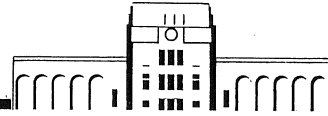


UNIVERSITY NEWS



A NEWSPAPER FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND



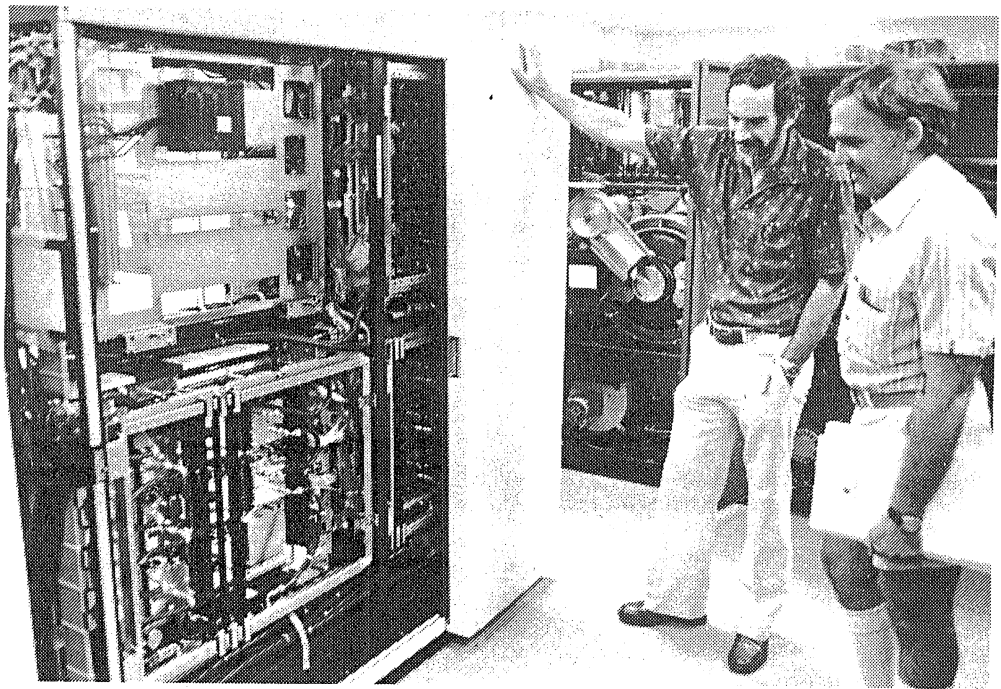
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The new computer

\$2m boost for system

Prentice Computer Centre deputy director Mr John Noad, left, inspects the central processing unit of the new I.B.M. computer with Prentice's engineering and communications manager Mr Graham Rees.



THE University of Queensland's new \$2 million I.B.M. computer will be available for limited free trial and practice later this semester.

The computer was delivered to the Prentice Computer Centre on March 1 and the restricted free use will be allowed after the system is tested. Normal operation will start next semester. Courses and training programs will soon be available.

The new I.B.M. system will replace a 15-year-old computer, as one of three large computers currently operated by the Centre to provide central computing services for the University of Queensland and Griffith University.

The equipment comprises an I.B.M. 3083E system with 16 million bytes of memory, four I.B.M. 3380 disk storage units each with a capacity of 2500 million bytes, two I.B.M. 3420 high speed magnetic tape units, a 3203 line printer (1000 lpm) and five I.B.M. series 1 communications processors.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Brian Wilson, said the new system was essential for teaching and research at the sophisticated level expected in modern universities.

"The knowledge and application of computing and information technology is essential for teaching and research in all disciplines," he said.

"With the addition of the I.B.M. system to the computer network, staff and students will have access to a full range of advanced facilities."

The new system will allow improved research in intelligent knowledge-based instruction, especially in the area of "natural" computer languages associated with large files of information.

With current funding levels restricting academic staff, computer-based instruction was also being used more and more to increase the effectiveness of teaching, Professor Wilson said.

In addition to research and teaching, the new I.B.M. will be used in administration. It will expand the capacity for the University's electronic mail facilities and its on-line access to financial information and student records.

The purchase represents a further stage in the continued growth of the University's computer system. The computer network had grown by an

average of 30 percent in usage each year since its inception in 1962 and the existing facilities were saturated, Professor Wilson said.

There are now 800 terminals servicing 4000 users of various types connected to the Prentice Computer Centre system.

The new I.B.M. will also boost teaching effectiveness within the University of Queensland's Computer Science Department, one of the largest such departments in Australia and the most rapidly growing department within the University.

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