



# PRENTICE COMPUTER CENTRE

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

ST.LUCIA

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AUSTRALIA 4067

## NEWSLETTER

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### CONTENTS

- 1.0 SLOTS (Student Low Overhead Time Sharing Service) - FACILITIES EXTENDED BETWEEN SEMESTERS
- 2.0 SUNDAY SERVICE
- 3.0 REMOVAL OF FILE DAEMON FROM THE KA
- 4.0 RIBBONS FOR DIABLO TERMINALS



1.0 SLOTS (STUDENT LOW OVERHEAD TIME SHARING SERVICE) - FACILITIES  
EXTENDED BETWEEN SEMESTERS

During semester, core and file storage must be restricted to enable as many student jobs as possible to be serviced. At the end of the teaching period, however, the restrictions can be lifted to enable larger jobs to be run which may assist some areas of postgraduate research.

From 19 November until 22 February 1980, primary memory allocation will be increased to 70K words at all times, logged out disk space will be 400 blocks and the cost limit on jobs will be \$6. Logged in disk quotas will be 8000 blocks. Work for higher degree postgraduate students may be funded from UC Special Research Grants as well as from URG and Maintenance.

The Prentice Computer Centre Management Committee has approved this increase of quotas to be strictly outside of teaching period. Core limits will revert to 40K words at the start of the teaching period and basic disk quotas will revert to 100 blocks for undergraduate subjects and to 200 blocks for higher degree postgraduate students.

SLOTS - 1980 - PROPOSED EXTENSION TO ASSIST POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

The Prentice Computer Centre Management Committee has recommended extensions to SLOTS to improve access to this system by postgraduate students. Provided these proposals are approved, the SLOTS facilities available in 1980 can be summarised as follows:

AVAILABLE TO - Undergraduate and postgraduate students and academic staff for the purposes of student supervision.

WHEN AVAILABLE - 8.15 a.m. to 11 p.m. until first semester 1980. From start of first semester 1980 22-3/4 hours daily from 8.15 a.m. to 7 a.m., except the first Saturday in each month when airconditioning maintenance occurs. (The system will be unattended from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily and from 11 p.m. Fridays to 8.15 a.m. Mondays). If the system crashes during unattended operation, it will remain down until the next period of attended operation. Special arrangements may be necessary for peak loads towards the end of the teaching period.

CHARGE RATES	-	charge per	\$	
PROCESSOR TIME	minute	0.183	)	The same
			)	charges
MEMORY SPACE	Kwds	0.03	)	apply over
			)	all shifts
FILE I/O	1000 blocks	0.167	)	

The charges for other resources will be at normal rate; priority and time of day codes will apply to these.

SOURCE OF FUNDS - SLOTS processing may be funded only from Maintenance, URG and UC Special Research Grants.

SIZE OF JOB - This will be measured by cost and the basic limit is \$3 for undergraduate subjects and \$6 for higher degree postgraduate students. The Director has been granted authority to increase the undergraduate limit to a maximum of \$6 on application by the Head of Department demonstrating particular subjects could not be adequately handled on the basic \$3 limit. Except for the special PASCAL spooler stream the same limits apply to batch jobs.

LOGGED OUT DISK QUOTA -

During Semester

Higher degree postgraduate students - 200  
blocks  
Undergraduate subjects - 100  
blocks

These basic quotas may be increased by the Director to 600 blocks for higher degree postgraduate students and to 400 blocks for undergraduate subjects on application by Head of Department.

Between Semesters

All users - 400 blocks

Higher degree postgraduate students granted higher quotas would retain these.

LOGGED IN DISK QUOTAS -

During Semester

Higher degree postgraduate students - 5000  
blocks  
Undergraduate subjects - 2000  
blocks

Between Semesters

All users - 8000 blocks

PRIMARY MEMORY ALLOCATION - During Semester - 40K  
Between Semesters - 70K

- RESTRICTIONS - The lower charges are possible only by reducing operator overheads and this means that some services will not be available under the SLOTS system.
- (a) No mounts by operators of magnetic tape, disks, Dectapes or other media; no special stationery.
  - (b) Printing will be available from operator manned high speed printers only during attended operation.
  - (c) Printing spooled to the self-service printer must be less than 30 pages and will be deleted if not printed within 48 hours. Please note that "batch only" assignments require a password to enable output to be protected if queued to self-service printer.
  - (d) No File Migration System. Normally files (other than those of academic supervisors) not accessed for 21 days will be deleted rather than saved in the offline area. At peak end of semester periods, it may be necessary to reduce to 14 days. File storage for undergraduate classes will expire one week following end of semester unless special arrangements are made by the supervisor.
  - (e) Terminals will be timed out and jobs automatically logged off after 5 minutes if there is no active processing. The automatic logout will be K/B which will

delete the files off the user area to bring it within quota.

- (f) At logout, temporary files will be deleted (\*.BAK, \*.TMP) if no other jobs logged in on a ppn.
- (g) Systems software will be restricted to absolute minimum necessary to provide service. Requirements will be reviewed annually with Departments.
- (h) The special protections of FILE DAEMON will not be available on SLOTS. Normal project file protections will continue to apply.

Despite these restrictions, we believe that satisfactory service can be provided for a wide range of academic use at a low overhead cost.

Terminals connected to the KL10 system can access the KA10 SLOTS system. However, the bandwidth between the KL and the KA is limited and if your department is likely to use SLOTS substantially, then you may wish to give consideration to having one or more of your terminals connected directly to the KA system. It should be noted, however, that a terminal connected to the KA system cannot access the KL system.

Whilst the trial of the SLOTS system indicated sufficient reason to continue the system into 1980, there are obviously some areas of improvement. We believe the communications software which obviously was in test during the trial has now settled down fairly well and should give less trouble from this source in 1980. The number of operator jobs will be reduced as it will not be necessary to provide in 1980 some of the operator facilities. As mentioned previously, the extended hours of operation in 1980 should help during peak end of semester periods.

The problem of major peak workload in the last three weeks of semester is outside the control of the Computer Centre. We ask that departments endeavour to schedule assignments to smooth peaks as far as possible. One strategy being considered by one department is to require students to hand in some work half-way through the assignment period to ensure that work has been started and not left too near the closing date. There may be a tendency too for supervisors to increase the number and size of assignments consistent with the increased availability and lower cost of computer time. This, of course, may be academically desirable but if possible, it would help all users if strategies were adopted for largish assignments to occur early in semester, building on them

with shorter assignments towards the end of semester.

I would be pleased to receive comments and suggestions aimed at improving the SLOTS service consistent, of course, with our aim of keeping overheads costs as low as possible.

Alan W. Coulter  
Director  
extension 2178

## 2.0 SUNDAY SERVICE

At its meeting of 5 October 1979, the Prentice Computer Centre Management Committee resolved:

- (a) Sunday service will continue until 16 December and recommence on Sunday 13 January 1980 (low cost services for research purposes).
- (b) Sunday service will not be provided on Sundays of long weekends (little use at this time and staffing difficulties).

Alan W. Coulter  
Director  
extension 2189

## 3.0 REMOVAL OF FILE DAEMON FROM THE KA

To reduce overheads and increase the resources available to users, FILE DAEMON will not be run on the KA system after 23 November. Users are advised to make any necessary changes to file protections before that date.

FILE DAEMON will continue to run on the KL system.

W. Gout  
extension 3032

N-246  
12-Nov-79

4.0 RIBBONS FOR DIABLO TERMINALS

Supplies of Diablo ribbons can be obtained from the following vendors:

1. Digital Equipment Australia Pty. Ltd.  
265 Coronation Drive  
MILTON, Qld. 4065
  - (a) LQPD1-KB (Cloth) - \$40 per packet of 6
  - (b) LQPD1-KA (Multi Strike Plastic) - \$31 per packet of 4
2. Datronics Corp. Ltd.  
P.O. Box 488  
NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2060
  - (a) DIA 40970 (Multi Strike Plastic) - \$9 each
  - (b) Cloth price unknown.

D. Anderson  
extension 3166