

IBM's LU 6.2 Networking Strategy

by Alexa A. Dell'Acqua and John F. Mazzaferro

First Edition

Computer Technology Research Corp.

Charleston, South Carolina 29401-2573 (1992), 138p.

ISBN 0-927695-93-6

Dragos Buga was born in Bucharest, Romania, on August 1, 1962. He graduated the Polytechnical Institute of Bucharest (IPB) in Control Engineering and Computers in 1987. He is currently preparing his doctoral thesis ("Distributed Operating System in Multiprocessor Environment") at the Faculty of Automatic Control and Computers, IPB.

After graduation he worked at "Electromagnetica" a telephone factory in Bucharest. His first results were obtained as a designer of hardware (a teletype computer).

Since 1988 he has been working at the Research Institute for Informatics (ICI) in Bucharest as an engineer and researcher. He was interested in making software tools improve the efficiency of human decision-making. His best results in this field consist in the integration of a unitary philosophy of building Decision Support Systems (DSS) as end products to be designed. He was also involved in different application projects in non-industrial environment.

His present preoccupations are related to Decision Support Systems, Management Information Systems (MIS) and distributed operating systems in parallel processing environment.

He is also an associate lecturer in computer programming at IPB. He is author of 29 technical reports, research reports and articles presented at national conferences.

Mr. Dragos Buga is UNIX-SIG chairperson at DECUS ROMANIA.

The authors of this report are president and vice-president of JAM Enterprises, a San Diego, California-based consultant agency for computer industry companies.

In the introduction, after a short presentation of IBM's activity in 1991, the authors remark:

"Logical Unit 6.2 (LU 6.2) is at the heart of IBM's new software line. The inherent and broad benefits of LU 6.2 software are likely to further increase IBM's software revenues."

The report provides a "history" of LU 6.2, focussing on what LU 6.2 is and what it can do. The report provides a high-level analysis that will guide future network planning.

The report is organized in 12 chapters:

1. **Executive Summary** (an introduction to IBM's LU 6.2 networking; LU 6.2 concepts; peer-to-peer networking)
2. **LU 6.2 Overview** (LU 6.2 history; association and interaction with SNA "Systems Network Architecture", APPC "Advanced Program-to-Program Communications", API "Application Programming Interface"; LU 6.2 commands)
3. **LU 6.2 Applications** (proprietary configurations; closed and open implementations)
4. **Logical Units and Physical Units** (a full explanation of logical and physical units; entry points to the IBM SNA network using LEN = Low Entry Networking)
5. **Systems Network Architecture** (components, layers, session types, devices; SNA-supported hardware)
6. **Advanced Program-to-Program Communications** (significant evolutionary steps; relationship to LU 6.2)
7. **Advanced Peer-to-Peer Networking** (communications strategy's functions; characteristics; connectivity options; associations with SNA)
8. **Systems Applications Architecture** (environments, components and product support; market activity by non-IBM vendors; future implementation)
9. **LU 6.2 Implementations** (role in enterprise networks; IBM's network management scheme; relationship to OSI "Open Systems Interconnect")
10. **Applications Architecture** (concepts and technical aspects of LU 6.2 applications architecture)
11. **LU 6.2 Third-Party Product Support** (product features and specifications from Novell, Siemens-Nixdorf, Apple Computer and other leading manufacturers)
12. **Conclusion** (summary report; how LU 6.2 affects future communications product and communications vendors).

This report is a concise, well-structured presentation of IBM's concepts and strategy for computer communications. It is a guide for programmers, system managers and research workers, an entry point to a new study in this area.

The working out of the report is also to be remarked: table of contents, list of tables, list of figures, glossary of associated terms, addresses of

companies mentioned in the report, index, report evaluation form. The necessary data are easy to find and the authors, using the report evaluation, can go further their work. This organization of the report is a good example for other specialists.

Dragos Buga