

THE WEST BANK BUFFER

West Bank Computer Center
University of Minnesota

NOVEMBER, 1973

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Over the summer there were numerous personnel changes in the Center's staff. We currently have a new Operations Manager, Jerry Lutgen, a new secretary, Lavonne Agrimson, and a new operator, Doug Lund; replacing Hugh Smith, Helen Nelson, and Jim Winegar.

SATURDAY HOURS EXTENDED FOR 3200/6600 OPERATIONS

Starting December 1 the West Bank Computer Center will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

EXPANSION OF THE WEST BANK TIME-SHARING LAB

The number of teletypes in the West Bank Time-Sharing Lab (167 Social Science Tower) has been expanded from three to eleven. Even with the new teletypes there is some crowding in the facility; evening and Saturday hours are recommended.

Time-Sharing Lab hours for fall quarter:

8:30 - 6:00	Monday
8:30 - 8:00	Tuesday
8:30 - 8:00	Wednesday
8:30 - 6:00	Thursday
8:30 - 6:00	Friday
8:30 - 2:00	Saturday

(The Lab may be open until 9:00 p.m. M-Th during Winter and Spring quarters.) This facility is open to anyone with a valid 6400 (MERITSS) instructional account number and password. Use during hours other than those scheduled or reserved should be arranged through Jerry Lutgen, 93c Blegen Hall.

Instructors wanting to obtain access numbers and passwords should see Jerry Lutgen also. Basically, access is available to

any course which has a need for interactive, instructional computing. It takes about one day to process an application and get a valid account number.

1004 & OTHER EQUIPMENT TO BE MOVED

During winter break, the equipment in Room 54 Blegen Hall will probably be moved to 167 Social Science Tower (West Bank Time-Sharing Lab). This move will include the UNIVAC 1004 (Lister and Remote Terminal), the IBM Sorter and Reproducer; also we expect to move an IBM Interpreting Card Punch there as well. Since this room is already monitored continuously during the day, we expect that we can render more assistance in the operation of these devices. This equipment will be available during the hours that the West Bank Time-Sharing Lab is open (see previous note). If this arrangement is going to create a major difficulty for any user, we would appreciate hearing about it immediately as the final decision will be made soon.

Regardless of whether the equipment is moved, the output bins in Room 54 will be moved into the I/O Room (90 Blegen Hall) during winter break.

WEST BANK CONSULTING FOR STATISTICAL PACKAGES

The West Bank Computer Center has a consultant available for those using 6600 statistical packages such as Omnitab, SPSS, BMD, and UMST. The consultant is there to diagnose problems in control cards preventing proper execution of programs. He is NOT responsible for writing user programs or interpreting output.

The consultant, Ken Schneider, holds these office hours in the West Bank Time-Sharing

Lab, 167 Social Science Tower, during fall quarter:

2:30 - 5:20 Monday
10:00 - 1:30 Wednesday
11:30 - 3:00 Thursday

END OF FILE CARDS/
END OF RECORD CARDS

Brown end-of-file cards are no longer available in the I/O Room. We hope that users will simply use the orange end-of-files with 6

7

8

9 punched in all four corners.

Also some users have been using the pink cards with 7

8

9 punched in all four corners as record separators. These cards are to be used only as end-of-job cards for MNF batch jobs, not as record separators. Record separators with 7

8

9 punched in one corner have been provided in the I/O Room.

BLOCK TIME USERS SEMINAR

Each Sunday from 4:00 p.m. until midnight it is possible to run 6600 jobs on the 3200. However, the West Bank staff does not operate during this time. From 4:00p.m. Saturday until 4 p.m. Sunday the 3200 is not being operated, while the 6600 is down. It is the Center's policy to make the machine available during these times to anyone who has qualified as a block time user and who can demonstrate a need for the machine. To qualify as a block time user you must attend a one-hour block time seminar which is held whenever there are enough interested individuals. If you are interested, simply call the West Bank Computer Center at 3-3608.

BIN CARD FORMAT TO BE CHANGED

To make it easier for users to send output files from one terminal to any other terminal, the format of the 6600 bin card will be changed in the near future. This change will take place in mid-November and the exact time will be announced in 6600 system notes. For the West Bank users the format will be:

Bin,WB,OXXX
XXX=Bin number.

The Bin number must be a number from 101-271.

A route card will be implemented after the bin card change. This "route" card will allow orderly changes to the destination of various files of a job.

If you use a site other than the West Bank you should see the October University Computer Center Newsletter for details.

HOLIDAY HOURS

FOR 3200 &

WEST BANK TIME-SHARING LAB

Thanksgiving:

The Center will be closed on Thursday, November 22, Friday, November 23, and Saturday, November 24.

Christmas:

The Center will be closed Monday, December 24, and Tuesday, December 25.

New Years:

The Center will be closed from 5:00 p.m. Monday, December 31 until 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 2.

WHAT IS A COMPUTER?

When asked to describe in two pages or less what a computer is and how it works, one University student answered:

"A computer is a device capable of storing information that can be extracted in a variety of pre-planned ways in order to quickly obtain desired information. The computer memory is composed of cores capable of storing information through a combination of on/off gizmos.

Apparently the whole apparatus must be plugged in."