

Shared Data Systems, Inc.

Negentropy in Applied Technology — Corporate Context

Charlotte, North Carolina · 1982–1988

William J. Moressi, Ph.D. · Concurrent Engagement as Microcomputer/Communications Specialist

A Note on Negentropy in the Corporate Environment

The work documented here was not academic. Shared Data Systems, Inc. operated on IBM System/34 and System/38 mid-range computers accessed through display terminals, providing business solutions including custom software development and satellite communications. The primary sources below document a concurrent engagement in which disorder across three distinct operational domains — technical infrastructure, information systems, and workforce training — was converted into structured, functional order through deliberate design and implementation. The primary source documents speak for themselves; this framing identifies the negentropy structure they contain.

I. The Documented Disorder State

The Educational Service Center proposal (Phase I: The Beginning, dated 8/28/87) states explicitly in its own language:

"Education, training, and support currently are on an 'ad hoc' basis. This is especially true of microcomputer operations. The Educational Service Center will serve indirectly to consolidate and coordinate support activities in this area."

Source: Educational Service Center, Phase I: The Beginning, p. 2, Section II.A.

This statement constitutes the primary source documentation of the before state: microcomputer education and support at SDS was unstructured, reactive, and uncoordinated prior to the intervention documented in these records.

II. Evidentiary Record — Three Domains of Ordering

Domain 1: Technical Infrastructure

The concurrent engagement involved introducing microcomputers and integrating them into the existing IBM System/34 and System/38 communications infrastructure — documented in the Chapter 3 narrative as "an early instance of the PC-to-mainframe bridging work that would become standard across the industry within a decade." The client base included Cummins Atlantic and the trucking industry, managing tractor-trailer configuration and fleet data.

Source: Chapter 3 documentary narrative, Shared Data Systems section.

Domain 2: Fixed Assets Information System

A Fixed Assets Inventory Database was designed, coded, and documented for the Internal Auditor. The system documentation, dated Draft 7/6/87 and bearing the name of William J. Moressi, establishes the following:

- 316 records active as of 07/01/87
- 24-field database structure covering item description, serial numbers, equipment codes, system configuration, location codes, acquisition dates and values, maintenance status and fees, lease information for both Shared Leasing Company and customers
- Location codes spanning operations in North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, and Maryland — confirming multi-state scope
- Custom invoicing system for Shared Leasing Company (Option 4) and Shared Data Systems (Option 5)
- Customized data entry screen with full edit, delete, and print functionality

Source: Fixed Assets Inventory Database documentation, Draft 7/6/87, W.J. Moressi.

Domain 3: Educational Service Center

The Educational Service Center proposal (8/28/87) documents the conversion of the explicitly stated "ad hoc" training environment into a structured, staffed, budgeted, and CEU-certified educational organization. The primary source documents establish the following ordered outcomes:

Organizational Structure:

- Director/Educational Service Center Instructor
- Systems Manager/Instructor
- Operations Manager/Instructor
- Marketing and Records Manager
- Instructors

Facilities and Equipment:

- Dimensioned floor plan: 10 student workstations (36"×30"), 2 printer stations, instructor station, in 24' × 35'+ teaching lab
- Equipment specification: 11 IBM Personal System/2 Model 30 workstations, IBM MCGA video displays, 2 HP LaserJet printers, Baytech 12-port spooler
- Applications software: Lotus 1-2-3, Wordstar 2000, dBase III Plus (network and user licenses)
- Total equipment cost documented: \$41,723.62 (ESC_COST.Wk1, 06/03/87)

Curriculum developed and documented:

- Microcomputer Fundamentals Workshop — hardware, OS, three major applications
- Beginning Lotus 1-2-3 Workshop — three levels, spreadsheet through macros
- Beginning dBase III Workshop — database creation through report generation
- Word Processing (WS2000) Fundamentals Workshop — document creation through advanced formatting
- PC DOS (beginning and advanced)

CEU Certification framework:

- Procedures to be developed per Council on Continuing Education guidelines

- Evaluation criteria: 90%+ attendance, review assessment, performance in assigned projects, oral or written understanding of terms and concepts
- Certificates of course completion, permanent CEU record forms

Source: Educational Service Center, Phase I: The Beginning, 8/28/87; course syllabi — Microcomputer Fundamentals, Beginning Lotus 1-2-3, Beginning dBase III, Word Processing (WS2000); ESC equipment cost spreadsheet ESC_COST.Wk1, 06/03/87.

III. Documentary Timeline

Date	Document	Evidentiary Content
06/03/87	ESC_COST.Wk1	Equipment cost specification — \$41,723.62 total
04/06/87	Nagle memorandum	Shared Data Education Program — course curriculum and cost research
07/01/87	FASINV.dbf	Fixed Assets database — 316 records active
07/06/87	FAS documentation (Draft — W.J. Moressi)	Database system documentation authored by Moressi
08/28/87	ESC Proposal Phase I	Full organizational, facilities, curriculum, and implementation plan

The Negentropy Event: From Ad Hoc to Structured Order

The primary sources above document a corporate environment in which disorder across three operational domains — technical infrastructure, information systems, and workforce training — was converted into structured, functional order. The disorder state is documented in the primary sources' own language: education and support were "on an ad hoc basis." The ordered state is documented in equal detail: a 24-field database system serving multi-state operations, and a fully structured Educational Service Center with organizational hierarchy, dimensioned facilities, \$41,723.62 in specified equipment, four developed course curricula, and a CEU certification framework. The negentropy principle — disorder converted to order through deliberate design — is demonstrated here not in an academic context but in a functioning corporate environment, extending the evidentiary record across institutional boundaries.