



AUXILIARY STORAGE CHARGES

The CDC 6600 now has capability for accessing several forms of user-dedicated auxiliary storage media. The latest addition to this family of service features is the CDC 841-3 MDD disk system with demountable disk packs, which can be user-owned, each capable of storing up to 35 million characters.

In order to cover the costs associated with the new disk system, it will be necessary to institute a nominal service charge for its use. Charges for user-dedicated storage are common practice at most computer centers.

Charges for the CDC 841 disk system alone would have the effect of discouraging its use. The general policy of user storage charges has been under study at UCC for some time. It has been decided to establish a general structure of service charges for the use of all forms of user-dedicated media. This charge structure will go into effect on July 1, 1971.

The actual charges to be made have not yet been decided but they will be small. However, since they may influence users' budgetary planning, an announcement is being made in this newsletter. The additional charges will be handled as supply costs. Possible items to be considered in the additional charging scheme include:

A. Storage and Services .

- 1) A charge for storage of magnetic tapes.
- 2) A charge for storage of user-owned 841 disk packs.
- 3) A charge for removal and/or submission of magnetic tapes to storage.

B. System Utilization

- 1) A charge for file space other than those files local to a job. Files subject to charge will be permanent files, common files, and private pack files on UCC-owned 841 disk packs. The magnitude of this charge will be of the order of 5 cents per PRU per month in blocks of 56 PRU's (1 PRU = 640 characters).
- 2) A charge for reading cards. The probability is that this charge will only apply to decks which are larger than some as yet undetermined size.
- 3) A charge for mounting a user-owned 841 private disk pack for job access.
- 4) A charge for mounting a tape on a drive for job access.

The rate structure for the items outlined above will be announced in the near future. Rates will be implemented to provide minimum charges to a job if that job subjects the operating environment to a minimum demand, and in any event will be calculated on the basis of actual costs. We hope the result will be better service to everyone.

CHANGE IN EBR OPERATIONS

Effective Monday, March 1st, 1971, on a temporary trial basis the 3M Electron Beam Recorder will be available only Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. This change in operating hours will allow one or two operators to be assigned exclusively to the EBR rather than the present practice of having any available operator handle the equipment. The 3M company feels that this rescheduling will reduce many of the maintenance difficulties now being experienced with the recorder, and we hope that it will give better service to users.

If this change creates problems, please call Ron Fleagle at 373-7538.

PUNCHED CARD OUTPUT

UCC has been notified of a problem with the CDC 415 card punch. As a result, users should be aware that certain errors may exist in punch card output until this problem is corrected.

After each card is punched, it is read and compared with the correct card image. If this compare fails, the result is what is called a "compare error". Compare errors should result in the incorrect card and the card following it being offset in the stacker so that they may be removed. The system then repunches both cards. Unfortunately, the offset process does not always work and the operator may not be able to locate the two offset cards.

Users should provide themselves with sufficient information in runs producing punch card output so that they can validate the decks.

It should be pointed out that the user should always check his punch card output to assure himself of its accuracy.

LIBRARY CHANGES/ADDITIONS

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Flag cards are described incorrectly in the write-up which is available in Room 238 Exp. Eng. The following description is correct. (see p.2 of the write-up.)

"A pair of flag cards consists of two identical cards, each with column 1 and any other column having all available holes punched."

Please note that the flag cards in the sample deck on page 6 of this write-up are illustrated incorrectly.

USER'S INFORMATION EXCHANGE

In the future, this page will be dedicated to our readers for the purpose of exchanging information and ideas about equipment, supplies, software, or whatever. Anyone may use this page to announce an item of interest or to advertise a need. Write (or call)

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Submitted items should be as brief as possible. We will edit them whenever necessary.