

VECTOR: Sort Pattern Tester

A CHECK MANAGEMENT SOLUTION FOR EASY AND QUICK SORT PATTERN CHANGES FOR TESTING

USE THE SORT PATTERN TEST TOOL THAT PASSES EVERY TEST

VECTOR: Sort Pattern Tester could well be described as a "virtual sorter." This innovative software tool manages sort pattern change in order to reduce sort pattern test time, improve accuracy, eliminate costly conversion errors and allow for easy concurrent access.

A SHORT HISTORY LESSON

Since the introduction of the first 3890, back in the 1970s, testing sort patterns has always represented a significant problem.

Over the years, attempts have been made to address this problem, typically with little success. It was extremely difficult to make early products truly emulate running a 3890 online under CPCS. After many years, IBM finally introduced a "simulated sorter" which ran under CPCS but did not support native languages. A few years later, they introduced Sort Evaluator. This product addressed the native language problems, but required a dedicated PC, running an old version of OS/2 with a token ring, LU6.2 connection to the host, and would only allow one user at a time, with physical access to the dedicated PC, to use the system for testing. This unfortunate situation remains to this day. On top of their inherent limitations as sort pattern test tools, none of the previous testing products ever attempted to address the issues of regression testing — until now. With the emergence of VECTOR: Sort Pattern Tester, you have available a product that eliminates all of the limitations of all previous sort pattern test tools.

WHY IT'S BETTER

VECTOR: Sort Pattern Tester permits regression testing of 3890 sort patterns, previously a tedious, labor-intensive process for financial institutions. The product allows you to control sort pattern testing using any number of different levels — bank, programmer, unit tester, or processing site, for example. Often, different groups within your bank need to perform maintenance and testing on the same sort patterns. VECTOR: Sort Pattern Tester allows you to organize the maintenance groups into unique processing sets.



For each of the maintenance groups, an individual processing set is created to control the changes and/or testing criteria for that group. Each processing set points to specific data sets to obtain the sort patterns, test decks, and output data set names. The processing set defines the hardware and software environment requirements for each type of test required.

CAPABILITIES

Sort pattern testing: VECTOR: Sort Pattern Tester reads a test data deck from the DATA library, processes that test deck against the user's sort pattern, and generates an Item Pocket File (IPF) in the IPF library as well as an IPF report. The IPF can then be used in comparing test results.

Comparing test results – The product compares two IPFs and produces a report which displays the differences.

Maintaining test data – Sort Pattern Tester browses or edits existing test decks and creates new test decks from existing decks, ICREs or user input.

Regression Controls – The product promotes test IPFs to base IPFs, demotes base IPFs to test IPFs, browses test or base IPFs, and associates test decks with sort patterns. In addition, it exports a string to CPCS.

Maintenance of system parameters – VECTOR:Sort Pattern Tester browses, copies, edits, adds, or deletes Processing Sets.

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IT'S SMART TO WORK WITH THE EXPERTS

- Runs OLRR edits, SCI code and native language sort patterns
- Runs on OS/390, allowing an unlimited number of people to test one or more sort patterns concurrently
- Does not require dedicated PCs, OS/2, token ring networks or LU6.2 definitions
- Represents an extremely powerful comparison engine for regression testing. It enables the user to specify exactly what he or she wants to compare, and even allows matching dissimilar values in a field. For example, an endpoint can be moved to a different pocket, proving that nothing else has changed.
- Provides an optional native language trace facility that provides details on all table searches for all items.