

16 June 2006

URA testing new AI filing system

Artificial intelligence-based program on 6-month trial to ease task of filing documents

BY TANIA TAN

ANDROIDS replacing human beings, computers having a mind of their own and machines taking over the world — the movies have often portrayed artificial intelligence (AI) as a dangerous, futuristic folly.

But AI is far more benevolent — and far more mundane — than it is often portrayed on screen.

The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) is road-testing a new AI-based system it hopes will make the mammoth task of filing more than 100,000 documents a year a lot simpler.

Kris Intelligent Filer (KIF) — not to be confused with Singapore Airlines' KrisFlyer frequent flier programme — is a unique electronic corporate filing platform that can learn and become more intelligent over time.

Currently at the URA on a six-month trial that starts this week, it is the latest system to use sophisticated AI.

Mr Peter Quek, head of information systems at the URA, said with more than 100,000 documents to file every year, the URA has been searching for an "intelligent and efficient" e-filing program for some time.

Jointly developed by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, and infotech company SQL View, KIF took two years and about \$800,000 to produce.

Mr Stephen Lim, CEO of SQL View, said the trial will allow programmers to test KIF in a "real-life situation" and iron out any bugs.

The URA will receive \$260,717 from The Enterprise Challenge (TEC) during the trial, to finance manpower required to maintain and fine-tune the system.

TEC is an initiative of the Prime Minister's Office that provides trial funding to individuals from the private or public sector who want to test their innovations.

If trial results show KIF to be user-friendly and accurate, it may be implemented throughout the public sector, Mr Quek said.

Already reaping the benefits of an AI system are users of KiM Finalysis.

Using complex business models and algorithms, the risk analysis system performs a quick diagnosis of the business and financial climate of small and medium enterprises.

Its AI component lies in its ability to deal with the fuzzy logic of financial and business dynamics, allowing it to mimic the thought and decision-making processes of its human counterparts.

Launched by the SME Credit Bureau in April, the system has so far been implemented successfully.

taniat@sph.com.sg