

THE WEST BANK BUFFER

WEST BANK COMPUTER CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER, 1972

THE WEST BANK COMPUTER CENTER STAFF

SPECIAL OFFER

Again this year, the West Bank Computer Center will be directed by Professor Thomas Hoffman, who also serves as Chairman of the Management Sciences Department. Professor Hoffmann is assisted by Hugh Smith, the Assistant Director and Operations Manager. 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.

Tom Berg is the new Systems Manager, filling the position left by John Schmitt. He maintains the 3200 system programs and writes programs for general applications. Although Tom 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, Helen Nelson, 93C Blegen Hall, 3-3608.

Users should also see Helen 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 Helen to be referred to the proper person.

The Computer Room staff consists of the operators, Jim Winegar and Barbara Shattuck, the I/O Clerk, Barbara Anderson, and several students to help with student I/O. Although the operation staff is willing to answer your questions, we ask you to route all questions and requests through the secretary. This helps the operation staff to provide better service to all users.

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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 Helen Nelson, 93C Blegen Hall, 3-3608, for a scheduled appointment.

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SYSTEM UPGRADED TO 4.2

During the summer the 3200 operating system was upgraded from MSØS 4.0 to MSØS 4.2. This upgrading allows us to receive some software support from CDC and provides several new features. Among these are a UTILITY package for tape handling, and improved MSUTIL routine which allows you to list files by pack, and improved FORTRAN and COBOL compilers. For specific features, refer to the system manuals which will be in the manual rack shortly.

As an example of the improvements the COMPASS assembler now identifies all conditionally assembled instructions as such in order to aid in debugging listings.

All current programs will run without modification under MSØS 4.2. If you encounter any problems please see Hugh Smith in 93C Blegen. We have made a few minor modifications to improve MSØS. The security and access codes will be replaced by asterisks on all printouts. Also the modification which allows the allocation of temporary files by leaving the access and security codes blank was retained.

West Bank has taken over support of CRTFTN from MISRC. Any questions

SYSTEM UPGRADED cont'd on page 2.

SYSTEM UPGRADED cont'd from page 1.

concerning this package should be directed to West Bank. Our first project in connection with CRTFTN will be to improve the available documentation.

A BASIC compiler has been obtained from U of M at Duluth and installed on our 3200 system. An excellent manual on UMD BASIC is available in the manual rack.

COPY, a control card callable subroutine to transfer files on the 3200, similar to COPYBF on the 6600, has been developed by Tom Berg. This routine will facilitate the usage of mass storage files on the 3200. Write-ups are available from Helen Nelson in room 93C Blegen Hall.

This fall West Bank will make available two-way communication between the 6600 and executing 3200 batch programs. This ability utilizes the communication line to allow 3200 batch users to create input files at the 6600 and to receive files of information from the 6600. Development is still going on but the package has run successfully. Limited usage by people willing to suffer the minor frustrations associated with new software is now feasible and welcome. Hopefully fully debugged usage will be possible in about a month.

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. You may call either the operators or the secretary to obtain CTO information.

Our status display on the CRT in the Computer Room window updates automatically every minute. 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.

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, they cannot 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 Helen Nelson, 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.

DRIVER SCHEDULE

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

- 10:00 a.m.
- 2:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m.
- 9:00 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.

3200/6600 ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Users may establish account numbers on the 3200 and/or 6600 systems by filling out a Request for Access 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 Helen Nelson, 93C Blegen Hall.

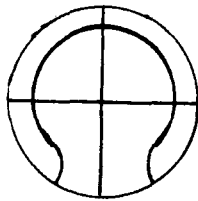
JABBERWØCKY

PUZZLES

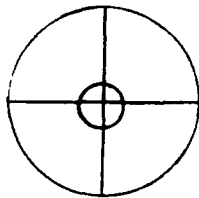
OLD: Gordon Everest submitted the first correct solution to the puzzle presented in our last newsletter. The puzzle was stated as follows:

How do you divide a circle into eight parts using three lines?

Gordons
Solution:



Book
Solution:



NEW: A train passes through Duluth, headed towards Anoka, at exactly 1:00 a.m. going 35 MPH. Another train passes through Anoka at exactly 1:00 a.m. headed for Duluth going 45 MPH. These trains are 120 miles apart at 1:00 a.m. and are on the same track. A bird leaves the headlight of the train in Duluth, flying 50 MPH, and flies to the headlight of the train coming from Anoka, turns around and flies back to the train coming from Duluth. It continues flying back and forth until it reaches an untimely end between the two trains. How far does the bird fly? You can assume that this bird can change direction instantly.

P.S. Any person taking longer than a minute to solve this problem has been working too hard!