

# THE WEST BANK BUFFER

WEST BANK COMPUTER CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER, 1971

## 3200 FILE PURGES BEGIN FALL QUARTER

All files on the 3200 will be purged on a weekly basis beginning October 4, 1971. This means that all files must have valid expiration dates. If the expiration date on the file is earlier than the current date at the time of a purge, the file will be released.

Files currently on the system can have their expiration date changed by using a MODIFY control card.

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## SPECIAL OFFER

As in the past, the West Bank Computer Center extends an offer to have one of its representatives talk to any class which will be dealing with the computer, in an effort to familiarize users with West Bank policies and procedures. Interested instructors should contact Lynne St. John, 93C Blegen Hall, 3-3608, for a scheduled appointment.

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## NEW SYSTEM EDITION OFFERS NEW CAPABILITIES

During the summer, a new system edition was created and tested for the 3200. This OL edition will allow 3200 programs to create input files at the 6600.

The products available will include the following: a driver called R2CDRV which allows a 3200 user to consider the 6600 as another device attached to the 3200; a control card-callable routine, PUNCHB, to punch 3200 binary

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## THE WEST BANK COMPUTER CENTER STAFF

Again this year, the West Bank Computer Center will be directed by Professor Thomas Hoffmann, who also serves as Chairman of the Management Sciences Department. Professor Hoffmann is assisted by Hugh Smith, the new Assistant Director and Operations Manager, replacing Mrs. Phyllis Simpkins. Hugh's office is located in 93C Blegen Hall, and he is available for answering operational questions and can advise users about any problems they may have in running their jobs from West Bank.

John Schmitt is the new Systems Manager, filling the position left by Hugh Smith. He maintains the 3200 system programs and writes programs for general applications. Although John is available for limited consulting, his schedule for the school year makes scheduled appointments mandatory. Appointments with both Hugh and John can be made with the office secretary, Lynne St. John, 93C Blegen Hall, 3-3608.

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## ACCESS TO COMPUTER ROOM

Beginning the first day of Fall Quarter, only members of the West Bank Computer Center may enter the Computer Room. All access will be through the office secretary, who will be able to arrange appointments with either John Schmitt or Hugh Smith. As noted elsewhere, you may call either the operators or the secretary to obtain CTO information.

Our status display on the CRT in the Computer Room window has been modified to update automatically every three minutes. It should be running whenever there are no CRT programs executing. This enables you to know as much about your job status as the operator.

No one should carry a deck or tray into the Computer Room themselves or have to inquire as to the status of their program. You are requested to make all other access to the room through the secretary.

At night, users may knock on the Computer Room door or look into the room to contact the operators. If this fails to gain their attention, wait until they are in the I/O Room to speak with them.

These rules are being instituted to allow the operators the time to deal fairly with all users.

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## BLOCK TIME SEMINARS

Block Time seminars are offered each quarter for 3200 users who wish to run local jobs after normal operating hours or on weekends. Block Time operators are certified to run on the 3200 only (that is, no connect to the 6600) and must run on Block Time within six months after certification or they will lose their status. Interested 3200 users should leave their name, address, and phone number with Lynne St. John, 93C Blegen, 3-3608, so she can notify them of the seminar schedule. The seminars (usually broken down into two evening sessions) are generally given once a quarter.

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## USE OF THE I/O ROOM

Several changes have been made to the I/O Room which will, hopefully, increase the efficiency of Input/Output. The window in the room was bricked up, giving us space for a bulletin board for notices to users. Until the bulletin board is installed, however, users are urged to read all notices posted in the room, especially those concerning machine status. Since users will not be allowed into the Computer Room, these notices serve as the primary operator/user communication.

The bins are being renumbered, beginning with 101 through 271, making it necessary for previous users to make new REMOTE or SEQUENCE cards. The reserve bins will remain in the same places, but with new numbers. Reserve bin holders will receive ten remote cards bearing the new numbers.

Increased congestion during the academic year creates problems in keeping the I/O Room tidy, and thus, more efficient. Users are, therefore, urged to pick up their decks and output from the bins as soon as possible and to discard unneeded materials. No food or drink are allowed in the I/O Room nor are the bins to be used for storage of lunches, etc. Box jobs that do not fit into the bins will again be put in the larger bins near the floor. As in the past, the bins will be cleared of all old decks and output during the week of quarter-break.

A manuals rack is located in the I/O Room containing Reference Manuals, the UCC Notes and Comments, and the UCC User's Manual. A UCC Program Index and a listing of the 6600 INFO file and a listing of the subdirectory for UCC001 are also located on the table next to the Manuals Rack. There are Control Card diagrams posted on the walls for special types of programs such as OMNITAB and UMST.

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DRIVER SCHEDULE

The times for driver pick-up and delivery between West Bank and Lauderdale are as follows:

- 10 A.M.
- 2 P.M.
- 6 P.M.
- 9 P.M.

Transient tapes should be picked up by their owners as soon as possible and are not to be stored in the tape racks in the I/O Room.

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JAPANESE

All you 6600 remote users will be happy to hear that the job status display has been modified to show your job's status on the display CRT approximately every three minutes. Users should now be able to more accurately follow their job's progress. This convenience will be available as long as other CRT jobs are not active.

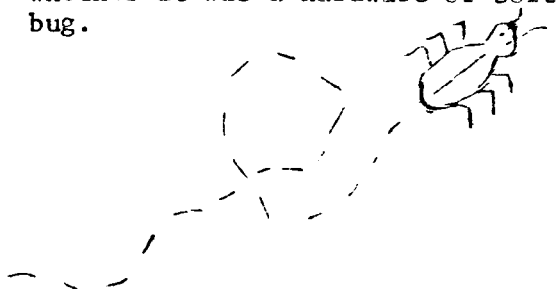
Also in the news, an in-line logical integer "AND" function that Bob Hodges has been using has been included in our system library. The function, called "NAND," inserts itself into the calling locations, thereby cutting execution time. Anyone interested in more information about "NAND" should contact Bob or myself.

--John Schmitt

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BUG REMOVED

During the summer, the CE's discovered a black bug in the card reader. It was not determined whether it was a hardware or software bug.



SYSTEM EDITION, Continued from page 1

files at the 6600; FORTRAN-callable subroutines to initiate and perform data transfers; and a control card-callable routine, R2CENTS, to send local files to the 6600 along with a 6600 user's program and control cards. These programs should allow general use of the expanded capabilities of the GL edition. For more information, please see Lynne St. John, 93C Blegen Hall.

Note that, since you are charged for time on both the 6600 and the 3200, this method is more expensive than submitting a remote job. It also means that you must have an account number on both the 3200 and the 6600. Also, because 3200 jobs are executed on a first-come-first-served basis, this is a much slower method of accessing the 6600. This edition is designed to transfer local files to the 6600 and should be used only for such purposes.

The GL edition will be up from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., when it will be replaced by the IE edition. The main disadvantage of the GL edition is that it reduces the amount of core available for user programs.

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Users should also see Lynne to get Request for Access Forms to open or renew 3200 or 6600 account numbers, to schedule CRT runs or to schedule Block Time. Since access to the Computer Room will be limited this year, all questions and/or problems should go through Lynne to be referred to the proper person.

The Computer Room day staff consists of the operator, Jim Winegar, the I/O Clerk, Barbara Anderson, and several students to help with student I/O. The students this year will be Pat Chelberg, Judy Krueger, George Lindall, and Tom Berg. George and Tom will be available for some consulting. The night operator is Barbara Shattuck, who will be assisted by student help. It should be noted that, although the Operations Staff is willing to answer user questions, all questions and problems must go through the secretary.

OPERATING SCHEDULE FOR FALL QUARTER

MN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
12:00	BT	BT	BT	BT	BT	BT	
6:00		SM					
AM			PM	SM	PM		
8:00							
9:00	3200/ 6600 Edition GL	3200/ 6600 Edition GL	3200/ 6600 Edition GL	3200/ 6600 Edition GL	3200/ 6600 Edition GL	3200/ 6600 GL (IE upon request)	BT
PM							
1:00							
2:00	3200/ 6600 IE	3200/ 6600 IE	3200/ 6600 IE	3200/ 6600 IE	3200/ 6600 IE	BT	
12:00							
MN							

KEY: BT = Block Time  
 SM = Systems Maintenance  
 PM = Preventative Maintenance

## SPECIAL PURPOSE SOFTWARE

CRTFTN, which is a FORTRAN pre-compiler for easier CRT utilization from FORTRAN, is available on the 3200 system. CRTFTN was developed and is maintained by the Management Information Systems Research Center. MISRC has recently updated CRTFTN, they have documentation available, and any problems that occur while using CRTFTN should be directed to them.

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## 3200/6600 ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Users may establish account numbers on the 3200 and/or 6600 systems by filling out a Request for Access Form and a Grant for Subsidized Time Form. Both of these forms must be signed by the problem sponsor, who must be a regular member of the faculty at the Assistant Professor level or above. Any account to be paid for by the School of Business Administration must also have the Dean's signature. (See Beth Litecky, 252 B.A. Tower.)

Both of these forms, plus instructions for filling them out for the 3200 and 6600 can be obtained from Lynne St. John, 93C Blegen Hall.

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## NEW SCHEDULE FOR ALLOCATION OF 3200 PROCESSING TIME

A new policy regarding allocation of 3200 running time, which consists of batch processing and CRT runs, will be initiated for Fall Quarter. Any users who plan to run 3200 local jobs should contact Lynne St. John for the schedule change and policies affecting this schedule.

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## REPRINTS FROM UCC NOTES AND COMMENTS

The following articles are total or partial reprints from items in the August, 1971, UCC NOTES AND COMMENTS. For more information on any of these items, please refer to the Newsletter or call Amy Koepke, UCC Librarian, 3-7744.

### Page 2. A NEW TIMESHARING SYSTEM

An interactive statewide educational timesharing network will be established in September when Control Data Corporation delivers to UCC a computer with at least the power of a CDC CYBER 72. The new computer will be wholly dedicated to timesharing under the KRONOS VS, version 2.0, Timesharing System. Users will communicate with this system through teletypes either over private lines or on standard voice-grade telephone lines.

FORTRAN, BASIC, COBOL, COMPASS, MODIFY, and EDIT (a text editor) will be available as well as a library of statistical, mathematical, plotting, and financial programs, file utilities, civil engineering and land survey programs, several unclassified programs (for example, a program to assist the user in steel beam design), and several computer games. KRONOS VI also includes a small library of Fortran-callable subroutines for matrix manipulation and mathematical operations.

### Page 4. BATCH USERS

Beginning Fall Quarter 1971, a further ability of BATCH will be implemented for the use of the instructor. This is the error summary of all jobs run under a specific account number. The summary will be cleared each weekend and held in archives for one year for those interested in such statistics. The output will be a listing of all error messages occurring on BATCH runs using a specific account number and will be sorted by decreasing count of the number of jobs with that error. Error messages will be counted whether or not the E=k parameter is used on the individual's double period control card.

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An instructor can get a summary of the error messages that have occurred since the previous weekend by using the following control cards where nnnnnnnn is the eight digit account number for his class

JOBNM,CM40000.nnnnnnnn  
P,A,BATCHER,UCC901.  
DERR(nnnnnnnn)

6  
8  
9

We hope that this new ability of BATCH will offer the instructor timely results as to the main errors being committed by his students.

Page 4. OMBUDSMAN APPOINTED

Dr. Richard Halverson, Director of UCC, has announced the appointment of (Mrs.) Thea D. Hodge, formerly of Northwestern University, to the position of Manager of User Services. She will be responsible for interaction between users and the computer center.

In keeping with Webster's definition of ombudsman, "an official appointed to receive and investigate complaints...against capricious acts of...officials," she will listen patiently to all callers and act as quickly as possible on all reasonable requests. She can be reached at 373-4599 or at 373-4360. Her office is in Room 232 Experimental Engineering.

Page 5. FALL QUARTER SHORT COURSES

UCC is planning the following free short courses for fall quarter:

- FORTRAN
- COBOL
- COMPASS--6600 Assembly Language
- Advanced FORTRAN and the SCOPE
- Operating System
- Advanced SCOPE

Details will be given in the September Newsletter. Call Richard Hotchkiss at 373-5756 if you would like other courses in addition to these.

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