Introduction

Abacus Computers Limited is a Mumbai based company floated in 1984 by Technocrats and headed by CEO Mr. Pankaj Madia. Abacus has pioneered the Indian Language solutions since early DOS days and has large list of customers.

Abacus is engaged in Indian Languages since 1987 through its prestigious DOS based Pagination software, SCRIPT. Around SCRIPT engine Abacus offered various solutions to the News Paper industry like Data Base publishing, Classified Adds Management Share Page, Editorial Pagination etc. during 1987 to 1992.

Then came Windows era and Developers migrated on the same with variety of solutions. Some offered only Fonts, few offered keyboard managers and very few offered an Editor with features of Spell Check.

Abacus has its own in-house team to offer a complete solution and hence developed its own Font and offered a dual task application through its product called ‘Winscript’. It works as Keyboard Manager and also has a Word Processor with Indian Context features like Spell Check, Find / Replace, Alpha to Numeric and Numeric to Alpha conversion, Import and Export as ISCII and Unicode. All products of Abacus support Standard Keyboard layouts like DOE, Typewriter and Phonetic.

The most prestigious product from Abacus is ‘PageXPress’ which is a revised version of Mosaic.

It’s a True Windows based Bi-lingual Page Making Software and meets need of DTP applications to News Paper composition. PageXPress a feature rich product and we expect that to be a proud product of the country. Unlike other page making software available in the market, it has in-built Indian Language support and works with all versions of Windows (Windows 95 Onwards).

The product has the Indian language power to challenge the best in the Industry with features like Hyphenation, Spell Check and Find / Replace etc. It offers you multi-column in any shape. Vertical Justification is a unique feature.

The Demo Software can also be downloaded from www.abacusindia.com/free_downloads.htm

Apart from this we also offer ‘Tool Kits’ for developers as DLL or OCX for different programming languages like VB or VC++ and support all databases.

The detailed description of the Local Language Applications/Products (PageXpress, Winscript, Pagination Software, Yellow Page Software, CAMPS) Developed is as follows:

1. PageXpress

It is the revised version of Mosaic. PageXpress is a true Windows based multi-lingual page designing software (supporting Indian languages). Indian language fonts are built-in with PageXpress. Support for multiple keyboard layouts for Indian language is also provided. This software is made available in three variants:

- PageXpress - English Supports English language only
- PageXpress - Pro Supports English and up to nine Indian languages
- PageXpress - Workstation Workstation version for

- Default for dual languages
- Find and replace for Indian languages
- Spell Check
- Mail Merge
- Picture sizing, Cropping and Panning
- Thumbnails
- Drop caps
- Line fit
- Text in irregular shape
- Multi column in any shape

**Features of PageXpress:**

- Default Setup for text character attributes can be set for English & Indian languages individually. Language from Indian to Latin (or vise versa) can be changes with a toggle key.

- Line/s of text can be made to fit defined area vertically as well as horizontally. Saves time in making headline of news stories.

- Run Within for text in a box can be defined, for single column text as well as multi column text. The offset to be left on all four sides is user controllable.

- Text or graphics (picture) can be placed in to any closed shape defined. Most of the packages allow text flow in to square or rectangle shapes only, while PageXPress allows - apart from square & rectangle shapes - circle, ellipse, polygon.

- Synchronous and Asynchronous rotation of element (container) and contents (text &/or graphics) is allowed in clockwise or anti-clockwise direction. Imagine a square element (container) filled with text. You can rotate the container (square box) and the text inside by 45 degrees. This is synchronous rotation. You also have a control to keep the text as it is and rotate only the container. This is asynchronous rotation.

- Default Drop Caps can be defined once and can be applied whenever required without any set up required again & again. Align Descend option for drop Cap is available which is very useful for Indian language publishing. A single character or multiple characters or a full word can be used as drop cap.

- Elements containing text can be linked for text flow from one element to another. Such linked elements can be on the same page or on different pages.

- Tabulation can be defined with individual character attributes for each tab position. These include vertical positioning with respect to the deepest tab text. Once defined, these attributes shall be applied to the text in respective tab position accordingly.

- Text in a given element (container) can be made to justify vertically by distribution of available white space between lines, paragraph, lines & paragraphs, above, below or above & below.
• On a single menu command, element (container) can be re-sized to exactly envelope the size of the graphic put inside that element.

• Multiple pages in a document can be seen as thumbnails on single screen. The page contents (elements) can be moved from one page to another, or the pages can be shuffled within the document.

• Perfect Hyphenation — PageXPress is designed specifically keeping in mind requirements of Indian language text processing. The logic required to form Indian language words is thus naturally built in to the software. As a result, PageXPress is capable of delivering faultless hyphenation for Indian languages.

• Spellchecker — as an optional add on, spellcheck facility for Indian language is supported on PageXPress.

• Mail Merge — PageXPress has built in features, which allow generating individual letters to a group of recipients. The database file import facility coupled with global link of elements while inserting multiple pages shall facilitate this task.

2. **WinScript Ver 3.0**

A simple and easy to operate entry level product for use under MS-Windows environment, WinScript is a memory resident application which allows interfacing of Indian language fonts with most of the applications running under indows.

WinScript is a software package which allows use of Indian languages under various MS-Windows based applications where font selection is available. The product ships with Indian language fonts developed by Abacus. This software is designed to work for bi-lingual (English & Devangiri) or multi-lingual (English + multiple Indian languages) operations. Being memory resident, program once invoked, the same integrates seamlessly with MS-Windows.
applications. Popular keyboard are available to choose from for Indian languages.
- Comptible to Windows 95,98,2000 and XP
- Word compatible file format
- No hardware lock
- Dual Task application
  - Keyboard Interface
  - Word processor
- Multiple keyboard like Phonetic,DoE and Typewriter
- E-mail in indian languages
- Supports 9 Indian languages like: Devanagari, Gujarati, Bengali, Gurumukhi, Oriya, Kannad, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu
- Find, Find and Replace(Including Indian Languages)
- Sorting (Indian Languages)
- Spell check through dictionary
- Alpha to Numeric and Numeric to Alpha conversion
- Object linking
- Bilingual matching fonts
- Import and export ISCII files
- Import and Export of Unicode files

Features:
- A library of Non-Latin (Indian) fonts from Abacus
- Allows use of these fonts in any windows based applications
- Available for one and multiple Indian Language Scripts
- Popular keyboard layouts available to choose from
- Software lock transparent to the user. (No hardware on parallel ports)
- Indian Language True Type (TTF) fonts

Why WinScript (The need):
Indian languages are very complex in nature - with various matras at the top, bottom and on the side. None of the Latin softwares like Microsoft Office (word processor, spreadsheet etc.), and other popular applications are designed to handle Indian peculiarities. Again Indian version of Windows is not available as India has 9 major scripts used viz. Devanagari (Hindi, Marathi, Sanskrit, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Gurumukhi and Bengali.

With all Central government organisations preferring to have communication addressed to them in the Rashtra Bhasa (Infact a circular to that effect has already been issued by the Government of India) it becomes imperative to make presentations, printed or visual in Devanagari as well as in English.
Similarly State government also wish to have their communications in the language used in the state. e.g. In Karnataka all the communications are expected in Kannada, similarly Marathi is the language used in Maharashtra.

Also with liberalisation there is more awareness about the need of communication in the corporate world. A lot of communication is needed in various areas like training & retraining employees due to constant upgradation of technologies.

Talking about communication every individual needs to communicate and he can best communicate in his own language - Indian Language.

3. Pagination Software
- Operates on PC platform.
- Editorial and Pagination software work on the same system
- Editorial system gives the user information relative to the story to help in layout
- A story hole can be generated on page grid, and the system passes the story-hole geometry to the Editorial System
- Alternatively a story-hole can be generated to fit a story laid out in the Editorial System
• A pre-formatted style-sheet can be stored for various pages.
• Menu driven, easy composing of story elements like Headline, By line, Strap-line, Slug-line, Photo and Caption
• Indication of over/undersetting of story elements and the story itself.
• Page Preview with zooming facility
• Ability to size, move, edit and de-register a story directly selecting it from the page layout. Especially useful for last-minute change in layout.
• Ability to de-register a story-hole
• Ability to continue the story on a different page.
• Ability to create style sheets.
• Ability to create an ad-dummy before passing page-grid to the Editorial Dept.
• Automatic alignment of the top-gap of headline of stories at the same horizontal level on page
• Import of picture in TIFF/EPS format.
• Multiply pictures can be attached to single story.
• Custom positioning of pictures and all other elements by specifying number of lines from top, from middle or from bottom.
• Supports concept of virtual columns (a story can occupy, for example, three grid columns physically but can be divided into 1 to 16 virtual columns)
• Elements can be defined in quarter column sizes, butting into the story columns.
• Full page output on A4 size paper for proofing.
• Full page output on broadsheet imagesetter.

4. Yellow Page Software
Abacus Computers Limited with their expertise in pre-press technology, have developed this MS-DOS based application for generating Yellow Page directory. The software, a combination of commercial data entry / analysis module and an automated typesetting module has proven to be a successful Yellow Page pagination software. The concept applied to develop this product is Database Publishing.

Main Features
• Data Capture / validation through standard database engine
• User definable parameters:
  • Page: Size, columns, gutter width, etc.
  • Text: Point size, line space, etc. For all headings / types of listings
  • Dummy Advertisement insertion
  • Advertisement type / size / shape definitions
  • Information about category of ads
  • Information about sales persons

Following reports can be generated from the database:
• Salesman wise report
• Product wise report
• List of advertisements booked
• Page wise advertisements report
• Client-wise advertisement report
• Advertisement size code list
• Salesman code list
• Category code list
• Filler advertisements are minimized

5. CAMPS (Classified Advertisement Management and Processing System)
The Classified Advertisement Management & Processing System (CAMPS) allows you to book an advertisement, modify, inquire and cancel an advertisement, schedule the advertisement, generate page layout and screen and/or printed output as required. This software is currently based on MS-DOS.

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APPLESOFT

Nourishes your Language
Introduction

APPLESOFT, a software premier for Indian languages, has remained a prime and perhaps the sole organization over the past decade and a half which dedicates itself to extensive research on software in Indian languages. Its principal aim is to bridge the digital divide in society that arises due to lack of local language support resulting out of computerisation. Thus, this has been the driving motive behind Applesoft products.

It dedicates its work to research on software which enables a lay man use computers and other allied information technology gadgets in his own language. Its prime focus has been on software in areas of Indian Languages which are of immense value for the masses and has a direct bearing on proliferation of information technology to the masses in society. However, it has several prime contributions in the office automation, educational and communication arena as well. The unique feature of Applesoft has been that its concepts and approach has always remained timely, thorough and all the more, unique.

Over the years, the experience gained has enabled Applesoft widen its vision and horizon. From what started as providing software solutions for Indian languages on computers at Applesoft, it has diversified its area to cover almost the entire spread of digital media and includes neo IT gadgets of the sort of Pagers, Mobile phones, PDAs, Set top boxes etc. The experience thus gained has positioned APPLESOFT as leader in IT for Indian Languages. It has thus encompassed the entire spread of software in Indian language and works in the direction of working in software technology in one's own Mother tongue. No wonder its proficiency has had deep impact not only on the market, but has impacted the very trend in development of software in these prime areas of software in Indian languages and education. No wonder several organizations and even Governments look upon Applesoft for expertise, guidance and lead in prime areas in this field which have potentialities to shape further developments in society.

Unlike many other software companies, Applesoft came into being more than a decade ago and was set up during January 1990 with the motto of developing technologies to promote Indian Languages on digital media.

In the quest to be amongst the users, Applesoft undertakes extensive research of software products which has appeal and utility amongst the users. Over the years since its inception, it has concentrated its research efforts on development of software in Indian languages and has conceptualized several unique products. Having started its research on MS DOS and MS Windows platform, the Applesoft team has made sufficient foray into these and related areas. The experience thus gained has proved to be its biggest asset. This has enabled it to envision solutions for Indian languages that covers the entire spread of the digital media. This list covers neo-digital gadgets of the likes of Dot Matrix Printers, Pagers, Mobiles and Set-Top boxes. Applesoft today boasts of having expertise for any of the vernacular interfaces for any of the applications above.

Of all Applesoft’s contributions and products, Janani and Localiser are allied products which are innovations by itself and first of its kind in the market. These classic products stand tall and only goes to prove Applesoft’s distinction, innovativeness and the level of expertise in the field of software for Indian language. Janani, a remarkable achievement is a result of extensive research in the field of Indian language computing which is only one of its kind in the area of localisation. Janani runs in the background and translates all menus, dialogs and system generated messages of the international version of MS Windows 98 and other applications which run on it to Tamil. Even though this technology has been implemented with Tamil, the technology has been designed with multilingual requirement and can meet the requirements of other Indian languages. Localiser, yet another indigenously developed software to localize all text based resources of a software. It thus enables translate all menus, dialogs and system generated messages of that software to Tamil. these innovations have