UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Computer Centre

NEWSLETTER

authorization: Director of the Computer Centre

1   RETIREMENT OF THE GE-225

Newsletter 170 recorded the fact that after a long period of
service, the GE-225 is to be phased out of service on 28th March,
1975.   To facilitate this conversion, it is proposed that all
GE-225 accounting functions will be transferred to the PDP-10
accounting system so that (hopefully) by the 1st January 1975,
there will be only one accounting system.   To facilitate this,
the following timetable is proposed:

-   As from 1st December 1974, all charges for punching,
    verifying, interpreting, copying, tape hire and
    miscellaneous charges will only be accepted against
    PDP-10 accounts.

-   As from 1st January 1975, all GE-225 computer
    processing charges will be made against PDP-10
    charge numbers.

You are asked to give consideration to these changes and if you
have any queries, please contact the Computer Centre.   In
connection with GE-225 tapes, it should be pointed out that
because of differing data format, it is likely that some GE-225
tapes may be processed on the PDP-10 only with considerable
difficulty.   A letter has been sent to the Heads of all depart-
ments still having the GE-225 tapes on **hire** giving further details
regarding these tapes.   If you have not received such a letter,
please obtain a copy from the Computer Centre.

2   MOUNT, DISMOUNT and FILE COMMANDS

A new version of the operator side of these commands, the cusp
OMOUNT, has been running for some time.   The user part of this
system, the UMOUNT cusp, is to be installed shortly.

This new version primarily exists to incorporate several patches issued by DEC. For magnetic tape users, however, certain changes have been made;

- A new switch /REELID now exists and at this stage is optional only. It serves to identify the tape to the internal tape performance recording system and replaces the /VID switch which only served as a means of communicating to the operator details of the tape required. The /VID switch will continue to be required for DECtapes.

  It is proposed that on 1st December 1974, the /REELID switch for magnetic tape will become mandatory and users of magnetic tape are requested to convert all operational procedures by that time.

- Magnetic tapes are normally unloaded by the DISMOUNT command. The previous version of UMOUNT did not unload magnetic tapes and a /NOUNLOAD switch exists for those few situations which do not require unloading of the magnetic tape.

3   NEW VERSION OF ALGOL

Algol 3B(324) has replaced version 3A(300) on the system. Version 3A(300) will be available on OLD: for a short period.

The following improvements are claimed for this version:

(i)   Procedure calls may have more than 31 actual parameters.

(ii)   The DIV operator now works when a negated variable is divided by a positive constant power of 2.

(iii)   ARCCOS(-1.0) returns PI.

(iv)   Various errors relating to stack shifting on overflow have been fixed.

The following errors still exist:

(i)   Control-backarrow is restricted to strings.

(ii)   IOCHAN cannot detect end-of-file on a null file.

(iii)   A value may be assigned to a type procedure outside the procedure body in certain circumstances.

(iv)   Byte subscripting of a string which is formal by name by an index which is formal by name can occasionally cause trouble. This can be avoided by assigning the value of the index to a local.