

Volume 1 Number 3 September 1980

SAS SEMINARS

RENEWALS OF ACCOUNTS

All users need to renew their active accounts by July 1 of each year. Either pick up the renewal form in 33 North Hall, or call 373-0987, and have it sent by mail. Fill out the form and send it to St. Paul Computer Center, 33 North Hall, St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota.

If you change your mailing address at any time, call us at 373-0987 and let us know.

CALLING DATA ENTRY

The telephone number for data entry ("keypunch") has been changed to 376-9222.

PROGRAM CONVERSION

The Center's Application Programmers have been busy converting programs that run on the old DOS/26 operating system in the IBM 360/30 mode to the new operating system, named DOS/VSE (Disk Operating System/Virtual Storage Extended), on the IBM 4331 computer. It is our intent to phase out the old, inefficient DOS/26 system within the next month or two by gradually limiting its use, especially during normal working hours. Users may still have old DOS/26 programs from the 360/30 computer should see the consultants in 90 Coffey Hall.

Mel Sauve, 373-0987

Copies of the SPCC announcement on its Statistical Analysis System (SAS) for the new IBM 4331 may be picked up in 33 North Hall or at the consultant's desk, 90 Coffey Hall. Also available is the handout, "How to Access and Use SAS".

SAS has proved to be popular with users, because of its simplicity and versatility. The July seminars on SAS were well attended, and Mel Sauve will give a repeat of them for those who were not here this summer. The time and place:

Thursday, October 2, 1980

Introduction: 1 - 2:45 p.m.
B35 Classroom Office Bldg.

Intermediate: 3 - 4:30 p.m.
B45 Classroom Office Bldg.

Although handouts will be provided at the seminars, more complete information is available in the SAS manuals, which are available at both Books Underground, on the St. Paul Campus, and at the Book Center, Williamson Hall, on the Minneapolis campus. These manuals are:

SAS Introductory Guide

SAS User's Guide

HOURS

Computer operators for the IBM 4331 are on duty in 90E, Coffey Hall, from 7 a.m. to 12 midnight, Monday through Friday. Their telephone is: 376-2827.

Large production runs have priority after 5 p.m. Coffey Hall normally is locked after 4:30 p.m., and users will not always have access to Room 90 in the evening. Please plan to submit your jobs during daylight hours.

NOTICE: The Data Entry section ("keypunch") can code your data and programs immediately. Output is on either cards or tape. Turnaround time will be fast.

CONSULTATION

The consultants of the Computer Center can help you with getting your jobs to run correctly. Starting on Monday, September 15, consulting hours in 90 Coffey Hall are: 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You can find the weekly hours of a particular consultant from a posting in 90 Coffey Hall, from the consultant on duty (Tel. 376-4602), or from the main office (Tel. 373-0987).

If your problems are not with the computer, but with the statistical design of your project, consult the Statistical Center in the Classroom Office Bldg. Faculty can call the Director of the Statistical Center at 373-0970. Students can go to the Statistical Clinic in 125g Classroom Office Bldg. (Tel. 376-3845). The Clinic's daily hours will be posted soon.

NEW PERSONNEL

Howard Reitz has joined our staff as a Senior Systems Software Programmer. After receiving training in computer systems at Western Iowa Tech, he gained over five years of experience in the management of IBM systems in Sioux Falls. A talented violinist, he has also been Concertmaster in the community orchestras of Sioux City and Sioux Falls. We expect that he will contribute, not just to our operating capabilities at SPCC, but to the Twin Cities music scene, as well!

Carter Camus has joined the technical support staff as a Senior Data Processing Technician. Carter has had over seven years of experience in the operation of IBM computers. He has transferred from the Administrative Data Processing Department of this university.

PASS IT ON

We want to add interested people to our mailing list, so please pass this newsletter on to your colleagues.

SAS USER'S UPDATE

We now recommend using the `'/*EOF'` and `'/*'` sequence to end each batch job in SAS. See the handout, "How to Access and Use SAS", which is available from either the consultant's desk in 90 Coffey Hall or from the main office, 33 North Hall.

If you plan to use large arrays in the PROC GLM of SAS, see a consultant first. You can exceed the present time limit of 600 seconds, and yet receive an error message. The lack of an error message is now being fixed.

If you get a dump, it can be expensive. See a consultant about a refund. Don't make a rerun of the dump.

Formats which require periods must have them. If periods are omitted, numerical errors can occur, but no error message will be given. The SAS Institute is looking into the problem.

In the job listings, the SAS notes on the use of computer time and memory are seriously in error. Do not rely on these notes. The SAS Institute will correct this problem by the end of the year.

DISK SPACE

Disk space for SAS is available for convenient storage of your files. Retrieval of information on disk is fast, and it is free of errors. The charge is only \$0.000018 per byte per month. For example, a typical SAS data set, consisting of 20 variables, each of which has 1000 data values, can be stored for \$2.88 per month.

NEW QUARTERS

Renovation will begin soon on new quarters for our staff. They will be located in Coffey Hall, near our new IBM 4331. We will keep you informed of the office changes, as they occur.

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