

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Prentice Computer Centre

NEWSLETTER

authorization: Director of the Centre

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2 SYSTEM RELIABILITY

It is pleasing to report that we have found one devious software fault which has caused crashes of the system in recent times.

Nevertheless, the system is coping with enormous load and this in itself will cause system hangs and crashes from time to time. Additionally, one must expect that there will be component failures. We are, of course, strongly motivated to keep downtime and incidence of crashes as low as possible.

3 SYSTEM USAGE

Plans are now well advanced to provide substantial enhancement in system capacity but this will not be available until first semester 1978.

In the meantime, I seek your co-operation in using the system effectively.

One area of concern is the increase in malicious use of the system by some users. I realize that with current loads, levels of response and situations where there are frequent crashes, all users

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suffer frustration. It does not help, however, to use strategies that adversely impact upon the effective operation of the system. In the past, my attitude has been reasonably tolerant and vagabond users have been given a warning.

I THEREFORE WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IMPROPER USE OF THE SYSTEM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. NO FURTHER WARNINGS WILL BE GIVEN. OFFENDERS WILL BE DENIED ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AS PROVIDED IN UNIVERSITY STATUTES WILL BE TAKEN.

I hope we can all co-operate to maximize effective usage of our overloaded system during the next six months.

(Director)

4 AND A WORD TO THE BULLIES

There have been a couple of instances where users have seen fit to speak unkindly to our operators. Operators are not the cause of your frustration and they too are under a great deal of pressure. If you have a complaint, please see Di Ball, our Operations Manager or the Director.

5 SUNDAYS

Our Sunday working has not been successful. There are a number of reasons but most come down to the fact that we have tried to run the service with too little support.

Sufficient capacity should be available on the system for the next few weeks and there will be no Sunday operations from the 19 June to 31 July inclusive. Please let the Director know if this will cause major problems in any areas.

We will resume Sunday work on the 7 August with what we hope will be a more reliable and predictable service.

6 MID-YEAR COURSES

The Prentice Computer Centre will be presenting two courses during July: Getting Started on the PDP10 - 4 to 8 July; and Statistical Packages on the PDP10 - 11 to 15 July. The courses are offered free of charge to staff and post-graduate students of both Queensland and Griffith Universities. They will be held in Room G13 of the Hawken Building at St. Lucia.

Each half-day session has been planned to stand alone, although knowledge from preceding sessions may be assumed in later sessions. Thus, participants may attend only those sessions in which they are interested. The course timetables are:

GETTING STARTED ON THE PDP10

	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Monday 4 July	<u>Introduction</u> services offered; consulting; packs, tape booking; acoustic terminals; accounting; how it works; how to open; charge codes etc; quotas.	<u>The PDP10 System</u> file storage; file backup; hardware available; crashes; graphics; tapes; disk packs etc.
Tuesday 5 July	<u>Using a Terminal</u> logging in; keyboard; logging out.	<u>Batch</u> card preparation; deck setup; log files.
Wednesday 6 July	<u>Beginners EDIT</u> setting up files and data; simple editing.	<u>Further Terminal Use</u> submitting batch from terminal; command files; control files etc.
Thursday 7 July	<u>Advanced EDIT</u> continuation of editing program use.	<u>Monitor Commands</u> Input/Output commands; file migration system; copying files; printing files etc.
Friday 8 July	<u>Teaching Aids & Packages</u> computer aided instruction (GNOSIS); student programming (MONECS); address labels; sort package etc.	<u>Practical Terminal Use</u> this session will be held in the Computer Science Terminal Laboratory.

Note: For further information contact Geoff Prudames (370) 6944.

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STATISTICAL PACKAGES ON THE PDP10

	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Monday 11 July	<u>SPSS Introduction</u> the data definition cards	<u>SPSS Files</u> the run cards
Tuesday 12 July	<u>SPSS</u> data transformation and selection cards	<u>SPSS</u> space allocation; edit facilities
Wednesday 13 July	<u>SPSS</u> the analysis routines	<u>SPSS</u> using the package at UQ
Thursday 14 July	<u>BMD</u> Biomedical Computer Programs	<u>IMSL</u> Scientific Subroutines
Friday 15 July	<u>TAXAN & CLUSTR</u> Numerical Taxonomy	<u>AID 10</u> Automatic Interaction Detector <u>TUSTAT</u> Tutorial Statistics programs General Questions

Note: For further information contact Chris McGovern (370) 6019.

7 CONSULTING

As from Monday, 30 May, consulting at the Commerce Batch Station was discontinued due to lack of patronage. In lieu of this, the consulting service is now provided at the Hawken Batch Station from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

In respect of consulting, the following points should be noted:

- (i) All consulting problems should be directed to the duty programmer in the first instance. The duty programmer will decide whether or not specialist advice is required.
- (ii) Duty programmers will not accept ANY problem unless it is fully documented on a problem specification sheet.
- (iii) Consulting is provided only to staff and post-graduate students. Queries from undergraduate students should be referred to their academic supervisors.

With the diversity of specialist areas (e.g. Statistics, MONECS, PDP11 systems etc.) it is impossible to provide a continuous specialist consultant service. An appointment book is kept in the consulting room in which the Duty Programmer can then make appointments for users for specialist consulting.

8 TESTING A NEW VERSION OF THE EDITOR

Version 5 of the editor is on NEW: for evaluation and testing. A brief description may be obtained using the editor command 'HELP'. New features include a LOG file facility to record edit commands as a safety measure and a PERFORM command to perform commands and insert text from such a file. Command files may also be prepared independently or during an editing session by means of a MACRO command.

Multiple commands may be typed on a line using ";" as a separator. A REPEAT command reprocesses the last command or line of commands providing a powerful feature for extensive editing jobs.

BRIEF and VERIFY have been replaced by SET BRIEF and SET VERIFY. Other SET commands are -

- SET FLAG - to flag control characters and lower case
- SET ULCASE - to allow matching of either case in searches
- SET LOG - to initiate the command logging facility

and many others.

A new manual is being prepared. This version will become standard when the manual is available.

9 A NEW VERSION OF LOGIN

In preparation for the implementation of the amended student accounting system, a new version of LOGIN was implemented on 26 May 1977. This version is purely a maintenance release and corrects a number of reported errors.

One feature which now works correctly is the setting of verbosity level. These bits control the verbosity of error messages but at present are observed only by Cusps which use SCAN/WILD (DIRECT, QUEUE, BACKUP, LOGIN).

The switch is /MESSAGE:keyword. Relevant keywords are PREFIX, FIRST, CONTINUATION and of these PREFIX will cause all error messages from the Scan using cusps to be abbreviated to the 6 character error code associated with the message.

10 MONECS DECKS

As from Monday, 13 June, until the second semester, there will only be one MONECS run per day. This will be the normal overnight MONECS run at the Hawken Batch Station. No more MONECS decks will be processed at Commerce Batch Station until next semester.

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