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12Feb71

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

COMPUTER CENTRE

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Date : Week ended 11 February 1971  
Authorization : Director of the Computer Centre

1. OPERATIONS

1.1 PDP-10 System

Normal schedule: Maintenance 0700-0930  
Timesharing 1000-1700  
Batch 1000-2230

Monday 8 February System off line until 1650, due to memory errors  
Batch processing only, 1650-2230

Wednesday 10 February System offline until 1100, due to fault in PDP-8  
Thursday 11 February System off line 1030-1145, 1450-1520 due to  
disk errors  
Printer off line 1830-2000, while a printing  
module was replaced.

On Monday, a serious problem occurred with the memory banks of the computer. Unfortunately, it required all day to locate and correct the problem.

1.2 GE-225 System

Normal schedule: Maintenance 0700-0900  
Operations 0900-2400

2. REVISION FOR FORTRAN MANUAL

The first revision list for the PDP-10 FORTRAN IV manual MNT-5 is now available. It is obtainable from the University Bookshop or the Computer Centre free of charge.



3        COMPUTER SYSTEM STATUS SERVICE

The Computer System Status Service is now available. This is a recorded telephone answering service that provides up-to-date information on the status of the system; the times of operations, reasons for any system malfunctions, extended services and other relevant information.

The extension number for the System Status Service is 8101. In due course the service will also be provided with an external number.

4        INCREASED FILE STORAGE LIMITS

Over the past few weeks the timesharing operation has become fairly stable. A standard pattern of use of this service has now emerged, and an assessment of the actual use of file storage been made.

On this basis the logged out file storage limit for remote terminal users will be increased from 12.5 Kwords to 35 Kwords. Logged in limits will remain unchanged. The new limit will apply from Monday 15 February 1971. However should there be any significant change in the present pattern of use, which results in an increased demand for file storage, the capacity of the system may be exceeded. If this occurs the Centre will have to reduce these limits.

Users are asked at all times, to keep their amount of file storage to a minimum by deleting all unwanted files. The cooperation of users in this regard will

- (i) minimize file storage charges
- (ii) improve the system efficiency
- (iii) result in the possibility of further increases of file limits in the future.

5.       REMOTE TERMINAL SEMINAR

The last seminar on remote terminals will be held in lecture room G13 in the Engineering Building, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

6.       APPLICATIONS ANALYST

The Computer Centre has appointed, for the first time, a temporary Senior Applications Analyst. The position will be filled for the remainder of 1971 by Mr Ian Oliver. Mr Oliver was a lecturer in the Department of Computer Science before he resigned in 1969 to become a private consultant. He will remain a Director of Ian Oliver & Associates Pty Ltd.



7      USE OF PAPER TAPE

A number of the users with ASR terminals are currently using their paper-tape readers and punches for input and output of information simply by turning these devices on while the Teletype is doing input or output.

Users are advised that this is not the correct mode of operation of the paper tape equipment and that use of the equipment in this manner may result in the loss of information. The Centre plans to provide support for the use of paper tape in the near future.