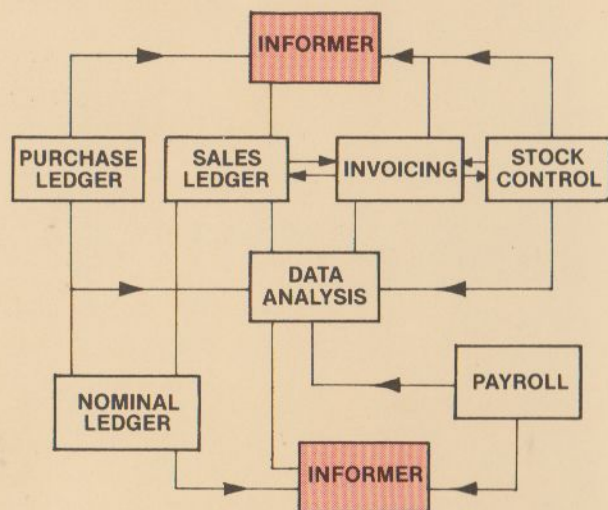# ACT pulsar

16 BIT BUSINESS SOFTWARE

Informer

Pulsar™ 16-bit Software

PULSAR is a new generation of advanced and highly sophisticated business software specifically developed for 16-bit personal computers.

PULSAR is a comprehensive range of powerful and fully integrated packages, designed to provide a complete answer to the management information needs of large and small businesses alike.
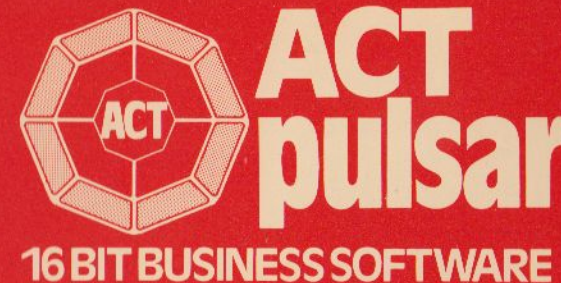
PULSAR sets new standards of versatility and ease of operation and has been developed at a.cost of over £1 million by ACT, the UK market leader in 16-bit personal computer software. It is the culmination of more than 17 years of computer package development.

PULSAR—The fully integrated range

16-bit Business Software for 16-bit Personal Computers

Company Philosophy

The ACT octagon encapsulates our philosophy of a single source for computing solutions. ACT products include personal computers — business systems — turnkey minicomputers — software technology — computer engineering — consumables and bureau services.

The eight ACT companies are each leaders in their field.

ACT pulsar

16 BIT BUSINESS SOFTWARE

Informer

Informer

The INFORMER package is designed to integrate with others in the range, using the standard PULSAR menus and screen prompts to produce a wide range of totally flexible reports. These augment the management reports produced by the DATA ANALYSIS Package where there is a more complex reporting requirement.

The system is built round three types of file:—

INFORMER FILES

These files are structured to represent the traditional columnar analysis book. Each column heading is defined by the user and may be identified as a CHARACTER, NUMERIC or DATE column.

Up to 100 columns can be defined within a single file, with up to 64 characters in any one column and an overall maximum width of all columns of 1024 characters.

Each entry in the INFORMER file is referred to as a record. A file may contain up to 32,000 records, depending on the available disk capacity.

PROCESS INSTRUCTION FILES

These files are created to contain instructions for the processing of the information contained in INFORMER files. There are Process Instruction Files for:—

INPUT FORMS	REPORT DESIGNS
CALCULATIONS	SORTING
SELECTION	ENQUIRIES
CONSOLIDATION	CONTROL INFORMATION

and INFILLING RECORDS with details from any INFORMER or PULSAR File.

JOB NO	JOB DESCRIPTION	LABOUR COST	MATERIAL COST	TOTAL COST
xxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	99999999.99	99999999.99	

```
SECTION NO: 1
COLUMN HEADING: TOTAL COST        CHARACTERS IN SECTION
   COLUMN TYPE: N                 USED        REMAINING
  COLUMN WIDTH: 12                 54            10
 JUSTIFICATION: R
DECIMAL PLACES: 2

PRESS RETURN TO AMEND COLUMN
*INS OR *DEL TO INSERT/DELETE      INFORMER FILENAME JOBCOSTS
```

CONTROL QUESTIONNAIRE FILE

This file contains the sequence of the processing commands requested by the user for each required analysis report or enquiry. A menu is created by the user in his own terminology listing the options he requires. A simple key depression executes any required sequence automatically. Up to 99 different options can be set by the user, using a series of linked menu screens.

The PULSAR 'CONTROL QUESTIONNAIRE' eases the user through the creation of the necessary control information. It is also used to enable the creation and amendment of INFORMER files.

The 'HELP' option.

At each stage of the creation of an analysis report, a further 'HELP' option is available.

TECHNICAL DATA

ENTERING INFORMATION:

Information may be entered to any INFORMER file by any of the following methods:—

Transfer all information from any PULSAR Package.

Direct input to a previously defined document screen.

REPORTING:

Each printed report is defined in terms of:—

LINE SPACING and PAGE DEPTH
TITLE and PAGE HEADINGS
COLUMNS TO BE PRINTED
COLUMN POSITIONS
RIGHT and LEFT JUSTIFICATION of COLUMN CONTENTS
No. of DECIMAL PLACES for NUMERIC COLUMNS
SUB-TOTALS (Up to 5 levels in each report)
SELECTION of RECORDS to be PRINTED
CONSTANT INFORMATION to be PRINTED

ENQUIRIES:

Rapid access to individual records is achieved by reference to any of the column headings.

PROCESSING MODULES:

ENTERING RECORDS
TRANSFERRING RECORDS FROM PULSAR PACKAGES
PRINTING REPORTS
CALCULATIONS
SORTING
APPENDING FILES ONE TO ANOTHER
CLEARING RECORDS FROM FILES
EXTRACTING ANALYSIS CODES
   FROM PULSAR CODES
SELECTION
ENQUIRIES
CONSOLIDATION
INFILLING TRANSACTION
   RECORDS WITH DETAILS
   from any INFORMER or PULSAR master files
CONTROL INFORMATION
EXPANDING FILE SIZES