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The History of Ripose

As the result of my publishing my articles on my view of the history of information I have decided to write a short history of how I came to develop Ripose and my Caspar engine.

Pre Methodologies

In 1969 I read a book on programming in Fortran and that started my journey into Data Processing. I spent the next 12 years learning to (and doing):

1. Write program code in COBOL, Assembler and Easytrieve
2. Work with a hierarchical database structure
3. Learnt to normalise data (Ted Codd)
4. Analyse systems
5. Analyse business requirements
6. Develop a general ledger for my own company
7. Develop a Video Recording System using an Apple IIe
8. Structure a program based on data structures (Michael A Jackson)
9. interpret Ed Yourdon's structured analysis and Structured Design

IE Mk1

In 1982 I joined Information Engineering (Aust) as a junior consultant. To read my history of this please see my LinkedIn articles:

- [Part 1](#)
- [Part 2](#)
- [Part 3](#)
- [Part 3a](#)
- [Part 3b](#)

If Clive Finklestein (1939 – 2021) had seen the world through my eyes IEA would probably have owned Ripose and Caspar.

IE Mk2

A colleague of mine (David Brock who was an ex salesman of IEA and primarily responsible for not only managing to get the Convener of the USA Navy to reconsider IEA tender application but also should have been credited with IEA winning the bid) formed a company to provide consulting to enterprises that required help in designing systems from business requirements.

As we found it nearly impossible to get a client (due to the competition of Doll-Martin, IEA and others claiming the same) I suggested that David contact an accounting firm (who already had clients) and see if we could work with them.

David managed to convince a senior partner at Andersens that we could work with them.

We were given a contract to fly to the USA and present my ideas. Perhaps I need to remind you that Andersens' already had their Method/1 approach so perhaps all I could do was to show how I could add more value to it.

On arrival back from the USA David decided to drop me and took the contract for himself so I never got the chance to show what I was capable of producing.

Perhaps if David had not been so religiously minded Andersens would probably have owned Ripose and Caspar.

Details as to David's reason can be provided if necessary.

IE Mk3

After David Brock dumped me I was introduced to John Underwood (the Managing Director of Cortex Pacific). I must have impressed him with my ideas as he hired me and together we flew to Boston for me to present my idea to create a front end to Cortex's program generator (CorVision) which ran on Digital's Vax computers.

John hired a project manager (Ben Livson) and I was going to develop the product I called CorRect which was going to be designed to capture the business requirements and produce an input to CorVision.

Due to circumstances beyond my control the project was cancelled and I left Cortex Pacific.

Perhaps if John Underwood had not been so politically motivated Cortex would probably have owned Ripose and Caspar.

Details as to what happened can be provided if necessary.

IE Mk4

After I left Cortex I linked up with Chris Mrakas (the ex R&D Manager of IEA) and we formed a company called Infornetics Consulting. I was to provide them with my consulting services and to help them integrate my approach to business requirements with their product (which was written in C and ran under Linux).

Chris managed to acquire the Telcom client from IEA after IEA had ceased to do business.

After a few months I discovered that the Infornetics product was a re-write of my USER:Data program and when I asked for a share in the software company I was forced out of the company.

Perhaps if Chris Mrakas had not been so greedy Infornetics would probably have owned Ripose and Caspar.

Details as to what happened can be provided if necessary.

Ripose and Caspar (IA Mk1)

In late 1989 I found myself without a job and very few prospects. I was 42 years old and one day I thought I had better do something about my idea.

I had managed to acquire a Mac Plus computer and the Omnis 7 software development kit (from a client who was not able to pay me for the system I wrote for him).

It took me less than a year to document my approach and to use the Omnis 7 development kit (an integrated environment of database and program language) to document Ripose and to create the forerunner of Caspar known as the Ripose Compilers.

The end

Regards
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