2. CREDIT FEATURES

CREDIT is a product area designed real time computer language, it has been designed specifically for programming real time applications on the PTS. Product area designed languages such as CREDIT have several advantages over general pupose languages such as FORTRAN. Some of the more important features of CREDIT are given below.

2.1 Maximize machine useage

CREDIT is an interpretive language, it does not hold a "core image" of the application for each user, just a pointer to the next statement to be obeyed and a set of variables for each user.

2.2 Wide range of Input/Output commands

An important consideration in the design and writing of any application must be that the final item is "user friendly", otherwise it may never be accepted by the users, be they bank clerks or managers. To help the programmer produce a "user friendly" application, CREDIT offers a number of data set control, input and output commands and routines to handle such actions as the printing of pass books, the displaying of signatures on a plasma display, or option lists on a visual display unit.

2.3 Programmed by terminal class, not work station

CREDIT allows the programmer to define different classes of terminals to handle different functions within the application. For example one terminal class could be for the bank tellers, one for the foreign exchange desk and one further terminal class for the manager. A group of similarly configured work positions, handling the same types of transaction, is known as a terminal class. Because all work positions in a terminal class handle the same type of transaction the same program code is used for each of the work stations. There can be up to sixteen terminal classes in one application.

2.4 Work blocks for storage and communication

Within the CREDIT terminal class it is possible to have a range of different data structures. Data items can be associated with a work station to record, for, example cash handled at that point; or they could be associated with a system user in which case the user would have to enter a recognition code; or they could be common to all users, holding the current date and time for example.

2.5   Multi-task system

Each work station within a terminal class is regarded as a separate task; the work station may be a keyboard and display with an operator entering information, or it may be controlling data communication with a remote processor. Every time data is received from a work station the Terminal Operating System Software (TOSS) Monitor activates the appropriate task. Hence, several tasks will seemingly be active at the same point in time, however, it is only possible for the computer to carry out one activity at one point in time and this problem is overcome by the TOSS Monitor, which schedules tasks such that all appear to be run simultaneously.

2.6   Specialised command set

The CREDIT command set is specifically designed for handling real time applications; special commands exist to control the printing of bank pass books etc., handling data communication with a remote processor or controlling the layouts on a visual display screen.