User's Guide

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Serpent: C Application Developer's Guide



User Interface Project

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This report has been reviewed and is approved for publication.

FOR THE COMMANDER

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1 Introduction

Serpent is a user interface management system (UIMS) that supports the development and execution of a user interface of a software system. Serpent supports incremental development of the user interface from the prototyping phase through production to maintenance or sustaining engineering. Serpent encourages a separation of functionality between the user interface functional portions of a software system. Serpent is also easily extended to support additional user interface toolkits.

1.1 This Manual

This manual describes how to develop applications using Serpent. Readers are assumed to have read and understood the concepts described in the *Serpent Overview*, as well as to have had experience using the C programming language.

1.1.1 Organization

The contents of this guide include:

- Introduction and Overview. This chapter provides a general description of the role of an application in a software system developed with Serpent. It also describes a conceptual framework for application development.
- **Specifying the Contract.** This chapter describes the tasks necessary to define the type, structure and values of data to be shared between an application program and Serpent and to establish runtime communications with Serpent.
- Modifying Information. This chapter describes the tasks necessary to add, modify or remove information to/from the Serpent shared database.
- Retrieving Information. This chapter describes the tasks necessary to define and retrieve changes to information from the Serpent shared database.
- Finishing the Application. This chapter describes the finishing touches that should be applied to the application, including error checking and exception handling.
- **Testing and Debugging**. This chapter describes utilities available to assist in the testing and debugging of the application.
- Appendix A: Data Structures. This appendix is a complete reference of all
 the constants, types, routines, and other data structures available to Serpent
 application developers using the C programming language.

- **Appendix B: Routines.** This appendix is a complete reference of all the routines available to Serpent application developers using the C programming language.
- Appendix C: Commands for Testing Serpent Applications and Dialogues. This appendix is a reference of commands available to Serpent application developers from the operating system.
- **Appendix D: Spider Example**. This appendix is a complete application example, developed in the C programming language.

1.1.2 Typographical Conventions

Code examples Courier typeface

Code directly related to text Bold, courier typeface

Variables, attributes, etc.

Courier typeface
Syntax

Courier typeface

Warnings and cautions **Bold, italics**

1.2 Other Serpent Documents

The purpose of this guide is to provide the information necessary to develop Serpent applications. The following publications address other aspects of Serpent.

Serpent Overview

Introduces the Serpent system.

Serpent: System Guide

Describes installation procedures, specific input/output file descriptions for intermediate sites, and other information necessary to set up a Serpent application.

Serpent: Saddle User's Guide

Describes the language that is used to specify interfaces between an application and Serpent.

Serpent: Dialogue Editor User's Guide

Describes how to use the editor to develop and maintain a dialogue.

Serpent: Slang Reference Manual

Provides a complete reference to Slang, the language used to specify a dialogue.

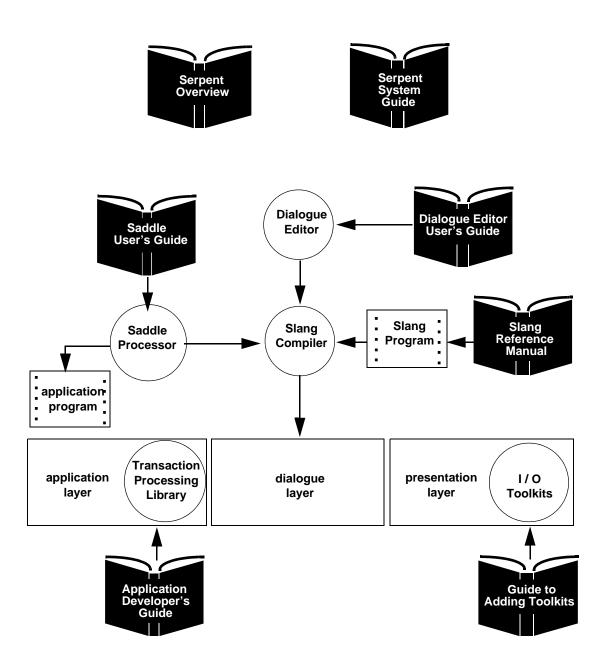
Serpent: Ada Application Developer's Guide

Describes how the application interacts with Serpent. This guide describes the runtime interface library, which includes routines that manage such functions as timing, notification of actions, and identification of specific instances of the data.

Serpent: Guide to Adding Toolkits

Describes how to add user interface toolkits, such as various Xt-based widget sets, to Serpent or to an existing Serpent application. Currently, Serpent includes bindings to the Athena Widget Set and the Motif Widget Set.

The following figure shows Serpent documentation in relation to the Serpent system:



2 Overview

A main goal of Serpent is to encourage the separation of a software system into an application portion and a user interface portion to provide the application developer with a presentation-independent interface. The application portion consists of those components of a software system that implement the "core" application functionality of a system. The user interface portion consists of those components that implement an end-user dialogue. A dialogue is a specification of the presentation of application information and end-user interactions.

During the design stage, the system designer decides which functions belong in the application component and which belong in the user interface component of the system.

2.1 Serpent Architecture

Serpent is implemented using a standard UIMS architecture. This architecture (see Figure 2-1) consists of three major layers: the *presentation layer*, the *dialogue layer*, and the *application layer*. The three different layers of the standard architecture are viewed as providing differing levels of end-user feedback.

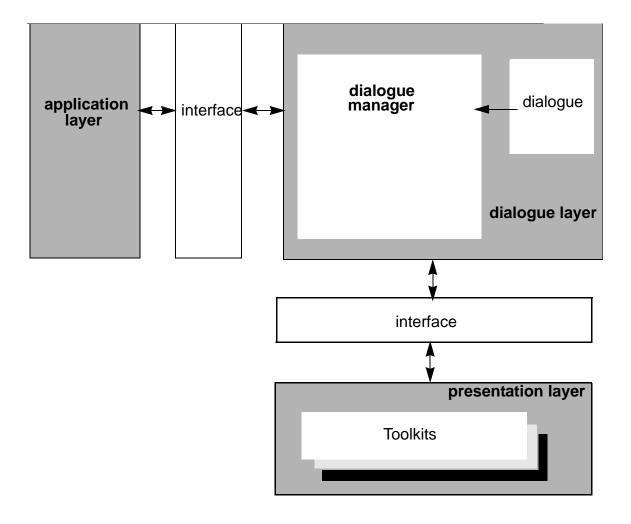


Figure 2-1 Serpent Architecture

The presentation layer consists of various input/output toolkits that have been incorporated into Serpent. Input/output toolkits are existing hardware/software systems that perform some level of generalized interaction with the end user. Serpent is being distributed with an interface to the X Window System, Version 11. Other input/output toolkits can be integrated with Serpent. See *Serpent: Guide to Adding Toolkits* for a discussion of how this can be accomplished.

One way of viewing the three levels of the architecture is the level of functionality provided for user input. The presentation layer is responsible for lexical functionality, the dialogue layer for syntactic functionality, and the application layer for semantic functionality. In terms of a menu example, the presentation layer has responsibility for determining which menu item was selected and for presenting feedback that indicates which choice is currently selected. The dialogue layer has responsibility for deciding whether another menu is presented and presenting it, or whether the choice requires application action. The application layer is responsible for implementing the command implied by the menu selection.

The end user interface for a software system is specified formally as a *dialogue*. The dialogue is executed by the dialogue manager at runtime in order to provide an end user interface for a software system. The dialogue specifies both the presentation of application information and end user interactions. The Serpent dialogue specification language (Slang) allows dialogues to be arbitrarily complex.

The application provides the functional portion of the software system in a presentation-independent manner. It may be developed in C, Ada, or other programming languages. The application may be either a functional simulation for prototyping purposes or the actual application in a delivered system. The actions of the application layer are based upon knowledge of the specific problem domain.

2.2 Shared Database

Serpent provides an active database model for specifying the user interface portion of a system. In an active database, multiple processes are allowed to update a database. Changes to the database are then propagated to each user of the database. This active database model is implemented in Serpent by a *shared database* that logically exists between the application and I/O toolkits. The application can add, modify, query, or remove data from the shared database. Information provided to Serpent by the application is available for presentation to the end user. The application has no knowledge of the presentation media or user interface styles used to present this information.

Information in the shared database may be updated by either the application or I/O toolkits. Figure 2-2 illustrates the use of the shared database in Serpent.

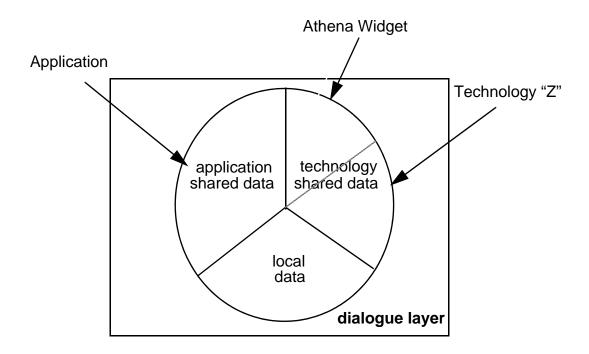


Figure 2-2 Shared Database

Serpent allows the specification of dependencies between elements in the shared database in the dialogue. These dependencies define a mapping among application data, presentation objects, and end user input. The dialogue manager enforces these dependencies by operating on the information stored in the shared database until the dependencies are met. Changes are then propagated to either the application or the I/O toolkits as appropriate. See the *Serpent: Slang Reference Manual* (CMU/SEI-91-UG-5) for a further discussion.

The *type* and *structure* of information that can be maintained in the shared database is defined externally in a *shared data definition file*. This corresponds to the database concept of *schemas*. A shared data definition file is required for each application.

A shared data definition file consists of both aggregate and scalar data structures. Top-level data structures become *shared data* elements that may be instantiated at runtime. Nested data structures become components that are considered part of the shared data element. Serpent does not allow nesting of records.

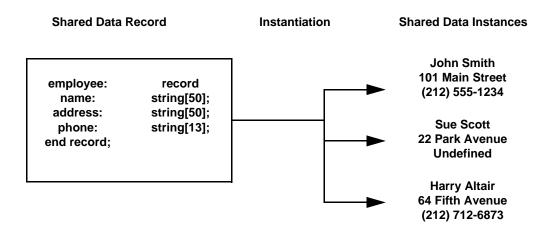


Figure 2-3 Shared Data Instantiation

It is possible to define multiple instances of a single shared data element. Shared data elements are instantiated by specifying the element name. Each *shared data instance* is identified by a unique *ID*. IDs must be maintained by the application to identify shared data instances when multiple instances of a single shared data element exist. Figure 2-3 provides an illustration of shared data instantiation.

Since the dialogue manager, the application, and any toolkits participating in a particular execution of Serpent are separate system processes that use the shared database, they can potentially modify the database concurrently, possibly compromising the integrity of the database. This problem is solved in Serpent through the use of database concurrency control techniques. Updates to the Serpent shared database are packaged in transactions. Transactions are collections of updates to the shared database that are logically processed at one time. Transactions can be *started*, *committed*, or *aborted*. A transaction which has been started but neither committed nor aborted yet is said to be *open*. Multiple transactions may be open at the same time. Committing a transaction causes the updates to be made to the shared database. Aborting a transaction causes termination of the transaction without any update of the shared database.

Communicating with Serpent

The application communicates with Serpent using the shared database model described earlier in this document. Information added to shared data is available to be presented to the end user by the dialogue. Changes to application data are automatically communicated back to the application.

2.3 Application Development

The application, or non-user interface portion of the system, provides the "core" functionality of a software system developed using Serpent. The application can be written in Ada, C, or other programming languages and can be either a simulation or an actual application.

An application may only add information to shared data or it may only retrieve information from shared data. For example, an application that monitors and displays the status of a computer network may only need to add information to shared data to update the display. An application such as an automatic teller machine (ATM) might only need to retrieve data from the user interface.

All transactions to and from the application are handled explicitly in the application using the routines and data structures available in the Serpent application interface. This document describes the usage and definitions of these routines and data structures.

Error Checking and Recovery

Each routine in Serpent sets status on exiting. It is the responsibility of the application developer to check this status to perform appropriate error recovery. Serpent provides routines to both check and print the status.

Testing and Debugging

Serpent provides a record/playback feature that can be used in testing and debugging. Transactions between the application and dialogue manager or between the dialogue manager and the various toolkits can be recorded, then played back at a later time. This is useful in isolating problems or in performing regression/stress testing of an application, dialogue, or toolkit.

Spider Example

The spider application is an example of an application system developed using Serpent. Figure 2-4 is an illustration of a "spider chart" display that is one possible end-user interface for the application.

Adapted from a command and control application, the spider application monitors and displays the status of various sensor sites and their associated communication lines to the two correlation centers (Figure 2-4).

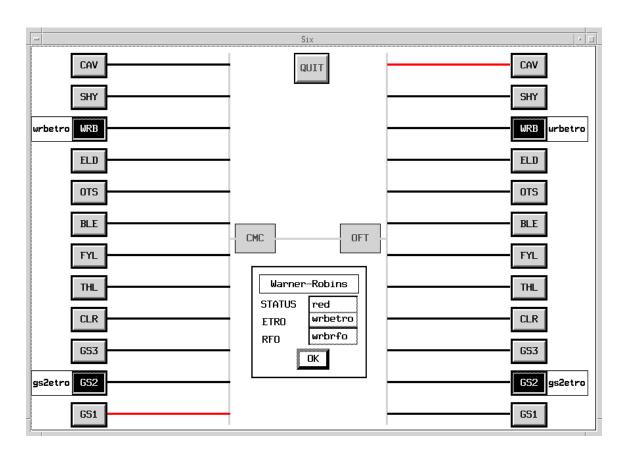


Figure 2-4 Spider Chart Display

The columns of rectangular boxes on the right and left sides of the spider chart display (for example, GS1, GS2) represent sensor sites. The rectangles in the middle of the display represent the correlation centers that collect information from the sensors. Each sensor site communicates with both correlation centers; this is represented by the duplication of sensor site boxes on both the right and left sides of the display. The lines represent communication lines between the sensor sites and the correlation centers. The status of sensors is represented by the shading of the rectangles. On a color display, the status would be represented using different background colors.

An operator may display detailed information concerning a sensor site by selecting a sensor site box corresponding to that sensor. This causes a detailed window to appear, displaying the status of the sensor, the date and time of the last message, the reason for outage (RFO) and the estimated time to returned operation (ETRO). These fields may be modified by the operator. Sensors may be in one of three states: operational, impaired, or down. For sensors that are not fully operational (i.e., the status is yellow) the ETRO is displayed to the outside of the sensor site box. ETROs are also displayed over communication lines that are not fully operational. The operator may also dynamically reconfigure the network¹ by adding/deleting sensors to/from the network.

 $^{^{}l}$ The capability of dynamically reconfiguring the network does not exist in the spider chart example distributed with Serpent Version 1.0.

3 Specifying the Contract

The first step in creating a software system using Serpent is to apportion system functionality between the dialogue and the application. This involves creating a contract between the two components: defining the type and structure of information to be communicated, or shared, between the two components; establishing the range of values of this data; and establishing runtime communication between the components.

3.1 Defining Shared Data

Shared data is information that is communicated or shared between the application and dialogue. Defining shared data involves two steps:

- 1. Create the shared data definition file.
- 2. Run the created file through the Saddle processor.

The following is a brief description of each of these two steps. The *Serpent: Saddle User's Guide* contains a more complete description of both these steps.

Step 1: Create the shared data definition file. The shared data definition file defines the type and structure of information that can be shared between the application and dialogue. The shared data definition is specified in Saddle. By convention, the file is given the name of the application, followed by the extension .sdd.

Example 3-1 is an example of a shared data definition file for the spider application. The content of the shared data definition file is independent of the implementation language used. Note that these shared data record templates contain only information to define the application objects; they do not specify how the information is presented to the end user.

```
<< spiderA >>
spider: shared data

sensor_sdd: record
    site_abbr: string[3];
    status: integer;
    site: string[32];
    last_message: string[8];
    rfo: buffer[32];
    etro: string[8];
end record;

cc_sdd: record
    name: string[3];
    status: integer;
end record;

communication line sdd: record
```

```
from_sensor: id of sensor_sdd;
  to_cc: id of cc_sdd;
  etro: string[8];
  status: integer;
end record;
```

Example 3-1 Spider Shared Data Definition File

The file shown in Example 3-1 contains definitions for the data shared between the application and the dialogue for the spider application. The first line of the file contains the name (and possible path information) of the executable image of the application. This application is automatically executed by the Serpent command at runtime. (*Serpent: System Guide* contains a complete explanation of this process.) The three shared data record templates define the type and structure of the sensor, correlation center, and communication line application objects.

Step 2: Run the created file through the Saddle processor. Once the shared data has been defined in the file, it can be processed by Saddle to generate a C language header file. This file will have the same name as the shared data definition file with a different extension. For example, the shared data file <code>spiderA.sdd</code> will generate the header file <code>spiderA.h</code>. This header file can then be included in the C application and used to declare local variables of the shared data types. The C header file generated by running the shared data definition file shown in Example 3-1 through the Saddle processor is illustrated in Example 3-2.

```
#define MAIL BOX "sss mailbox"
#define ILL FILE "sss.ill"
typdef struct {
    char site abbr[4];
    int status;
    char site[33];
    char last message[9];
    char rfo[\overline{3}3];
    char etro[9];
 } sensor sdd;
typedef struct {
   char name [4];
   int status;
 } cc sdd;
typedef struct {
                                /*ID of sensor */
    id type from sensor;
    id type to cc;
                                 /*ID of correlation center */
    char etro[9];
    int status;
 } line sdd;
```

Example 3-2 C Language Header File

In Example 3-2, the first two lines in the file define two well-known constants: MAIL_BOX and ILL_FILE. These constants will be used in initializing Serpent. The three structures correspond to the record templates defined within the shared data definition file.

3.2 Data Types and Values

One output of processing the shared data definition file through the Saddle processor is a C header file containing corresponding C structures for the shared data records. These C structures can be used to declare local variables that correspond in size and structure to shared data records or used as casts. Components of shared data records can be declared as any of the following types: boolean, integer, real, string, ID or buffer. The C structures generated from these declarations depend on the type of the components. Example 3-3 is unrelated to the spider example used throughout this guide but includes a description of a shared data record that contains an example of each type of component.

```
employee_sdd: record
name: string[32];
salary: integer;
exempt: boolean;
experience: real;
job_desc: buffer;
self: id of employee_sdd;
end record;
```

Example 3-3 Shared Data Definition

Example 3-4 shows the C structure that is generated when the employee_sdd record is processed by Saddle processor.

```
typedef struct {
  char name[33];
  int salary;
boolean exempt;
double experience;
  buffer job_desc;
  id_type self;
} employee_sdd;
```

Example 3-4 Generated C Structure

Although each shared data component is now represented using a C language specific type, there is still a Serpent data type associated with each of them. The Serpent data type can be determined at runtime using the <code>get_shared_data_type</code> function illustrated in Example 3-5. The <code>serpent_data_type</code> is an enumeration of the different Serpent data types and is defined in Appendix A.

```
serpent_data_type type;
/*

** Get the Serpent type of the employee record salary
** component.

*/

type = get_shared_data_type("employee", "salary");
```

Example 3-5 Serpent Data Type

Shared data values specified as strings in the shared data definition file are represented by character arrays in the C header files generated by the Saddle processor. It is therefore not necessary to allocate heap memory for these strings, although it is necessary to use the Unix stropy function (see Example 3-6) or a similar utility to copy data into the character array.

```
/*
** Declare a local shared data variable.
*/
employee_sdd employee;
/*
** Use strcpy to assign a string value.
*/
strcpy (employee.name, "Harry Alter");
```

Example 3-6 Assigning Values to String Components

Shared data components of type integer, boolean, real, or ID can be assigned directly to C language variables. IDs are returned from a number of Serpent routines and are id_type. Saddle integers and booleans are actually of C type int and Saddle reals are actually of C type double. (See Example 3-7.)

```
#define false 0
#define true 1

/*

** Integer, boolean, real or id components can be set

** directly.

*/
  employee.salary = 45000;
  employee.exempt = false;
  employee.salary = 3.2;
```

Example 3-7 Assigning Values to Integer, Boolean, Real or ID Components

Buffer is the only dynamic shared data type in that neither the size nor the type of the information is predefined. Example 3-8 describes the buffer structure. Buffer type is required and specifies the type of information stored in the buffer. Buffer length is the size in bytes of the data and is required even if the data is of a well known type (i.e., integer). Buffer body is a pointer to the actual data. The space used to maintain this data is not part of the buffer structure and must be managed by the user.

```
typedef struct {
  serpent_data_types type;
  int length;
  caddr_t body;
} buffer;
```

Example 3-8 Buffer Structure

Buffers can be used to:

- Share untyped, contiguous data.
- Share large amounts of contiguous data (i.e., large strings).
- Provide variant records.

Example 3-9 contains the example of the employee.site buffer being used as a string.

```
/*
** This buffer is being used as a string.
*/
employee.job_desc.type = serpent_string;
employee.job_desc.length = strlen("Look busy")+ 1;
employee.job_desc.body = malloc(employee.job_desc.length);
strcpy(employee.job_desc.body, "Look busy");
```

Example 3-9 Assigning Values to Buffer Components

Shared data values can also be undefined. All uninitialized components of a shared data record instance created using the add_shared_data function are initialized by Serpent to be undefined. On the other hand, components of a local, shared data variable have whatever values are left by the system—most likely zeros. If this structure is used to initialize the shared data instance (with the add_shared_data or put_shared_data routines), all the components of the instance are initialized with these values. Components of local, shared data variables can be explicitly set to undefined using the set_undefined routine illustrated in Example 3-10. The is_undefined function can be used to determine if a component value is undefined.

```
/*
** The set_undefined function is used to set the value of
** a component to undefined.
*/
set_undefined(serpent_buffer, &employee.job_desc);
```

Example 3-10 Setting Component Values to Undefined

3.3 Initialization and Cleanup

The first task of any Serpent application is to initialize the system. Serpent initialization establishes communication between the application and the dialogue. The final application task is to clean up the Serpent system environment before exiting. The code segment from the spider application shown in Example 3-11 illustrates the basic operations necessary for Serpent initialization and cleanup.

```
#include "serpent.h" /* serpent interface definition */
main() {
  serpent_init(MAIL_BOX,ILL_FILE);
  serpent_cleanup();
}
```

Example 3-11 Serpent Initialization

Specification Steps:

- 1. *Include Serpent header file*. The serpent . h file contains the external definition for the Serpent interface.
- 2. *Initialize Serpent*. The serpent_init procedure is used to initialize Serpent. It takes as parameters the MAIL_BOX and ILL_FILE constants generated by the Saddle processor. This procedure establishes communication between the application and the dialogue manager.
- 3. *Clean up.* The serpent_cleanup routine must be invoked before exiting the application. It is important to complete this step to release allocated system resources.

4 Modifying Information

The application can add, change, or remove information to and from the shared database using the transaction mechanism described in the introductory chapter of this document. Together, these are considered modifications to the shared database. The collection of application data in the shared database is known as the *view*. This is the information that is available to the dialogue writer to be presented to the end user. The view can be modified by either the application or the dialogue.

4.1 Sending Transactions

Before information can be modified in the shared database, it is necessary to start a transaction. All modifications to the shared database must be performed as part of a transaction.

It is possible to have multiple transactions open at one time. Each transaction has a unique transaction handle. Every operation performed on or to a transaction must specify this transaction handle.

The actual change to the shared database does not occur until the transaction is committed. Up to this point it is also possible to roll back the transaction so that none of the changes to shared data occur.

The code segment from the spider application in Example 4-1 shows the operations necessary for sending transactions. Code and comments directly related to the task are emphasized in bold type.

```
#include "serpent.h" /* serpent interface definition */
main() {
  transaction_type transaction; /* transaction handle */
  serpent_init(MAIL_BOX,ILL_FILE);
  transaction = start_transaction();
  commit_transaction(transaction);
  serpent_cleanup();
}
```

Example 4-1 Sending Transactions

Specification Steps:

1. Declare *transaction variable*. A local variable of transaction_type can be used to maintain a transaction handle.

- 2. **Start a transaction.** The start_transaction function returns a transaction handle that must be passed to any subsequent commands operating on the transaction.
- 3. *Commit the transaction.* The actual change to shared data does not occur until the transaction is committed. Up to this point it is also possible to roll back the transaction using the rollback_transaction routine so that none of the changes to shared data occur.

4.2 Adding Static Information

This section makes some simplifying assumptions about the application that may in fact hold true for simple programs. The primary assumption is that the application will create only a fixed number of shared data instances so that the IDs of these instances can be maintained in local variables. A secondary assumption is that the application will create no more than one instance of each shared data element.

At any given moment, there can be up to three different versions of any given shared data instance. First, there is a local copy in the application. Second, there can be a copy that is part of an open transaction. Third, there is a copy in the shared database. Depending upon whether the shared data instance has been last modified by the application or by the enduser, the more current copy could be either the local application or shared database copy. A shared data instance that is part of an open transaction is the delta from the more current to less current copy of the shared data instance. The shared data copy being affected by any given operation should be apparent from the context.

Variables of generated shared data types are referred to as shared data variables. The first step in adding information to shared data is to assign values to these shared data variables. The method for doing this is based on the Serpent types of the components and is explained in detail in Section 3.2. These variables can then be used to initialize a record instance, either a component at a time or the entire record at once.

Once a transaction has been started, you can begin to add, change or remove information to/from the shared database as part of this transaction. These changes are made as part of the transaction and are not applied to the shared database until the transaction is committed.

The code segment from the spider application in Example 4-2 illustrates the operations involved in adding information to the shared database. Code and comments directly related to the task are emphasized in bold type.

```
#include "serpent.h"
                       /* serpent interface definition */
#include "spiderA.h"
                       /* application data structures */
#define GREEN STATUS 0
#define YELLOW STATUS 1
#define RED STATUS 2
main() {
 transaction type transaction; /* transaction handle */
                                /* shared data variables */
 cc sdd cmc;
                                /* shared data variables */
 sensor sdd gs1;
 id type cmc id,gs1 id;
                               /* object instances */
serpent init (MAIL BOX, ILL FILE);
** Initialize shared data variables.
*/
 strcpy(cmc.name, "CMC");
cmc.status = GREEN STATUS;
gs1.status = RED STATUS;
** Start a transaction to be sent to the dialogue.
*/
transaction = start transaction();
** Create an instance of the correlation center shared data
** record in the transaction and initialize using the shared
** data variable.
*/
 cmc id = add shared data(
    transaction, "correlation_center", NULL, &cmc
);
** Create an instance of the sensor shared data record but
** this time update only the name component.
gs1 id = add shared data(
   transaction, "sensor", "name", &gsl.name
 commit transaction(transaction);
 serpent_cleanup();
```

Example 4-2 Adding Information to the Shared Database

Specification Steps:

1. *Include Saddle generated header file*. This file (spiderA.h in the example) defines the structure of the shared data. The file serpent.h must be included before spiderA.h because spidera.h uses types defined in serpent.h.

- 2. *Define constants*. The spider example contains three constants: GREEN_STATUS, YELLOW_STATUS, and RED_STATUS. These constants are not required but help increase the clarity of the example.
- Define shared data variables. Variables cmc and gs1 are both instances of generated shared data structures. These variables are used to initialize instances of shared data in the shared database.
 - The variables cmc_id and gs1_id are used to store the ids of the created shared data instances. These variables are declared to be of id_type. The ids are necessary to perform further operations on these instances in the shared database.
- 4. *Assign values to shared data variables.* The mechanism for accomplishing this task depends on the component types. This is explained in detail in Section 3.2.
- 5. Add information to the shared database. The add_shared_data routine creates a shared data instance as part of the specified transaction and returns the ID of the instance. The routine allows you to initialize a single component of the instance by specifying the name of the component and providing a pointer to the initial value. Any uninitialized fields of the instance are left undefined. It is also possible to initialize the entire instance by providing a pointer to the structure and specifying NULL for the component name.

4.3 Adding Dynamic Information

In larger, more complex software systems it is not always practical to declare a fixed collection of variables to represent data. The management of dynamically created data structures is often radically different from that of static variables. The purpose of this section is to reexamine how the application can create and manage shared data in this more complex environment. To do this, the spider chart example has been modified to display n sensors, where n is defined in an external file along with the sensor data.

The code segment from the spider application in Example 4-3 illustrates the operations involved in adding dynamic information to the shared database. Code and comments directly related to the task are emphasized in bold type.

```
serpent init(MAIL BOX,ILL FILE);
** Create an id hashtable. This table contains the ids of
** all the shared data instances in the shared database at
** any given time.
 id table = make hashtable(
   MAX HASH, sss hash id, sss match id
);
/*
** Start a transaction.
transaction = start transaction();
** Sensor data is stored in an external file.
fp = fopen("sdata", "r");
** The first field in the file contains the number of sensors.
fscanf(fp, "%d", &sensor count);
** Read in each sensor and put into shared data.
*/
 i = 0;
while (i++ < sensor count) \{/* \text{ while sensor's left}\}
                                                         */
** Create shared data record instance.
    sensor = (sensor sdd *)make node(sizeof(sensor sdd));
** Read in sensor data into shared data record instance.
** Note: '&' address operators are omitted from most
** components because they are arrays and are already passed
** by reference.
    fscanf(
      fp, "%s%d%s%s%s%s",
      sensor->site abbr,
     &sensor->status,
      sensor->site,
      sensor->last message,
      sensor->rfo,
      sensor->etro
    );
** Put sensor into shared data.
    sensor->self = add shared data(
      transaction, "sensor sdd", NULL, NULL
    put shared data(
      transaction, sensor->self, "sensor sdd", NULL, sensor
/*
** Add shared data instance to id table.
    add to hashtable(id table, sensor, sensor->self);
              /* end while file not empty
                                                            */
```

```
** Close the data file.
*/
fclose(fp);
commit_transaction(transaction);
serpent_cleanup();
}
```

Example 4-3 Adding Information to the Shared Database

Specification Steps:

- 1. Add self component to shared data record templates. The self component is used to store the ID of a shared data instance directly in the shared data structure. This field of the structure is used in the example to identify the particular shared data instance. The self component is of type id. To add this component to the shared data record template, it is necessary to modify the shared data definition file and then repeat the steps described in Section 3.1.
- 2. *Include Saddle generated header file*. The spiderA.h header file contains the shared data structures for the spider example. This file must be included after serpent.h since serpent_A.h uses types defined in this other file.
- 3. **Define local variables.** The next preliminary step is to define local variables. The sensor variable declared in Example 4-4 is no longer an instance but a pointer to the sensor_sdd structure. This variable will be used to reference dynamically allocated local instances of the sensor structure.
 - The id_table variable is a hash table that is used to store and access local instances of sensor data. The hash table has proven to be a very effective data structure for accomplishing this since the lookup can be done using ID values, which are unique. An implementation of hash tables, as well as other abstract data structures, are included in the C-programmer's toolkit that is distributed with Serpent.
- 4. *Create local data structures*. A local shared data instance is created (allocated from memory) for each sensor in the file. These instances are stored in a hash table that must also be created.
- 5. *Initialize local shared data instances*. Each local shared data value must then be initialized. In Example 4-4, this is accomplished by reading the data directly into the sensor structure from the file.

- 6. Add information to the shared database. Once a transaction has been started and the data initialized, information can be added to the shared database. In Example 4-4, this is a two-step procedure. An uninitialized sensor instance is created with the add_shared_data function. The resulting id is assigned to the self component of the local shared data instance. The sensor instance is then initialized using the put_shared_data procedure that behaves much like the add_shared_data function but operates on an existing shared data instance.
- 7. *Update the local database.* The last step is to add the local shared data instance to the hash table using the ID of the shared data instance. This ID can later be used as an identifier in updating changes to shared data in local data.

4.4 Modifying Information

Shared data instances in transactions or in the shared database can be modified using the put_shared_data procedure. This procedure takes as a parameter the ID of the shared data instance.

It is possible to modify any single component of a shared data record instance, or the entire record. Unmodified components in the transaction are marked as unchanged and maintain their current values. This is different from components that are explicitly set to undefined, which is actually a value.

The code segment from the spider application in Example 4-4 illustrates the operations involved in adding dynamic information to the shared database. Code and comments directly related to the task are emphasized in bold type.

```
#include "serpent.h"
                       /* serpent interface definition */
#include "spiderA.h"
                       /* application data structures */
main() {
 transaction type transaction;
 sensor sdd gs1;
                                /* shared data variables */
                               /* object instances */
 id type cmc id, gs1 id;
 serpent init(MAIL_BOX,ILL_FILE);
 transaction = start transaction();
** Update the name component of the sensor using a
** string constant.
*/
 put shared data(
    transaction, gs1 id, "sensor", "status", "GS1"
```

```
);
commit_transaction(transaction);
serpent_cleanup();
```

Example 4-4 Modifying Information in the Shared Database

Specification Task

Modifying information in the shared database. The put_shared_data routine modifies the values of shared data instances that have already been created and are part of a transaction. This routine works in an identical manner to the add_shared_data call except that it takes an extra parameter, the ID of the shared data instance to be modified. The put_shared_data routine in Example 4-5 is used to assign a value (a string) to the name component of the first shared data instance.

4.5 Removing Information

Shared data instances in transactions or in the shared database can be removed using the remove_shared_data procedure. It is not possible to remove components of shared data record instances.

The code segment from the spider application in Example 4-5 illustrates the operations involved in removing information from the shared database. Code and comments directly related to the task are emphasized in bold type.

```
/* serpent interface definition */
#include "serpent.h"
#include "spiderA.h" /* application data structures */
main() {
transaction type transaction;
                                /* shared data variables */
 sensor sdd gs1;
 id type cmc id, gs1 id;
                                /* object instances */
 serpent init(MAIL BOX, ILL FILE);
transaction = start transaction();
** Update the name component of the sensor using a
** string constant.
remove shared data(transaction, "sensor sdd", gs1 id);
commit_transaction(transaction);
 serpent cleanup();
```

Example 4-5 Removing Information from the Shared Database

Specification Task

Removing information from the shared database. The remove_shared_data procedure is used to remove a shared data instance from either the transaction or the shared database. The procedure takes a transaction handle, the element name, and the ID of the shared data instance to be deleted as parameters.

5 Retrieving Information

Serpent implements an *active database model* from the perspective of the application interface. This means that changes to application data resulting from end-user interactions with the system are automatically communicated back to the application, using the same transaction mechanism described in Section 4.3.

Transactions from the dialogue to the application consist of a list of changed shared data instances. The following assumptions are true about incoming transactions:

- Incoming transactions are guaranteed to have at least one changed shared data instance since empty transactions are automatically discarded by the interface.
- Changed shared data elements appear in random order in the transaction.
- Transactions remain unmodified in memory until the transaction is purged. This allows the application developer, for example, to reexamine changed instances.

5.1 Retrieving Transactions

The code segment from the spider application shown in Example 5-3 illustrates the basic operations of retrieving information from the shared database.

Specification Steps:

- 1. *Get the transaction*. The Serpent interface provides both synchronous and asynchronous calls for getting information from the shared database. The get_transaction routine waits until a transaction is available and then returns a handle for this transaction. The get_transaction_no_wait routine returns not_available when no transaction is available.
- 2. Get each changed shared data instance. The get_first_changed_element routine returns the first changed shared data element instance in the transaction and marks it as the *current* element. The get_next_changed_element routine returns the element directly following the current element and marks it as current. The null_id is returned if there is no next element instance on the list.
- Purge the transaction. Once the transaction has been fully processed, it should be purged from the system. This frees system resources that could otherwise run out.

Code and comments directly related to the task are emphasized in bold type.

Example 5-1 Transaction Processing

5.2 Incorporating Changes

Changed element instances from the dialogue need to be processed for any changes in the application domain to be affected. The Serpent application interface provides several routines for the purpose of processing changed shared data elements.

This section makes some simplifying assumptions about the application that may in fact hold true for simple programs. The primary assumption is that the application has created only a fixed number of shared data instances so that the IDs of these instances can be maintained as static, local variables. A secondary assumption is that the application has created no more than one instance of each shared data record.

The code segment from the spider application in Example 5-2 illustrates the operations involved in incorporating changes to shared data elements in static, local variables. Code and comments directly related to the task are emphasized in bold type.

```
main() {
  id_type id;
  transaction_type transaction;
  string element_name;
   .
```

```
id = get_first_changed_element(transaction);

/*

** Get each changed record instance in the transaction.

*/

while (id != null_id) {

    element_name = get_element_name(transaction, id);

/*

** If the record is a correlation center then this must

** be the cmc shared data variable.

*/

    if (strcmp(element_name, "cc_sdd") == 0) {
        incorporate_changes(transaction, id, &cmc);
    }

/*

** Otherwise, this must be the gsl variable.

*/

    else {
        incorporate_changes(transaction, id, &gsl);
    }

    id = get_next_changed_element(transaction);
    }

    return();
}
```

Example 5-2 Processing Changes to Shared Data Records (Simple Programs)

Specification Steps:

- 1. *Get the element name*. This is a simple call that returns a pointer to the element name. For simple programs that have no more than one instance of a particular shared data record, the element name can be used to identify the shared data instance. In larger, more complex systems it is often useful in determining a class of shared data instances.
- 2. Update local database. Shared data variables can be updated using the incorporate_changes routine. This routine directly incorporates changes in the shared data instance into the local variable. Components of the shared data record that have not been changed are left untouched. By continually incorporating changes into the initial shared data variable, the application developer is guaranteed that application data remains consistent with user input.

5.3 Processing Dynamic Elements

In larger systems, it is often necessary to dynamically create shared data records, or instantiate multiple instances of a single shared data record. This section describes how changed shared data record instances can be managed in these situations.

In the dialogue, it is also possible to create, modify, or remove instances of application shared data as a result of input from the end user. This is known as the *change type*. Each shared data record instance in a transaction has an associated change type.

These steps are illustrated in Example 5-3 taken from the spider chart example. Code and comments directly related to the task are emphasized in bold type.

```
main() {
 id type id;
 transaction type transaction;
 sensor sdd *sensor;
 change type change;
    id = get first changed element(transaction);
  Get each changed record instance in the transaction.
    while (id != null id) {
       change = get change type(transaction, id);
** Update the local database based on the change type.
      switch(change) {
        case create:
            sensor = get shared data(transaction, id, NULL);
            add to hashtable(id table, sensor, id);
          break;
        case modify:
            sensor = get from hashtable(id table, id);
            incorporate changes(transaction, id, sensor);
          break;
        case remove:
            sensor = delete from hashtable(id table, id);
          free (sensor);
          break;
      }
                       /* end switch
                                                   */
       id = get next changed element(transaction);
 return();
```

Example 5-3 Processing Changes to Shared Data Records (Large Systems)

Specification Steps:

1. *Determine the change type*. The change type can be obtained using the get change type function.

2. **Update the local database based on the change type.** The exact type of processing required to update the local database is based primarily on the change type. If this is a new shared data element (e.g., the change type is create) the get_shared_data function can be used to create a copy of the record instance. The memory required for this copy is automatically allocated from process memory using the make_node function provided in the C Toolkit memoryPack utility distributed with Serpent. This copy can then be added to the hash table.

If the change type is modify, the local shared data instance can be obtained from the hash table. The incorporate_changes routine can then be used to update the contents of this instance with changed component values.

If the shared data record instance in the shared database has been deleted, the application developer may want to delete it from the local database as well. Memory allocated by the get_shared_data function should be freed using the free_node procedure provided in the C Toolkit memoryPack utility.

5.4 Examining Changes by Component

The Serpent application programmer's interface provides routines that allow the application developer to examine each changed component in a changed record individually.

The operations are illustrated in Example 5-4, taken from the spider chart example. Code and comments directly related to the task are emphasized in bold type.

```
loop_through list(
      changed components, component name, string
) {
      type = get shared data type(
        element name, component name
     );
        (type == serpent id) {
         id data = (id type *)get shared data(
           transaction, id, component name
       );
     }
                      /* endif id type
                                                  */
   }
                      /* end loop through list
                                                  */
      free list(changed components, NOT NODES);
      id = get next changed element(transaction);
return();
```

Example 5-4 Processing Changes to Shared Data Records (Large Systems)

Specification Steps:

- 1. *Get the list of changed components*. A list of changed components can be obtained by using the create changed component list function.
- 2. **Loop through the list.** The listPack contained in the C toolkit distributed with Serpent provides a number of routines that can be used for processing the elements on a list.
- 3. **Examine the type and/or data.** The Serpent application programmer's interface provides routines to examine both the type and the data at the component level. The get_shared_data_type returns a serpent_data_type. The get_shared_data routine can also be used to return the component value instead of the element instance value by specifying the name of a component. Serpent automatically allocates the storage for the component value but it is the application programmer's responsibility to free this storage (using the free_node procedure available in the C toolkit memoryPack).
- 4. **Destroy the changed component list.** The changed component list can be destroyed using the free_list routine from the C toolkit listPack.

6 Finishing the Application

Other than sending and retrieving data, the application can determine errors from the use of Serpent, record communication between the application and Serpent and exit according to a signal received from the dialogue.

6.1 Error Checking

Each routine in Serpent sets status on exit. It is good software engineering practice to check status after every call to make sure that the routine has executed correctly, and provide appropriate recovery actions if it has not. Example 6-1 illustrates the routines provided by Serpent for examining the status.

```
transaction = start_transaction();
if(get_status() != ok) {
  print_status("error during start_transaction");
  serpent_cleanup();
}
```

Example 6-1 Examining Status

The first of these routines is get_status, which returns an enumeration of status codes. Valid statuses returned by each routine in Serpent are defined in Appendix B. Successful execution (or "OK") is always set to zero; hence, it is possible to make a simple boolean comparison for bad status.

The print status routine prints a user-defined error message and the current status.

6.2 Recording Transactions

Transactions between the application and the dialogue can be recorded using the start_recording and stop_recording procedures available in the Serpent application programmers interface. After the call to start_recording is made, transactions may be sent across the interface. Any number of transactions containing any type or amount of data can be sent. Once start_recording has been called, all transactions and associated data will be written to the specified file until the stop recording routine is invoked.

Transactions can be examined using the format command described in Section 7.1. This is useful in debugging since it allows the examination of information flow across the interface. Transactions can also be played back to simulate either application or dialogue functionality using the playback command described in Section 7.2.

Before testing the application or the dialogue, first record the transactions to be used in testing. Example 6-2 illustrates the basic operations for recording transactions.

Example 6-2 Recording Transactions

Specification Steps:

- 1. *Start recording*. The start_recording routine takes as parameters both the name of the file in which to save the recording and a message to help identify the recording.
- 2. **Send transactions.** After the call to start_recording is made, transactions may be sent across the interface.
- 3. *Stop recording*. The stop_recording function closes the current recording file.

6.3 Dialogue Initiated Exit

The dialogue can terminate at any time using the exit command available to the dialogue specifier. The exit command sends a SIGINT signal to the application. This signal will cause the application to exit immediately, unless a signal handler has been registered with the operating system.

The signal handler describes the steps to be taken when the dialogue initiates an exit. Typically, this involves saving data structures out to permanent storage and exiting the system.

The code segment in Example 6-3 taken from the spider chart illustrates the operations necessary to handle dialogue initiated exit. Code and comments directly related to the task are emphasized in bold type.

Example 6-3 Signal Handler for Dialogue Initiated Exit

Specification Steps:

- 1. *Include Unix signal handling*. The signal.h include file contains the external definitions for signal processing.
- 2. Write the signal handler. The signal handler describes the steps to be taken when the dialogue initiates an exit. Remember to invoke serpent_cleanup before exiting.
- 3. **Register the signal handler.** The signal handler must be associated with the SIGINT signal. This is accomplished using the Unix signal function.

7 Testing and Debugging

The recording capability discussed in Chapter 3 provides a mechanism to assist in testing and debugging.

7.1 Formatting Recordings

Application recordings are saved in a binary format file. The format command distributed with Serpent converts this file into a formatted, easy-to-read report. The information in the file can be useful in isolating problems to either the application or the dialogue.

```
% format recording
FORMATTING JOURNAL FILE: recording
HEADER:
   dialogue name:
  message: no comment at this time
   ill file name: se.ill
  mailbox name: SE BOX
PARTICIPANT:
   ill file name: se.ill
   mailbox name: DM BOX
TRANSACTION:
 Fri Jan 25 15:17:13:800 1991
   Sender: SE BOX
   Receiver: DM BOX
   Element name: dialogue sdd Change type: create ID: 955
                            buffer
buffer
                                       UNDEFINED BUFFER
      shared data
                                       UNDEFINED BUFFER
      termination
                                      UNDEFINED BUFFER
     macros
                            buffer
                            buffer
                                       UNDEFINED BUFFER
      externs
      initialization
                           buffer
                                       UNDEFINED BUFFER
                            integer
     count
                            string
                                       UNDEFINED STRING
     name
                            buffer
                                       UNDEFINED BUFFER
     prologue
응
```

Example 7-1 Formatting the Recording File

7.2 Playback

Once you have made a recording, it is possible play back the recording to simulate one or more of the Serpent processes. To simulate the spider application, for example, you would run the playback command provided with Serpent specifying the name of the recording file and the mailbox of the process to be simulated, as illustrated in Example 7-2.

```
% app-test recording SPIDERA_BOX
Playing back journal file: recording
Message: regression test data, 5.7.3
Playback completed successfully
%
```

Example 7-2 Testing the Application

Appendix A Data Structures

This appendix presents in alphabetical order the type and constant definitions that are used in the C language interface to the Serpent system. The following is a list and short description of each of these types and constants. A more complete description immediately follows:

Type/Constant Description

buffer used to define the structure of a shared data buffer change_type defines the type of modification made for an element

id_type used to uniquely identify shared data elements

null_id defines the null value for the id_type serpent data types an enumeration of defined Serpent data types

transaction type used to define transaction handles

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buffer

Description	The buffer type allows the communication of <i>n</i> bytes of application data along with an indication of the type. Buffer is the only dynamic shared data type in that neither the size nor the type of the information is predefined. Buffers can be used to: share untyped, contiguous data; share large amounts of contiguous data (i.e., large strings); provide variant records.			
Definition	<pre>typedef struct { int length; caddr_t body; serpent_data_type type; } buffer;</pre>	;		
Components	length	Size in bytes of the data. This field is required even if the data is of a well known type (i.e., integer).		
	body	A pointer to the actual data. The space used to maintain this data is not part of the buffer structure and must be managed by the user.		
	type	The type of information stored in the buffer. This field is also required.		

change_type

Description	The change_type defines the type of modification made for an element			
Definition	typedef enum	·		
	no_change =	-1,		
	create = 0,			
	<pre>modify = 1,</pre>			
	remove = 2,			
	get = 3			
	} change_type	;		
Components	no_change	Not changed or invalid change.		
	remove	Existing shared data instance removed.		
	create	New shared data instance created.		
	modify	Existing shared data instance modified.		
	remove	Existing shared data instance removed.		

id_type

Description	The id_type is used to uniquely identify shared data elements.
Definition	typedef private id_type;

CONSTANT

null_id

Description	The null_id constant defines the null value for the id_type. This constant can be used to test for null ID values.		
	#define null id(iid id type)-1		

serpent_data_type

Definition

The serpent_data_type type is an enumeration of defined Serpent data types.

Definition

typedef enum data_type {
 serpent_null_data_type =-1,
 serpent_boolean =0,
 serpent_integer =1,
 serpent_real =2,
 serpent_string =3,
 serpent_record =4,
 serpent_id =5,
 serpent_buffer =6,
 serpent_undefined =7
 } serpent_data_type;

D	ata	S	tr	110	cti	ıır	es
$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{L}}$	ata	\mathbf{v}	u	u١	$-\iota$	uı	-

transaction_type

Description

 $Variables\ of\ \verb|transaction_type|\ are\ used\ to\ define\ transactions.$

Appendix B Routines

This appendix presents in alphabetical order the functions and procedures that make up the C language interface to Serpent. These routines can be categorized as follows:

Initialization/Cleanup

- serpent_init
- serpent_cleanup

Transaction Processing

- start_transaction
- commit transaction
- rollback_transaction
- get_transaction
- get_transaction_no_wait
- purge_transaction

Sending and Retrieving Data

- add_shared_data
- put_shared_data
- remove_shared_data
- get_first_changed_element
- get_next_changed_element
- get_shared_data
- incorporate changes
- create_changed_component_list
- get_change_type
- get_element_name
- get_shared_data_type

Undefined Values

- set_undefined
- is_undefined

Record/Playback

- · start_recording
- stop_recording

Routines

Checking Status

- get_status
- print_status

add_shared_data

Description		ata routine creates an instance for the specified dreturns a unique ID. The shared data instance may or
Syntax	/* element_name	: in transaction_type */ e: in string */ ame: in string */
Parameters	transaction element_name component_name	The transaction for which this operation is defined. The name of the shared data element. The name of a specific component to be initialized with the data, or null if the data corresponds to the entire element. Data or null pointer if non-initialized.
Returns	The ID of the newly created shared data instance.	
Status	ok, out_of_memory, null_element_name, overflow	

ROUTINE

commit_transaction

Description	The commit_transaction procedure is used to commit a transaction to the shared database.
Syntax	<pre>void commit_transaction(/* transaction: in transaction_type */);</pre>
Parameters	transaction Existing transaction ID.
Status	ok, out_of_memory, invalid_transaction_handle

create_changed_component_list

Description	The create_changed_component_list function accepts an instance ID as a parameter and creates a list of changed component names. This component list is managed using the C Toolkit listPack distributed with Serpent.
Syntax	<pre>LIST create_changed_component_list(/* id: in id_type */);</pre>
Parameters	id Existing data instance ID.
Returns	The list of changed component names associated with a data instance, or NULL if none.
Status	ok, invalid_id, out_of_memory, element_not_a_record

get_change_type

Description	The get_change_type function accepts an instance ID as a parameter and returns the associated change type.
Syntax	<pre>change_type get_change_type(/* id : in id_type */);</pre>
Parameters	id Existing shared data ID.
Returns	Element name associated with the shared data instance ID.
Status	ok, invalid_change_type,invalid_transaction_handle, invalid_id

get_element_name

Description	The get_element_name function accepts an instance ID as a parameter and returns the associated element name.
Syntax	<pre>string get_element_name(/* id : in id_type */);</pre>
Parameters	id Existing shared data ID.
Returns	Element name associated with the shared data instance ID.
Status	ok, invalid_id

get_first_changed_element

Description	The get_first_changed_element function used to get the ID of the first changed element in a transaction.
Syntax	<pre>id_type get_first_changed_element(/* transaction_type : in transaction */);</pre>
Parameters	transaction Existing transaction ID.
Returns	The handle of the first changed element.
Status	ok, invalid_transaction_handle, out_of_memory

${\bf get_next_changed_element}$

Description	The get_next_changed_element function is used to get the ID of the next changed element on a transaction list or return null_id if the transaction list is empty.
Syntax	<pre>id_type get_next_changed_element(/* transaction_type : in transaction */);</pre>
Parameters	transaction Existing transaction ID.
Returns	The handle of the next changed element.
Status	ok, invalid_transaction_handle, out_of_memory

get_shared_data

Description	The get_shared_data function allocates process memory, copies shared data into process memory, and returns a pointer to the data. Warning: Record components may not have been specified and, therefore, would not contain valid data.	
	_	ame : in string */
Parameters	transaction id component_name	Transaction in which to find the shared data ID. Existing shared data ID. Name of component for which to retrieve data, or entire element if NULL.
Returns	A pointer to changed data.	
Status	ok, invalid id, out of memory, incomplete record	

get_shared_data_type

Description	The get_shared_dawith a shared data elem	ata_type function is used to get the type associated ent.
Syntax	<pre>serpent_data_types get_shared_data_type(/* element_name: in string */ /* component_name: in string */);</pre>	
Parameters	element_name component_name	The name of the shared data element. The name of the shared data component, or NULL.
Returns	The type of the shared data element or record component.	
Status	ok, null_element_name	

get_status

Description	The get_status function returns the current system status.	
Syntax	<pre>isc_status get_status();</pre>	
Parameters	None.	
Returns	The current status.	
Status	None.	

${\bf get_transaction}$

Description	The get_transaction function is used to synchronously retrieve the ID for the next completed transaction.
Syntax	<pre>transaction_type get_transaction();</pre>
Parameters	None.
Returns	The transaction ID for a completed transaction.
Status	ok, system_operation_failed

get_transaction_no_wait

Description	The get_transaction function is used to asynchronously retrieve the ID for the next completed transaction.	
Syntax	<pre>transaction_type get_transaction_no_wait();</pre>	
Parameters	None.	
Returns	The transaction ID for a completed transaction.	
Status	ok, system_operation_failed, not_available	

PROCEDURE

incorporate_changes

Description		_changes procedure is used to incorporate change mory without destroying unchanged information.
Syntax	<pre>void incorporate_changes(/* transaction : in transaction_type */</pre>	
	<pre>/* data : in out caddr_t */</pre>	
);	
Parameters	transaction	Existing transaction ID.
	id	Existing shared data ID.
	data	Pointer to the local data structure to be updated.
Status	ok, invalid id	

is_undefined

Description	determines if the	ned function evaluates a data value of a specified type and value is undefined. The is_undefined function cannot ntire shared data record at once.
Syntax	<pre>boolean is_undefined(/* type : in serpent_data_type */ /* data : in caddr_t */);</pre>	
Parameters	type data	The type of the shared data component. Pointer to the value being examined.
Returns	True if data is undefined; false otherwise.	
Status	ok, operation_undefined_type	

PROCEDURE

print_status

Description	The print_status procedure prints out a user-defined error message and the current status.	
Syntax	<pre>void print_status(/* error_msg : in string */);</pre>	
Parameters	error_msg User-defined error message.	
Status	None.	

purge_transaction

Description	The purge_transaction procedure is used to remove a received transaction once the contents of the transaction have been examined and actumpon.	
Syntax	<pre>void purge_transaction(/* transaction : in transaction_type */);</pre>	
Parameters	transaction Existing transaction ID.	
Status	ok, invalid_id, illegal_receiver	

put_shared_data

Description	The put_shared_data call is used to put information into shared data.			
Syntax	<pre>void put_shared_</pre>	_data(
	/* transaction	<pre>/* transaction : in transaction_type */</pre>		
	$/*$ id : in id_t	type */		
	/* element_name	e : in string */		
	/* component_na	ame : in string */		
	<pre>/* data : in caddr_t */</pre>			
) ;			
Parameters	transaction	The transaction to which the shared data should be put.		
	id	Shared data ID.		
	element name	The name of the shared data element.		
	component name	The name of the shared data component.		
	data	Shared data.		
Status	ok. undefined sk	nared data type, null element name,		
Suitab	invalid id	larea_aaca_c;pe, narr_crement_name,		

remove_shared_data

Description	The remove_shared_data procedure is used to remove a specified shared data instance from the shared database.	
Syntax	<pre>void remove_shared_data(/* transaction : in transaction_type*/ /* element_name : in string */ /* id : in id_type */);</pre>	
Parameters	transaction	Transaction from which to remove the shared data element.
	element_name id	Name of element to be removed. Existing shared data ID.
Status	ok, out of memory, null element name, invalid id	

rollback_transaction

Description	The rollback_transaction procedure is used to abort a given transaction and to delete the associated transaction buffer.	
Syntax	<pre>void rollback_transaction(/* transaction : in transaction_type */);</pre>	
Parameters	transaction Existing transaction ID.	
Returns	A handle to a newly-created element	
Status	ok, invalid_transaction_handle	

serpent_init

Description	The serpent_ir interface layer.	nit procedure performs necessary initialization of the
Syntax	<pre>void serpent_init(/* mailbox : in string */ /* ill_file : in string */);</pre>	
Parameters	mailbox	MAIL_BOX constant defined in Saddle-generated include file.
	ill_file	ILL_FILE constant defined in Saddle-generated include file.
Status	<pre>ok, out_of_memory, null_mailbox_name, null_ill_file_name, system_operation_failed</pre>	

serpent_cleanup

Description	The serpent_cleanup procedure performs necessary cleanup of the interface layer.	
Syntax	<pre>void serpent_cleanup();</pre>	
Parameters	None.	
Status	ok	

set_undefined

Description	The set_undefined procedure sets the value of the data pointed to value to undefined. The set_undefined procedure cannot be used an entire shared data record at once.	
Syntax	<pre>void set_undefined(/* type : in serpent_data_type */ /* data : in caddr_t */);</pre>	
Parameters	type data	The type of the shared data component. Pointer to the value being set to undefined.
Status	ok, operation_undefined_type	

start_recording

Description	The start_recording procedure enables recording. Once start_recording has been called, all transactions and associated data will be saved out to the specified file until the stop_recording procedure is invoked.	
Syntax	<pre>void start_recording(/* file_name : in string */ /* message : in string */);</pre>	
Parameters	file_name message	File to which to write recording. Recording description.
Status	ok, io_failur	e, already_recording

FUNCTION

start_transaction

Description	The start_transaction function is used to define the start of a series of shared data modifications.	
Syntax	<pre>transaction_type start_transaction();</pre>	
Parameters	None.	
Returns	A unique transaction ID.	
Status	ok, out_of_memory, overflow	

stop_recording

Description	The stop_recording procedure causes the current recording to be stopped.	
Syntax	<pre>void stop_recording();</pre>	
Parameters	None.	
Status	ok, io_failure, invalid_process_record	

Appendix C Commands for Testing Serpent Applications and Dialogues

This appendix contains definitions of commands provided with Serpent to assist in testing Serpent applications and dialogues. The following is a list and short description of each of these commands. A more complete description immediately follows:

Command Description

format converts a recording file into an easy-to-read report

playback used to play back a recording file



format

Description	The format command converts a binary Serpent transaction log to a formatted, easy-to-read report. The report is written to standards output.	
Definition	format recfile	
Parameters	recfile	The transaction log to be converted.
Returns	0	ok

COMMAND

playback

Description	The playback command can be used to reenact a session based on a recording file.	
Definition	playback recfile host_mailbox correspondents	
Parameters	recfile host_mailbox correspondents	The name of the file containing the recording to be played back. The mailbox for the process to be simulated. List of correspondents (the default is "all").
Returns	0 1 2 3	ok dialogue not found playback file not found error during playback

Appendix D Spider Example

```
/*-----
____*\
 Name: Spider Example
 Description:
     Creates a spider chart for two well known correlation
centers and n
     sensors defined in an external data file.
\*----- Copyright 1987 CMU --------
----*/
#define memoryPack
#include <signal.h> /* UNIX signal handling */
                   /* C string functions
/* serpent interface definition
#include <string.h>
#include "serpent.h"
#include "hashPack.h"
#include "spiderA.h" /* application data structures
#include "shared.h" /* defs shared with dialogue
#define SDATA "sdata"
#define MAX HASH 257
typedef struct {
id type self;
} generic_sdd;
boolean done = false; /* main loop condition
Routine: sss_handle_interrupt
 Description:
     Routine to handle the interrupt signal. Very UNIX
specific.
             -----
`----*/
void sss handle interrupt()
  fprintf(stderr, "spiderA.main interrupted. Exiting.\n");
  fflush(stderr);
  serpent_cleanup();
  check status ("sss handle interrupt:bad status from
serpent_cleanup.");
  exit(0);
/*-----
 Routine: sss match id
 Description:
    Routine to compare an identifier with the id in a shared
```

```
data record.
\*-----
----*/
int sss_match_id(id, shared_data)
iid_id_type id;
generic_sdd *shared_data;
             /* local type definitions */
/* begin */
set status(ok);
return(shared_data->self == id);
/* end sss_match_id
           -----
----*\
 Routine: sss hash id
 Description:
   Internal function which will convert an id used to index
   in the array of hash lists.
----*/
int sss_hash_id(id)
iid_id_type id;
                 /* local type definitions */
** Initialize.
set status(ok); /* begin
                                            */
** Return a value in the right range.
return((int)id % MAX HASH);
                          /* end sss hash id */
/*-----
----*\
Test spiderA.main
 Description:
  Performs a write operation using ids.
main()
                  /* local variables
                                          */
 transaction_type transaction;
 id_type id;
 communication line sdd *communication line;
 sensor sdd *sensor;
 /* hash of id's of all shared
 HASH id table;
data in view */
                 /* file pointer to the data file */
 FILE *fp;
 generic sdd *shared data element;/* generic shared data
element ptr */
* *
  Initialize.
*/
```

```
signal(SIGINT, sss handle interrupt);
   Initialize Serpent
*/
  serpent init(MAIL BOX, ILL FILE);
  check status ("spiderA.main: bad status from
serpent init.");
/*
**
   Create an id hashtable. This table contains the ids of
all the shared
   data elements in the "view" at any given time.
 id table = make hashtable (MAX HASH, sss hash id,
sss match id);
  check null(
    id_table,
    "dea.main: out of memory.\n",
   out of memory
 );
   Open the data file.
  fp = fopen(SDATA, "r");
  check null(
   fp,
    "spiderA.main: could not open ill file.\n",
    system_operation_failed
 );
/*
* *
   Get the number of sensors from the data file.
 fscanf(fp, "%d", &sensor count);
** Start a transaction. Then, read in each sensor and
corresponding
** communication lines and put into shared data.
*/
  transaction = start_transaction();
  check status ("spiderA.main: bad status from
start_transaction.");
  i = 0;
 while (i++ < sensor count) {/* while sensor's left
** Create shared data record.
    sensor = (sensor sdd *)make node(sizeof(sensor sdd));
    check null(
     sensor,
      "spiderA.main: out of memory during make node
sensor sdd.\n",
      out of memory
**
   Read in sensor data into shared data record. Note: '&'
** operators are omitted from certain structure elements
because they are
   arrays and are already passed by reference.
*/
    fscanf (
      fp,
```

```
"%s%d%s%s%s%s",
      sensor->site abbr,
      &sensor->status,
      sensor->site,
      sensor->last message,
      sensor->rfo,
      sensor->etro
    );
** Put sensor into shared data and add to id table.
    sensor->self = add_shared_data(
     transaction, "sensor_sdd", NULL, NULL
    check status ("spiderA.main: status from
add_shared_data.");
    put shared data(
      transaction, sensor->self, "sensor sdd", NULL, sensor
    );
    check status("spiderA.main: status from
put_shared_data.");
    add to hashtable(id table, sensor, sensor->self);
    Create communication line shared data element.
   communication line = (communication line sdd *)make node(
      sizeof(communication line sdd)
    );
    check null(
      communication_line,
      "spiderA.main: out of memory creating
communication line sdd.\n",
      out of memory
    );
** Read in communication line data into shared data element.
Note: '&'
** operator is omitted from the 'etro' structure field since
it is an
   array and is already passed by reference.
*/
    fscanf(
     fp, "%d%s", &communication line->status,
communication line->etro
    );
    Set from_sensor and to_cc fields.
    communication line->from sensor = sensor->self;
    communication line->to cc = CMC CODE;
** Put communcation line into shared data and add to id table.
    communication line->self = add shared data(
      transaction, "communication line sdd", NULL, NULL
    check status("spiderA.main: status from
add_shared_data.");
    put shared data (
```

```
transaction,
      communication line->self,
      "communication line sdd",
      NULL,
      communication line
    check status ("spiderA.main: status from
put shared data.");
    add to hashtable(
      id table, communication line, communication line->self
** Create communication line shared data element.
   communication line = (communication line sdd *)make node(
      sizeof(communication_line_sdd)
    );
    check null(
      communication line,
      "spiderA.main: out of memory creating
communication_line_sdd.\n",
      out_of_memory
    );
/*
** Read in communication line data into shared data element.
Note: '&'
** operator is omitted from the 'etro' structure field since
it is an
** array and is already passed by reference.
    fscanf(
      fp, "%d%s", &communication line->status,
communication line->etro
    );
/*
* *
    Set from sensor and to cc fields.
    communication line->from sensor = sensor->self;
    communication line->to cc = OFT CODE;
** Put communcation line into shared data and add to id table.
    communication line->self = add shared data(
      transaction,
      "communication_line_sdd",
      NULL,
      communication line
    );
    check_status("spiderA.main: status from
add shared data.");
    add to hashtable(
      id table, communication line, communication line->self
    );
                       /* end while file not empty
   Close the data file.
  fclose(fp);
** Commit transaction.
```

```
commit transaction(transaction);
  check status ("spiderA.main: bad status from
commit transaction.");
** Go into wait loop for new transactions.
                       /* do while not done
  while (!done) {
                                                        * /
    transaction = get transaction();
    check_status("spiderA.main: bad status from
get transaction.");
    id = get first changed element(transaction);
    check status ("reader.main: bad status from
get_first_changed_elem.");
    Process the elements in the transaction.
*/
    while (id != null id) {/* while more changed elements
    shared data element = (generic sdd *)get from hashtable(
       id table, id
      check null(
        shared data element,
        "spiderA.main: element not found in id_table
hashtable.\n",
        not found
      incorporate changes (transaction, id,
shared_data_element);
          check_status("spiderA.main: bad status from
incorporate changes.");
      id = get next changed element(transaction);
      check status ("spiderA.main: bad status from
get_next_chngd_elem.");
              /* end while more changed elements
                                                      * /
              /* end while not done
    Cleanup and return.
  serpent cleanup();
  check_status("spiderA.main: bad status from
serpent_cleanup.");
  return;
```

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