PRENTICE COMPUTER CENTRE

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, ST. LUCIA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA. 4067.

NEWSLETTER

N-252   9-June-80

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Authorized by the Director of the Computer Centre

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1.0 FREE COMPUTER TIME FOR TRIAL AND PRACTICE

Special project/programmer numbers were provided to each department enabling the use of computer time to the value of $100 for the purposes of trial and practice. This was only available for use after 6 pm. Approval has been given for this money to be used in any shift.

Director
extension 2189

2.0 REDUCTION IN LOW PRIORITY TERMINAL RATES AFTER 6 PM

Approval was given by Senate for the low priority terminal rate on the KL system of 50% of prime rate for work after 6pm to be reduced to 40% of prime rate. This was implemented with effect 28.5.80.

Director
extension 2189

3.0 HOURS OF OPERATION

As from the end of semester, 9 June, the hours of operation will be as follows:

    Monday to Thursday   - 0815 to 0345
    Friday   - 0815 to 0200
    Sunday   - 0900 to 1700*

*Sunday charge rates are 25% of normal prime shift rates but there is no operator coverage. The systems will not be available on Sundays of long weekends.

Di Ball
extension 3471

4.0 VG BIBLIOGRAPHY OPTION

4.1 Purpose:

To provide VG users with the capacity to perform fast online searching of relatively static VG files and to create Bibliographical style reports. To achieve this a number of new functions were developed which operate under the BIBLIO menu system. The following contains a brief description of these new options.

4.2 KEYIND:

a procedure to generate a Keyed Index file from a VG master file.

4.3 BATKEY:

perform the KEYIND option as a low priority batch job.

4.4 FREQ:

produce an alpha sorted list of all keywords in the Keyed Index with their frequency of occurance and the origin field number.

4.5 EXTSRT:

variable length field sort option, will sort 4 fields of user determined length with total width of 100 characters.

4.6 SETSRT:

sort a VG SET file.

4.7 QSEAR:

Keyed Index Search function, will locate up to 4500 records (independent of size of master file).

4.8   SEARCH:

as for QSEAR but will locate up to 17000 records.

4.9   FORMAT:

produce from VG master file bibliographical style output. These options only apply to VG system files, VG is a general purpose text data base system.

4.10 NOTES:

Keyed indexes are not affected by addition of new data to a VG master file or by sorting of the master file index. They may be affected by editing (changing records), and will definitely be rendered useless if the master file is REFRESHED. The primary aim of the exercise is to provide a fast query system for reasonably static VG files.

For detailed user notes refer to DOC:BIBLIO.DOC. For VG information refer to the VG user Guide, available at the Computer Centre Hawken Building.

G. A. Vandenberg
extension 3021

5.0 <u>NEW</u> <u>PROJECT</u> <u>CONTROL</u> <u>PACKAGE</u>

The Centre has obtained a new software package for project control - PCS (Project Control System). This package has been installed on the KL10 for an evaluation period of three months from 01 June, 1980.

PCS is a package to analyse critical path, PERT and precedence project networks containing up to 2000 work items and generating a number of resource, scheduling, and cost reports that aid pre-project planning and during-project management. Input can be entered on a variety of media. The system includes a terminal-oriented editor for input from a CRT or hard-copy terminal.

If any users are interested in this package, either for application or teaching purposes would you please contact me, or John Barker on extension 3016.

Tony Bird
Extension 3944

6.0 SYSTEM 1022: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

In response to the widespread interest in and adoption of system 1022, it is proposed to establish a 1022 Special Interest Group.

The objective of the Group will be to evaluate and to exchange information and individual experiences with 1022. All present or prospective users are cordially invited to attend; people with a general interest in data bases rather than an actual application are also welcome.

The proceedings will be completely informal and will reflect the particular problems and interests of those attending.

The first meeting will take place at 5pm on Wednesday, 2nd July 1980 in the client area, Hawken Building.

For further information phone

Tony Bird
Extension 3944

7.0 INFORMATION CONCERNING COURSES AND SEMINARS

7.1 Courses and Seminar for July

The following Courses and Seminars will be offered in July:

Course	Dates	Times
a) Introductory Course	Mon 7 July– Tues 8 July	9 am – 12 noon 2 pm – 5 pm

b) VG Course   Wed 9 July-   10 am - 12 noon
                                Thurs 10 July   2 pm - 4 pm

                                Fri 11 July   10 am - 12 noon

c) VG Seminar   Fri 11 July   2 pm - 4 pm

Note on VG Course/Seminar: Users enrolling for the VG Course may
wish to attend the seminar also. If so, please advise on
enrolment for the course. The course will include the new
bibliographic option within VG. The seminar is open to all -
from those who have no experience of VG but wish to assess its
capabilities through to experienced users who may wish to suggest
improvements or contribute the results of their experience.

d) RUNOFF   Mon 14 July-   9 am - 12 noon
                                Wed 16 July   2 pm - 5 pm

   TYPESETTING   Thurs 17 July-   9 am - 12 noon
   extension to RUNOFF   Fri 18 July   2 pm - 5 pm

Note: This is a two-part course and enrolments may be made for
            (i)   Part I (RUNOFF) only
        or (ii)   Part I & Part II (RUNOFF + TYPESETTING
                   extension)
        or (iii)   Part II (TYPESETTING extension) only - for users
                   already familiar with RUNOFF.

(Since it is anticipated that demand for this course may be high,
it is planned to repeat the course in August.)

7.2 Courses for August

     The following courses are tentatively arranged for August.
Confirmation   and   further   details   will   appear   in   the   next
Newsletter, although conditional enrolments will be accepted now.

a) RUNOFF   Mon 18 August-   9 am - 12 noon
                                Wed 20 August   2 pm - 5 pm

    TYPESETTING   Thurs 21 August-   9 am - 12 noon
    extension to RUNOFF   Fri 22 August   2 pm - 5 pm

(The same enrolment conditions - Part I only or Part I + Part II
or Part II only - as for July course will apply.)

b) SPSS   Mon 25 August-   9 am - 12 noon
                                Wed 27 August   2 pm - 5 pm

7.3 General Information about all Courses

(a) Attendence at an Introductory Course (or previous experience with the system, including basic editing) is required before enrolment for other courses can be accepted.

(b) Staff and postgraduate students are admitted free to courses. All other users are required to pay a fee of $10.00 per half day.

(c) To ensure that sufficient practice can be obtained by those attending courses, enrolments for all courses are limited.

(d) To enrol for any of the above courses (or for information about courses), please contact Barry Maher, extension 3022.

8.0 POSSIBILITY OF EVENING CLASSES

Courses conducted by the Centre have generally been held in normal working-hours during mid-semester and end-of-semester breaks.

The suggestion has been made that, while the above arrangements are satisfactory for most users, there still remains a group of people who are interested in making use of the various facilities offered by the Centre but who are prevented from attending the appropriate courses because of other long-standing commitments (committee-meetings, field-work requirements, etc.) which are also commonly scheduled during such periods.

In an attempt to cater for such users, the Centre is prepared to arrange courses at other times, provided the need for such courses can be demonstrated. In particular, the Centre is anxious to explore the possibility of conducting some courses during evening hours (say, 6 pm - 9 pm). If the prospect of such courses is of benefit to you, please contact the Centre (extension 3022) and leave your name, telephone number and details of courses in which you are interested.

Barry Maher
extension 3022

9.0 <u>SYSTEM PERFORMANCE - APRIL</u>

<u>Operations</u>

There are a number of infrequently required tasks such as refreshing the public disk structures which must be carried out from time to time to keep the system operating efficiently and which can only be done in dedicated mode. The opportunity was taken to do this work on a couple of the public holidays in April so as not to interrupt with the normal time-sharing service. Hence the figures for dedicated operations tasks in April are much higher than normal.

<u>Hardware</u>

KA - The large number of crashes were mainly caused by an intermittent memory parity problem.

KL - Apparent problems in the communications system caused a number of KL crashes and this is reflected in the statistics for the communications processors. April was also disk problem month with faults in one RPO3 drive and one of the RH20 disk channels which controls 4 of the RPO6 drives.

Director
extension 2189

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S Y S T E M   P E R F O R M A N C E   R E P O R T

For node   KA10   there were   22 working days in the period   1/Apr/80 to 30/Apr/80

		HHH:MM	%
1.	Total system running time	359:00	100.0
	less time used for:		
2.	Scheduled maintenance	19:00	5.3
3.	Dedicated operations tasks	10:44	3.0
4.	Dedicated systems development	4:00	1.1
5.	Equals time scheduled for use	325:16	90.6
	less lost time due to:		
6.	Unscheduled maintenance	0:05	0.0
7.	Hardware faults	5:20	1.5
8.	Software faults	0:04	0.0
9.	Unresolved	0:10	0.0
10.	Environmental conditions	0:00	0.0
11.	Equals time available to users	319:37	89.0
12.	Effective user uptime (11./5.)		98.3

13.	Number of crashes	22
14.	Mean availability between crashes	14:32
15.	Mean time to recover crashes (minutes)	15

S Y S T E M   P E R F O R M A N C E   R E P O R T

For node   KL10   there were   25 working days in the period   1/Apr/80 to 30/Apr/80

		HHH:MM	%
1.	Total system running time	381:23	100.0
	less time used for:		
2.	Scheduled maintenance	19:00	5.0
3.	Dedicated operations tasks	18:44	4.9
4.	Dedicated systems development	17:57	4.7
5.	Equals time scheduled for use	325:42	85.4
	less lost time due to:		
6.	Unscheduled maintenance	2:06	0.6
7.	Hardware faults	6:22	1.7
8.	Software faults	0:15	0.1
9.	Unresolved	2:23	0.6
10.	Environmental conditions	0:00	0.0
11.	Equals time available to users	314:36	82.5
12.	Effective user uptime (11./5.)		96.6

13.	Number of crashes	22
14.	Mean availability between crashes	14:18
15.	Mean time to recover crashes (minutes)	25

S Y S T E M   P E R F O R M A N C E   R E P O R T

For node DN87A   there were   25 working days in the period   1/Apr/80 to 30/Apr/80

		HHH:MM	%
1.	Total system running time	381:23	100.0
	less time used for:		
2.	Scheduled maintenance	19:00	5.0
3.	Dedicated operations tasks	18:44	4.9
4.	Dedicated systems development	17:57	4.7
5.	Equals time scheduled for use	325:42	85.4
	less lost time due to:		
6.	Unscheduled maintenance	0:00	0.0
7.	Hardware faults	0:00	0.0
8.	Software faults	0:00	0.0
9.	Unresolved	0:32	0.1
10.	Environmental conditions	0:00	0.0
11.	Equals time available to users	325:10	85.3
12.	Effective user uptime (11./5.)		99.8

13.	Number of crashes	9
14.	Mean availability between crashes	36:08
15.	Mean time to recover crashes (minutes)	4

S Y S T E M   P E R F O R M A N C E   R E P O R T

For node DN87B   there were 25 working days in the period   1/Apr/80 to 30/Apr/80

		HHH:MM	%
1.	Total system running time	381:23	100.0
	less time used for:		
2.	Scheduled maintenance	19:00	5.0
3.	Dedicated operations tasks	18:44	4.9
4.	Dedicated systems development	17:57	4.7
5.	Equals time scheduled for use	325:42	85.4
	less lost time due to:		
6.	Unscheduled maintenance	0:00	0.0
7.	Hardware faults	0:05	0.0
8.	Software faults	0:00	0.0
9.	Unresolved	1:16	0.3
10.	Environmental conditions	0:00	0.0
11.	Equals time available to users	324:21	85.0
12.	Effective user uptime (11./5.)		99.6

13.	Number of crashes	14
14.	Mean availability between crashes	23:10
15.	Mean time to recover crashes (minutes)	6