

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-

tion, Meridian, 1990).

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:

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animal isa man,cat,dog
Dick isa 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 ?
animal ise ?
check definition
hfocus := event,newword,newstatement
hformat := outline
# hierarchy
# hierarchy
# identity/alias
# characterization
# event - unit of change
# definition
# define & load relation
# define new knowledge unit
# display all characteristics
# determine relation of concepts
# walk up hierarchy
# display subhierarchy
# display undefined concepts
# hierarchy printout
# hierarchy printout
```