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## BULLETINS

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HOLIDAY HOURS			
		DOWN	UP
THANKSGIVING			
Lauderdale	0400	23Nov	0800 25Nov
ExpEng	2400	22Nov	1600 26Nov
CHRISTMAS			
Lauderdale	1800	22Dec	1800 26Dec
ExpEng	2400	21Dec	0800 27Dec
NEW YEARS			
Lauderdale	1600	30Dec	1800 01Jan
ExpEng	2400	29Dec	0800 02Jan

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DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS NOVEMBER 22; YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND US ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION.

DON'T FORGET THE USER'S MEETING!!

NOVEMBER 21 (TUESDAY)  
2:15-4:30 PM  
ROOM 1B MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

## UCC newsletter

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER, 1978

Director: Peter C. Patton  
Editor : A. Koepke

Comments about the content of this newsletter, or suggestions for changes may be directed to the editor, 235a Experimental Engineering, 373-7744.

The University of Minnesota adheres to the principle that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to facilities in any phase of University activity without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, or national origin.

The purpose of the UCC Service Groups is to help you, the users. Our motto has always been "help the user to help himself." One of our busiest users has suggested that we add to this motto "...to do what he wants to do." Or, put another way, "give the user what he tells us he needs." This makes a good motto; we can believe in it. However, we have a problem in trying to discover what you need.

In the course of the past seven years, we have visited with many of you individually, in small groups, in full department meetings, and in large meetings. However, there are many of you with whom we have never met. Certainly, many of you have requests we don't know about. I urge you to tell us what these requests are. We are available for telephone talks, visits here or in your offices, or for individual or group meetings. Just call us. We are ready and willing, and usually able, to help, but we can only answer your requests if we hear about them.

Many of us will be at the scheduled Fall General Users' meeting, Tuesday, November 21, in room 18 MechE, East Bank campus, from 2:15 - 4:00 PM. Or, call me anytime.

\* \* \* \* \*

The back page of this newsletter is a mailing list form. If you have colleagues or students who ought to be receiving this newsletter but are not, please have the necessary information sent to us. The form can be folded and mailed without an envelope. However, if you are off campus, please add a stamp.

T.D. Hodge, 373-4599

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## DOCUMENTATION

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Tell Us What You Need

For the first time since its beginning, UCC has a fully staffed documentation and publications group that can actively carry out the task of developing documentation for our users. The members of this group include Mary C. Boyd, Supervisor, and Sara K. Graffunder, User Services Specialist. Both are programmers, consultants, and writers. In addition, the group includes Amy Koepke, Manager of Publications and Thea D. Hodge, Head of User Services.

As a group, we feel that documentation, particularly documentation of general interest, needs to be planned. To this end, we would like to ask your help in thinking about the long-range place and form of documentation at UCC. Since the User's Manual is out at last, we believe that it is possible to formulate a coherent, comprehensive plan for documentation, but we are not sure what such a plan should look like. We know that your needs should determine what documentation we produce, but we need to know how to assess those needs.

What we'd like to do is to start you thinking about your documentation needs. For instance, what are those needs? Are they currently being met? What are the gaps in our existing documentation? Where are the redundancies? What level of technical content best serves your needs? Please mention any other ideas that may occur to you.

At least one of us in the Documentation Group would like to hear from any of you who have comments and suggestions. We'd be happy to have written responses as well. As we get thoughts, ideas, and proposals from people, we will try to organize them into coherent form.

Our goal is to develop a plan at the end of, say, three months. At that point, the plan could be implemented, and we would hope to see significant changes in documentation at UCC at the end of a year and a half.

Please feel free to contact any of us with your ideas, criticisms, suggestions, or even your comments on those documentation features that you like. The people in the Documentation and Publications Group are all located on the second floor of Experimental Engineering; you can contact us there or call me

M.C. Boyd, 373-2522

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## SYSTEM 2000

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System 2000 Programming Language Interface

If you are using the Fortran Programming Language Interface (PLIFOR) to System 2000 and the MNF compiler, there is a possibility of damaging your data base should your program encounter an execution time error. Damage occurs when System 2000 is unable to flush its I/O buffers and reset the data base damaged flag.

Ideally, whenever your program terminates abnormally, an error processing routine within System 2000 is executed, thereby performing the necessary cleanup. With the introduction of MANTRAP, the MNF postmortem processor, control is passed directly to MANTRAP, thus bypassing System 2000.

To circumvent this problem, you may add the U parameter to the MNF control statement used to compile your program. This will disable MANTRAP and allow System 2000 to handle abnormal conditions itself. Or, you may place error processing code directly in your Fortran program by adding an ERR=nnnn parameter to all your READ and DECODE statements, where nnnn is the statement label of your error processing code.

S.A. Reisman, 376-1755

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## WANT ADS

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FOR SALE

Z80 microcomputer with phidecks and 26K static RAM, BASIC, word processor, assembler, and more. Call Dr. P. Santi, 373-7873.

**PDP**

A program has been developed which, with the appropriate hardware, will allow a PDP-11 to send jobs to the Cyber 74 and receive the output. A similar program has been written for the PDP-8. For further information, please call L. Elie May at 376-5608.

\* \* \*

The number of PDP-11s on campus is constantly increasing; in order that we may cooperate with each other on software and hardware levels, I would like to know:

1. Owners  
(name, address, telephone)
2. Hardware configuration
3. Software configurations

Please write to me at:  
University Computer Center  
227 Experimental Engineering  
University of Minnesota  
208 Union Street SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

or give me a call

L.E. May, 376-5608

**SUGGESTION BOX**

IS AROUTE GOING TO BE MODIFIED TO PRINT SOME DESCRIPTIVE NAME ON THE BANNER PAGES AS XMIT DID, SUCH AS THE FIRST FOUR LETTERS OF THE FILE NAME? ROUTXXX IS NOT UNIQUE.

D.R.:30AUG78

During mid-September, AROUTE was changed to use, as the name of the output, the HASH of the user number issuing the AROUTE command (as does ROUTE). Note that AROUTE will be removed from the Cyber 74/172 system in the near future when the ROUTE command has the ability to route output to any site from either machine. It will, however, remain on the 6400. Forthcoming articles on multi-mainframe and shared queues will elaborate on the details.

T. Hoffmann

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= FALL QUARTER OPEN USER'S MEETING
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= Tuesday, November 21
= 2:15 - 4:30 PM
= Room 18 Mechanical Engineering, East Bank
= staff presentations
= coffee and cookies
= open discussion
= everyone is invited
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\* \* \* \* \* SHORT COURSES \* \* \* \* \*

- INTRO TO TIMESHARING  
NOV 7-9 {TTH} 2:15-4PM 211 AERO
- COBOL  
NOV 13-DEC 1 {MWF} 2:15-4:00 PM VH 2
- RECORD MANAGER  
2:15-4:00 PM NOV 13-17 {MWF} FOR H 115
- SORT/MERGE  
NOV 14-16 {TTH} 2:15-4:00 PM {TTH} FOL H 306
- SPSS CROSSTABS  
NOV 14 {T} 2:15-3:30 PM AERO 221
- SPSS REGRESSION  
NOV 16 {TH} 2:15-3:30 PM AERO 211
- SIR  
NOV 28-30 {TTH} 2:15-4:00 PM FOL H 306

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NEW/REVISED WRITEUP DOCUMENTS

- CATLSYS (21Oct) Extended CATLIST utility.
- CONSKED (05Oct) Consulting schedule
- GENCORD (17Oct) Gencord supplement
- PTRFORT (01Nov) Known MNF/FTN bugs
- PTRMISC (01Nov) Known miscellaneous bugs
- PTRNOS (01Nov) Known operating system bugs
- PTRS2K (01Nov) Known System 2000 bugs
- SVSLIB (02Oct) SVSLIB documentation.

PRODUCTION USAGE SUMMARIES: Cyber 74/172

	Cyber 74 September, 1978		Cyber 74 September, 1977		Cyber 172 September, 1978	
System resource units (SRU)	788,001	( 920,454)	-		220,085	(452,423)
Batch jobs and MIRJE sessions	65,524	( 71,845)	62,953	( 70,156)	10,903	( 16,352)
Central processor hours inc. DELAY	164	( 190)	158	( 196)	81	( 178)
DELAY queue processor hours	53	( 55)	47	( 51)	1	( 11)
MIRJE terminal hours	6,329	( 6,833)	6,492	( 8,214)	3,853	( 5,442)
Mass storage transfers (KPR)	208,826	( 236,421)	221,328	( 294,223)	115,565	(193,029)
Magnetic tape transfers (KPR)	4,642	( 7,605)	5,852	( 7,886)	1,359	( 3,041)
Pages printed, charged from UCC	751,230	( 829,509)	587,927	( 673,898)	50,352	( 98,973)
Cards punched	502,660	( 711,017)	393,245	( 429,374)	-	
Microfilm frames produced	36,470	( 74,380)	25,324	( 253,048)	0	(287,693)
Status plotting production (feet)	6,992		9,714		-	
Tapes mounted	8,348		8,610		3,044	
Average file storage (char)	1,812.5 million		1,084.0 million		-	
Mean time between failures	12.7 hours		18.0 hours		25.6 hours	
Available during scheduled hours	98.4 percent		96.9 percent		98.6 percent	
SUPIO uptime during available hours	98.0 percent		97.2 percent		-	

(totals in parentheses include staff development, accounting, and maintenance runs)

DOWNTIME SUMMARY: October, 1978 (Column 1, Cyber 74 : Column 2, Cyber 172)

	Monday-Friday 0800-1800		other		total	
Total possible scheduled uptime hours	220.0	220.0	309.0	308.0	529.0	528.0
Total downtime hours (see Schedule A)	4.1	0.5	1.0	0.0	5.1	0.5
Total uptime hours	215.9	219.5	308.0	308.0	523.9	527.5
Uptime (percent)	98.1	99.8	99.7	100.0	99.0	99.9
Average downtime per occurrence (min)	20.8	4.7	8.1	0.0	16.2	4.7
Mean time between failures (hours)	18.3	36.7	44.1	---	27.8	88.0
Subsystem failures						
SUPIO	21	-	3	-	24	-
TELEX	1	0	0	0	1	0
EXPORT	19	-	11	-	30	-

Schedule A: downtime hours

	Number		Total hours		Average minutes	
(1) Preventive maintenance over-runs	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(2) Software related problems	6	3	0.8	0.1	8.0	2.3
(3) Hardware related problems	13	2	4.3	0.3	19.9	8.5
(4) Indeterminate problems	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(5) External Problems	0	1	0.0	0.1	0.0	4.0

PRODUCTION USAGE SUMMARIES: CDC 6400

	September, 1978	September, 1977
Number of jobs run	84,915	91,851
Central processor hours	25	74
MERITSS terminal hours	8,960	11,222
Number of terminal sessions	22,395	29,250
Maximum number of simultaneous users	75	75
Average file storage (char)	350.7 million	221.2 million
Mean time between failures	231.1 hours	83.1 hours
Available during scheduled hours	99.9 percent	99.1 percent

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FOLD HERE

RETURN TO:

UNIVERSITY COMPUTER CENTER  
227 EXPERIMENTAL ENGINEERING  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
208 UNION STREET SE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

RETURN TO:

UNIVERSITY COMPUTER CENTER  
227 EXPERIMENTAL ENGINEERING  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
208 UNION STREET SE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455