PRENTICE COMPUTER CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

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authorization: Director of the Centre

1   SOME INTERMITTENT SOFTWARE PROBLEMS FIXED

Since the installation of the KL10 system, a strange problem
has bugged users of plotter software on both systems. Instead
of producing "Qxx0.PLT" files, "y.DAT" files were generated.
This is in fact what should happen if the user assigns DSK with
the name PLT, but was happening seemingly at random. We now
know that the disk structure, PLTA, which the operators were
using to transfer plot files from the KL to the KA, was
responsible. Whenever PLTA happened to be mounted .DAT files
were produced. We have renamed the structure, so the phenomenon
will no longer appear. No program changes are necessary.

The seond problem referred to concerns KA users only. Printout
on remote stations, including the Hawken precinct station, was
affected by loss of form-feeds and by over-estimation of paper
used. Specifically, if the 57th line on any page began with
a form-feed, the form-feed was lost. Also lines 57 to 60 counted
as a separate page so that the page estimate could have been up
to double the actual usage for files with full pages. The
problem appeared to be intermittent because it did not occur
when the system was first loaded, but only after a change of
forms. The corrected software has been running since mid-July.

Ian Burgess   (3944)

2   LABELS - DATA BASE PACKAGE

A labels data base package is available on the KL/KA systems
which is less 'sophisticated' but more reliable than the existing
labels package. The new package is known as VG and a DOC. file
is available on DOC:VG.DOC.   It has been applied to a number of
internal applications and users are invited to try it out.

The new system is not compatible with any of the former systems
and is designed for terminal input and running only. Label
output from VG is on LABCC1 (single small labels 5 lines by 45
characters).   Users may also create disk files from the data
base (but with only limited flexibility in format) or have output
direct to their terminal (VDU type terminals are ideal).

The system allows the user to 'design' their own record format
and there is no limit to the number of records the file may
contain. Each record may have up to 77 fields and each field
can be up to 200 characters long. As the file is indexed, it
can be processed in many different sequences.   There are also
features which allow 'wild' type selection of records.

Any user who requires further information and who may have
suggestions for its development, please contact the Program
Librarian (extension 3943).

3   SSP

Though in many respects superseded by IMSL, the Scientific
Subroutine Package (SSP) may be used by some. In view of the
change of the default fortran compiler to F10, these routines
have been recompiled and should be more easily usable.

The following File transfers have been made:

    REL:SSP.REL transferred to OLD: (F40)

    New version of SSP.REL transferred to REL: (F10)

    HLP:SSP.HLP deleted   (obsolete)

    DOC:SSP.DOC deleted   (obsolete)

    New version of SSP.MAN transferred to DOC:

This transfer has been made on both KA10 and KL10.   Users on
the KL10 should, however, note that the new version of SSP, in
the interest of best machine utilization, uses the KL double
precision instructions as discussed in the last newsletter (N-231).
Programs using double precision with those routines should therefore
use the FORLIB on NEW:.   For further details, see DOC:SSP.MAN.

                            Chris de Voil   (3023)

4   STATISTICAL MANUAL

It appears that old copies of the Computer Centre Statistical
Packages Manual MNT-3 dated 1 July 1975 have been sold recently
instead of the edition dated 1 February 1977.   Would users who
have recently bought MNT-3 manuals (especially those who bought
manuals after the recent statistics course) check the dates of
their manuals carefully.   The old manuals will be replaced at
the batch station of the Hawken Building.

                            Sarah Barry (3941)

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