



PRENTICE COMPUTER CENTRE

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NEWSLETTER

N-232

CONTENTS

21AUG78

- 1 SOME INTERMITTENT SOFTWARE PROBLEMS
FIXED
- 2 LABELS - DATA BASE PACKAGE
- 3 SSP
- 4 STATISTICAL MANUAL

1 SOME INTERMITTENT SOFTWARE PROBLEMS FIXED

Since the installation of the KL10 system, a strange problem has bugged users of plotter software on both systems. Instead of producing "Qxx0.PLT" files, "y.DAT" files were generated. This is in fact what should happen if the user assigns DSK with the name PLT, but was happening seemingly at random. We now know that the disk structure, PLTA, which the operators were using to transfer plot files from the KL to the KA, was responsible. Whenever PLTA happened to be mounted .DAT files were produced. We have renamed the structure, so the phenomenon will no longer appear. No program changes are necessary.

The second problem referred to concerns KA users only. Printout on remote stations, including the Hawken precinct station, was affected by loss of form-feeds and by over-estimation of paper used. Specifically, if the 57th line on any page began with a form-feed, the form-feed was lost. Also lines 57 to 60 counted as a separate page so that the page estimate could have been up to double the actual usage for files with full pages. The problem appeared to be intermittent because it did not occur when the system was first loaded, but only after a change of forms. The corrected software has been running since mid-July.

Ian Burgess (3944)

2 LABELS - DATA BASE PACKAGE

A labels data base package is available on the KL/KA systems which is less 'sophisticated' but more reliable than the existing labels package. The new package is known as VG and a DOC. file is available on DOC:VG.DOC. It has been applied to a number of internal applications and users are invited to try it out.

The new system is not compatible with any of the former systems and is designed for terminal input and running only. Label output from VG is on LABCC1 (single small labels 5 lines by 45 characters). Users may also create disk files from the data base (but with only limited flexibility in format) or have output direct to their terminal (VDU type terminals are ideal).

The system allows the user to 'design' their own record format and there is no limit to the number of records the file may contain. Each record may have up to 77 fields and each field can be up to 200 characters long. As the file is indexed, it can be processed in many different sequences. There are also features which allow 'wild' type selection of records.

Any user who requires further information and who may have suggestions for its development, please contact the Program Librarian (extension 3943).

3 SSP

Though in many respects superseded by IMSL, the Scientific Subroutine Package (SSP) may be used by some. In view of the change of the default fortran compiler to F10, these routines have been recompiled and should be more easily usable.

The following File transfers have been made:

REL:SSP.REL transferred to OLD: (F40)
New version of SSP.REL transferred to REL: (F10)
HLP:SSP.HLP deleted (obsolete)
DOC:SSP.DOC deleted (obsolete)
New version of SSP.MAN transferred to DOC:

This transfer has been made on both KA10 and KL10. Users on the KL10 should, however, note that the new version of SSP, in the interest of best machine utilization, uses the KL double precision instructions as discussed in the last newsletter (N-231). Programs using double precision with those routines should therefore use the FORLIB on NEW:. For further details, see DOC:SSP.MAN.

Chris de Voil (3023)

4 STATISTICAL MANUAL

It appears that old copies of the Computer Centre Statistical Packages Manual MNT-3 dated 1 July 1975 have been sold recently instead of the edition dated 1 February 1977. Would users who have recently bought MNT-3 manuals (especially those who bought manuals after the recent statistics course) check the dates of their manuals carefully. The old manuals will be replaced at the batch station of the Hawken Building.

Sarah Barry (3941)

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