

The Department selects software according to the manufacturer's international market share, as well as functionality for standard applications. This way, users rotating are not faced with new applications and packages.

As the Department is testing new software, and has other software in use that has been surpassed in the marketplace, the following list of approved software is not all-inclusive. Also, the special needs of a particular mission or unit will be considered when purchasing software.

FASTFACTS

Standard Software

- **Word Processing:**
WordPerfect, Communicé, and Word Wand.
- **Spreadsheets:**
Lotus 1-2-3.
- **Database Management:**
dBASE III Plus.
- **Communications:**
Crosstalk, Smartcom.
- **Graphics:**
Picture Perfect.
- **Integrated Packages:**
Lotus Symphony. (This package, while powerful, does not provide the full capability of the specialized packages listed above, and is not normally recommended.)

5.4.4 Software Updates

As new versions of Department-supported software packages come onto the market, the packages on hand will need to be updated. Updates are the responsibility of MISX, which uses its software inventory to ensure that all copies of a particular package are updated at one time. MISX is currently negotiating with a number of software dealers to determine the most convenient method of updating multiple copies of software in a geographically dispersed organization such as ours.

5.4.5 Bilingualism

According to DSS, microcomputers that support the full Canadian bilingual character set, which includes accented upper case characters, "are not yet technically available". Some computers will do it, some printers will do it, some software will do it. The right combination of these three will definitely do it. This means that more creativity must be brought to bear on solutions.

The major problem is that there is no accepted industry standard for the coding of special characters such as Ê. What might be Ê to your micro software could easily be a ??? to your printer.