Combining Scientific Data Processing and Word Processing — Overview

If you are a laboratory computer user who gathers and processes data and prepares data analysis reports, you will be pleased to know that Digital Equipment Corporation has developed a procedure that allows you to integrate the data processing and word processing requirements of your laboratory.

The hardware products needed to implement this procedure are either a MINC or MiniMINC, a host computer, and a word processing system.

MINC–11

You would use a MINC or MiniMINC to gather data from laboratory instruments and process data using standard MINC programming techniques. After storing the data in files on the MINC or MiniMINC, you use the network file capabilities of MINC NFT (Network File Transfer) to send the files to the host system.

At the host system you can perform additional processing and formatting of the data. Host systems capable of supporting the procedure are systems supporting the Digital network software, DECnet, with one of the following operating systems: RSX–11M, IAS (PDP–11), or VAX/VMS.

Next, you send selected summary data from the host to the word processing system where the data combines with a document form. The word processing system then prints the final data analysis report on a word processing printer.

The benefits of such a procedure are numerous. Each component performs the operation it is designed to do most efficiently. The MINC or MiniMINC gathers and preprocesses data. The host stores and processes data, and the word processor prepares the final reports. Many different document forms can be stored on the word processing system to accommodate different kinds of data and reports. Therefore, a few easy clerical steps produce a variety of reports.
Furthermore, systems housed in different locations can exchange data. For example, the laboratory could be located in one section of a building and the word processor in another. After the data files have been stored at the host, the word processor prepares the reports without affecting the laboratory operations.

For more information about the procedure ask your Digital sales representative for, "Combining Scientific Data Processing and Word Processing Needs", EJ 90956 50, an LDP Application Note that presents a detailed description of the procedure.