

**USER GROUPS****NATIONAL USER GROUPS**

User groups are autonomous organizations, composed of IBM customers. All administrative and organizational matters pertaining to these organizations, as well as their periodic meetings, are under their own jurisdiction.

They provide a great deal of information to their members, exchange technical ideas and documentation, and work with IBM to ensure better user products.

The major system-oriented national user groups are SHARE, GUIDE, and COMMON.

**System-Oriented Groups -- Customer Participation**

Each group is organized with an elected Executive Board to govern with functional divisions (approximately seven in each) such as programming, applications, installation management, and communications as the major lines of the organization. The next subdivision is projects which are organized around specific interest areas (e.g., MVS, MPS, IMS). The project work is the most significant activity in each of these groups. Project objectives and accomplishments are achieved through a working relationship with IBM counterparts.

Each user group supports over 75 projects with numerous subcommittees. Projects are organized according to specific technical areas, and project members meet to discuss, evaluate and recommend changes as required to IBM.

Members participate in projects to:

- Exchange information on common problems.
- Get more direct information from IBM.
- Provide feedback to IBM concerning desired requirements on products and to attempt to improve these products.
- Use this work as a stimulus to better educate themselves.
- Sponsor presentations for the regular meetings to inform the entire membership about these topics.

**Major System-Oriented Groups****'SHARE Inc.'**

This international group, formed by users of the IBM 704 in 1955, is the oldest of the three major user organizations. Its membership is primarily composed of users of System/360 Model 50 or higher - and System/370 Model 138 or higher. Other IBM machine users are admitted by petition. SHARE is composed of member installations from a broad cross section of the computing industry including industrial, governmental and university computing installations in both scientific and data processing environments.

Through special petition SHARE will allow product organizations as non-voting affiliates of SHARE. These organizations are companies which develop, design, manufacture or market (for profit) computer hardware, software or services which enhance the SHARE CPUs.

The primary purpose of SHARE is to foster the development, free exchange and dissemination of information to SHARE members in the best scientific tradition. These objectives are achieved through the following means:

Conducting meetings, discussion groups, forums, panels, lectures and other similar programs concerned with the development and exchange of research, technological and tutorial information.

Publishing meeting notes, research, ideas and comments through its SHARE Secretary's Distribution and other publications. Making such publications available to the interested public for purposes of advancing scientific research, education and scholarship in the public interest on a non-committal and a non-discriminatory basis.

Establishing, influencing and continually improving standards for the computing industry.

SHARE has made significant contributions to the computer industry and has worked closely with IBM in the development of specific systems. Most of the activities in SHARE are accomplished through member participation in related projects within its five operating divisions, i.e., Basic Systems, Communications, DB/DC, Management, and Services/Applications.

**Application for Membership**

Customers may obtain membership information and details as to availability of publications from the Executive Director, SHARE Inc., 111 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

The SHARE Secretary Distribution as well as Proceedings from the major meetings can be purchased. Contact SHARE Inc.

Requests for SHARE programs and information on submitting new programs should be sent to:

SHARE Program Library Agency  
TUCC  
P.O. Box 12076  
Research Triangle Park  
North Carolina 27709  
(919) 549-0671 (Ext: 283)

SHARE members have access to complete information on the SHARE Program Library in the SHARE Reference Manual.

**'GUIDE'**

This group is an international organization organized in 1956 by users of the IBM 705 and now includes System/360 Model 40 and System/370 Model 115 and higher. Although this group originally restricted its scope to commercially oriented users, it has broadened its activities for all computer uses.

The name GUIDE is derived from 'Guidance for Users of Integrated Data Processing Equipment.' The principal purposes of GUIDE with relations to its members are:

To exchange and disseminate information of mutual interest and value.

To promote sound and professional EDP practices.

The principal purposes of GUIDE with relation to the EDP industry are:

To communicate to the IBM Corporation user needs in all technical areas of interest.

To review, comment and exchange information on products and services related to the equipment needed to qualify for GUIDE membership.

To influence the development of computer industry standards.

GUIDE objectives are carried out by members participating in the working committees operating in the group's seven divisions; i.e., Management and Administration, Data Center Operations, Information Management, Futures, Applications Systems, Operating Systems, and Languages and Standards. Its primary interest areas have been installation management, education and programming systems studies. The group has become active in user's applications and works closely with IBM in this area.

Installations meeting the GUIDE machine requirements may apply for membership. Application for membership in this group should be sent to the Executive Assistant, GUIDE International, 111 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

The GUIDE Secretary Distribution and Meeting Proceedings can be purchased; contact GUIDE.

**'COMMON'**

This is an international group organized in 1960 as the 1620 users organization. In 1965 the organization changed its name to COMMON and concurrently opened its membership to 1130, 1800 and System/360 users. Membership is now open to users of many other IBM systems. Membership is now open to System/370 (Model 135 and below), System/3, and System/7 users. Users of other IBM systems may apply for membership by petitions to the COMMON Executive Board.

**LOCAL USER GROUPS**

Some local user groups composed of IBM customers are independents while others are affiliated with the larger national non-profit organizations, GUIDE, COMMON, or SHARE. Either type provides a forum for local presentation of IBM's products and services and can assist the local marketing effort by providing a means for exchange of information and cooperative solution of customer problems.

Some organizations have been formed under the sponsorship of a third party to exchange information, distribute programs, and, sometimes, offer consolidated purchasing of non-IBM plug compatible equipment. These organizations typically service their members with monthly magazines, newsletters or programs for a fee and for a profit. Their area of interest is principally the System/3. However, local non-profit user groups which are made up of IBM customers and are affiliated with larger profit oriented organizations should be handled as local independent IBM user groups.