

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Computer Centre

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

date : week ended 16 March 1972  
authorization : Director of the Computer Centre

1. OPERATIONS

1.1 PDP-10 System

Friday	10 March	monitor reloaded, 1325-1330.
Monday	13 March	end of day accounting, which aborted on Friday night, 0945-1004 new monitor set up, 1004-1010 system failure, offline 1025-1042, 1047-1055, 1155-1205, 2308-2325.
Tuesday	14 March	disk errors, 0945-1018 retrieval of necessary disk files, system unavailable, 1104-1155 system maintenance and development, 1343-1359 system failure, offline 1645-1700.
Wednesday	15 March	end of day accounting which aborted previous night due to disk errors, 0945-1033 high speed printer maintenance, 1115-1300.

schedule for forthcoming week: maintenance 0700-0900  
operations 0945-2330.

## 1.2 GE-225 System

schedule for forthcoming week: maintenance 0700-0830  
operations 0900-2400.

## 2. NEW EDITOR

On Monday 20 March, a new version of the Editor (version 1B-3) will be implemented.

This version allows variable line lengths. Lines may be up to 160 characters long excluding the <cr><lf>. Lines of 159 and 160 characters length will however be output on the teletype without the <cr><lf>.

These longer lines will be useful for those editing files where comments tend to run past 80 characters and also for those wishing to inspect files created for listing with long printer lines. In addition the variable length lines will mean that paging files will be smaller and disk accesses reduced for most users.

### (a) consequent changes in error actions

After a 'LINE SPLIT' the first line is typed out. In the CHANGE and ALLCHANGE commands the 'TRUNCATED' message is replaced by the message 'NO CHANGE, LINE TOO LONG' and the line is unchanged.

### (b) continued lines

Longer lines than 72 characters may be input in the INSERT, INPUT and REPLACE commands by ending the line with a '-' immediately before the <cr><lf>. The continuation may be continued on as many lines as necessary but if 160 characters is exceeded the message 'LINE TOO LONG, IGNORED' is given and all the parts of the continued line ignored.

### (c) break characters

Lines in the INSERT, INPUT and REPLACE commands are no longer terminated by the break characters <bell>, <lf>, <vt>, <ff> and <altmode>.

(d) new commands

JOBTIM types out the job time since login in milliseconds  
JOBBAL types out the current job balance in internal cents.

(e) further paging access reduction

The paging system has now been arranged so that a page is not written out if it already exists on the paging file and has not been altered since it was last written out. Free lines are also chained together within pages so that inserted lines will be placed in the current page if possible.

3. FINISH

A new version of FINISH will become operational next week. This version does not affect the users, but improves the handling of accounting for jobs logging out.

4. JOB DAT

On Monday 20 March a new version of JOB DAT will be put onto the system. This version is compatible with the previous version, but includes additional definition of all symbols according to new standards promulgated by Digital. Its use will facilitate adoption of new release of Digital software.

JOB DAT defines symbolically the various locations within the job data area that are used by the operating system for the control of the user's job.

5. PDP-10 FORTRAN

- (a) The FORTRAN manual, MNT-5, states on page 6-16,  
'If the closing parenthesis of the format is reached before the end of the input/output list, then the format is repeated from the last left hand bracket of level 1 or level 0.'

It is not specifically stated that a repeat from level 1 includes the repeat count for that group if any, but this in

fact what occurs.

example:

```
        WRITE (6,10) (I,I=1,20)
10  FORMAT (2X, 'TEST', 10(I3, 2X))
           ↑                ↑
        level 0            level 1
```

The above coding repeats from level 1, putting 10 values on each line.

- (b) It has been found that some programs that have very long ASCII output records run correctly with output to teletype (logical unit 6) but do not run if they are changed to output to disk (e.g. logical unit 10). This is because all FORTRAN ASCII output to the disk is transmitted via a line buffer with a capacity of 133 characters. FORTRAN ASCII output records to disk should therefore be limited to 133 characters.