim, CA
- Electricity of Vietnam, Ha Noi, Vietnam
- Industry & Energy Associates, LLC, Portland, ME
- KEMA Power T&D, Arnhem, The Netherlands
- Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro, St. Johns, Canada
- SASKPower, Regina, Canada

**Power Flow**
- Industry & Energy Associates, LLC, Portland, ME
- SASKPower, Regina, Canada

**Relay Database**
- CEEE, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- CFE, Mexico
- Electricity of Vietnam, Ha Noi, Vietnam
- MERALCO, Manila, Philippines
- SASKPower, Regina, Canada
- SHO-ME Power Electric Coop., Marshfield, MO