



03/05/94 11:28am

IBM

3/30 - Talked to Joe Damassa. He is actively pursuing the situation. Research cancelled out on him last week because of fear of "contamination". He talked them into meeting yesterday. They are working with ESD. He feels that they are not as far along as we are. The critical factor in their minds is that hwX isn't good enough for people writing quickly, as when writing phone messages. They tested their system with 80 "off the street" people. They can get 99% correct when people are writing neatly, as with forms, etc., but drops to 50% when writing freely and hurrying. They don't believe that PC-based systems for notetaking is going to be OK. ESD got burned on PC portable because no backlight. They won't look at a machine if there isn't a backlight. Joe and they see hwX as the crux of the issue, and that's what he wants to look at with us. The research/ESD project has their sights set "low", and are not pressed for time at this stage. He is going to Bethesda to talk to some other internal cowboy that is working on a touch screen hwX system. He talked with Jim Rhyne, who he learned had talked to me about 7 months ago (true). Jim thought that we were just getting started at that time. I told Joe this was a misunderstanding, because I didn't tell him anything when we spoke, actually we were about a year into it. I explained that I knew Jim in passing when we were part of the computational linguistics community, I was a grad student or at Stanford. Joe will draft a set of questions for us, and fax them to us on Monday. He will be visiting here next Friday, 2:00+. The IBM Chief Scientists office is interested, called Joe. Their job is to identify hot technologies where IBM is not the leader, and get them into it. He said they "light a fire under projects". They are able to support projects outside. They heard that Joe was talking to us, and may want to get involved. Notebook computers is one of the areas they are investigating. Joe feels this is high visibility, and potentially very helpful. Joe expressed his excitement about this area, is obviously taking it seriously and working hard.

3/31 - Howard Field called. He is about to meet with Fernand's group to interview for a job. He will let me know how things go. Intimated that he might want to join us if he gets nowhere with them. Gave me his home phone (see above). I will call Sunday Morning 8-10 my time.

