vince your supervisor is to demonstrate that the use of Icon can save time and money without putting anything at risk. After all, most organizations welcome increased productivity.

There used to be a technical report on the interface vidgets, but I can’t find it anymore. Where is it?

The vidgets have changed substantially since the original description was written — so much so that the old document can no longer be used. We don’t have the resources to update the document; it’s just something that has passed from the scene. The vidgets are available through VIB and various dialogs.

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Knowledge Explorer

Editors’ Note: Dick McCullough has written an Icon tool for organizing knowledge. His description follows.

The Knowledge Explorer (ke) is an interactive tool for organizing knowledge. It can be viewed as a super-intelligent filing system, which will restructure itself on command. The foundation of ke is my knowledge representation language (kr), which is based on a unique theory of knowledge developed by Ayn Rand (Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology, Expanded Second Edi-

kr is a subset of English, with keywords that have a specialized meanings. Sentences that ke does not understand are simply recorded as “newstatement”s. kr uses lists, sets, and associative tables to represent knowledge, which is why I chose to implement it using Icon (Ralph E. Griswold and Madge T. Griswold, The Icon Programming Language, Third Edition, Peer-to-Peer Communications, 1996). The pattern matching capabilities of Icon were used to implement a front end parser for kr. During the development of the initial version of ke, from October 1996 to March 1997, I made significant changes every day, and did major rewrites about once a month. This rapid evolution would not have been possible without using Icon.

A small sampling of statements in kr is shown in the box below.

I have made the Knowledge Explorer available on the Internet as a shareware product. It can be downloaded from

ftp://ftp.cdepot.net/ke/

Binary versions are available for Windows and UNIX. For details, contact:

Dick McCullough
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animal is man,cat,dog
Dick is person
Dick is "Richard H. McCullough"
Dick has sex:male
Dick do go to store
man is animal with rational
phone-list isa relation
phone-list has r_role: "phone:1 person:2"
phone-list has r_meaning: "person:2 has phone:phone:1"
read phone-list.rel
at space,time,view \
from here,now,tabula_rasa
ke has ?
apple ? orange
apple isa* ?
aminal iset ?
check definition
hfocus := event,newword,newstatement
hformat := outline

#hierarchy
#hierarchy
#identity/alias
#characterization
#event - unit of change
#definition
#define & load relation
#display all characteristics
#determine relation of concepts
#walk up hierarchy
#display subhierarchy
#display undefined concepts
#hierarchy printout
#hierarchy printout