PRENTICE COMPUTER CENTRE
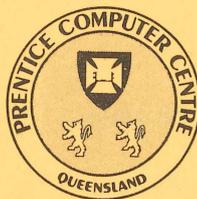
UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, ST. LUCIA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA. 4067.

NEWSLETTER

N-308 April 1986

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Authorized by the Director of the Computer Centre

COMPUTING SUPPORT CENTRE FOR UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AND GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Phone Numbers for Enquiries

External users may dial direct by prefixing these extension numbers with 377.

Principal Service Centres	Extension
Contract Programming & Feasibility Studies	3944
System Status Automatic Answering	3101
General Enquiries & Course Enrolments	3018
Dial-up modem numbers	(300 bps) 377 3977
	(1200 bps) 377 2922
	(1200/75 bps) 377 2655

Service Advice & Problem Reporting	Mail Box	Extension
Central Services HELP Desk (0830-1630)	CCHELP	3025
Program Librarian		3943
Distributed Computing and Network HELP Desk	CCDCHELP	3938
Accounts (0830-1630)		2188
Operations		3212
Data Entry		3967

Engineering and Maintenance

	Mail Box	
Development and communications	ENGIN	

Management

	Extension
Director	2189
Deputy Director	3017
Manager, Applications Development	3944
Manager, Central Computing Facilities	4017
Manager, Distributed Computing	3391
Manager, Engineering and Communications Services	3288
Manager, Finance and Administration	3963

Griffith University

External users may dial direct by prefixing these extension numbers with 275.

	Extension
Consulting	7796
Computer Services	7560
Computing Co-ordinator	7561

1. Newsletter Summary

- A Public Terminal Area has been opened in the Hawken Building following the closure of the one located in the Commerce Building.

- The Centre monitors usage to detect improper use. Recently several students were warned. Users are advised that no further warnings will be given and action will be taken against non-conforming users under the University Statutes.

- The statistical package SAS on the IBM system has been upgraded to a new version.

- IBM and Sperry Personal Computers are marketed through the Centre's Personal Computer Support Group (located in the old Credit Union area in Hawken Building). Until 31 May, substantial rebates over and above the normal discounts are available on IBM Personal Computers. The University also has arrangements for purchase of Apple Personal Computers under the tertiary buy program.

- George Cooper (Physics) would like to hear from people interested in the bulk purchase of a scientific and technical word processing package.

- A range of diskettes are available from the University's central store.

- Following an increase in charges by Telecom Australia, the new prices for the use of AUSTPAC are provided. The access to the AUSTPAC gateway has been improved.

- The newsletter concludes with a timetable of short courses conducted by the Centre (free of charge to University staff and post-graduate students).

Director
extension 2189

2. Public Terminal Area

The Centre's Public Terminal Area, which was previously situated in the Commerce Building, has been relocated to Room 13A, Western End, Hawken Building. Until arrangements are finalised with the University Security Section, the area is open only between the hours of 8.30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

Denis Antonellie
extension 3963

3. Central Computing Facilities — Allan Woodland, ext. 4017

Operations — Sandra Campbell, ext. 3471
Systems Software & Extensions — Ian Burgess, ext. 4074

3.1 Improper Use of Computing Facilities — Hackers Beware!!

As a result of the Prentice Computer Centre's monitoring procedures, several students were observed to be making improper use of the University's computing facilities. Their activities were traced to a terminal laboratory on the St Lucia campus and the students were subsequently cautioned by both Computer Centre and departmental staff.

Although no formal action was taken in this particular case, users should remember that the use of computing facilities (including networks) is monitored. Any future improper use of the University's computing and network facilities will result in immediate suspension of the user's account and a recommendation for disciplinary action to be taken according to the Statutes of the University.

Users are also reminded that all items of equipment in the University are identifiable and any damage or unauthorised "borrowing" of terminals will be investigated rigorously and action taken according to law.

The days when "hacking" could be treated as a game have long since gone. The Centre has been forced to put additional effort into its monitoring and security procedures to protect the system against intruders and to ensure the computing facilities are used for the purposes for which they are established and for the benefit of all users. No further warnings will be given.

I would be grateful if departmental supervisors would bring this matter to the attention of students.

Director
extension 2189

3.2 SAS Version 5 Is Now Available on UQVM

SAS version 5 is mostly upward compatible from the old version (V82.3), however it does require more resources notably on the memory usage side. Not much can be done in one (1) megabyte, most PROCs can be used with rather large data sets in two (2) megabytes — but some will require up to three (3) megabytes of virtual storage. Please note that memory is available in four kilobyte increments so it may be worth some experimentation in order to minimize costs. Contact the HELP desk if you require assistance. As before, as well as base SAS, we have installed SAS/OR, SAS/ETS and SAS/GRAPH.

To run SAS version 5 — use the 'SASV' command in just the same way as you now use the 'SAS' command.

The old version of SAS is still available, however the manuals are not available and the SAS INSTITUTE no longer support it in the event of problems.

Manuals for both versions are available for perusal at the HELP desk in the Batch Station.

Ian Burgess
extension 4074

4. Distributed Computing — Geoffrey Dengate, ext. 3391

4.1 IBM & Sperry Personal Computer Products

In December 1985 the University signed an Education Marketing Affiliate agreement with IBM Australia. As a result, University Departments, staff and students are able to purchase IBM Personal Computer products (JX through to AT) at discounts of approximately 30%.

In addition, agreements with Sperry Ltd also enable University Departments, staff and students to purchase Sperry Personal Computer products (PC and AT compatible) at prices with similar levels of discount.

To receive the education discount all purchases for IBM and SPERRY PCs should be placed through the Prentice Computer Centre. Heads of Departments and

Sections have already received detailed price lists, however for further information or demonstrations, contact Mr Chris Barker on x4233.

Geoffrey Dengate
extension 3391

4.2 Apple Tertiary Buy Program

Clients are reminded that in 1985 the University signed an agreement with Apple Computer Australia to enter the Apple Tertiary Buy Program. As a result, University Departments, staff and students are able to purchase Macintosh computers and peripherals at discounts of up to 30%. University orders should be placed through the Prentice Computer Centre, while staff and student enquiries should be directed to The Byte Shop at Taringa. For further information contact Mr Chris Barker on x4233.

Geoffrey Dengate
extension 3391

4.3 Scientific and Technical Word Processing

The TCI Software Research Inc. package T^3 is a Scientific and Technical WP package already in use in a number of Departments on campus. This article is calling for expressions of interest in this package.

A volume discount is available giving significant reductions in price provided sufficient copies are purchased. The standard price for a single copy is A$800, however this could be halved if twenty copies were purchased by the University.

Mr George Cooper (Physics, x3436) has kindly agreed to act as a reference point for enquiries regarding the pros and cons of the package, and any questions regarding its performance should be directed to him.

Geoffrey Dengate
extension 3391

4.4 IBM End–User Rebates

IBM have announced an End–User Rebate for Personal Computer Systems for a limited period. What this means is that IBM will forward a cheque to the purchaser (University Department, staff member or student) of any system purchased between 17 March 1986 and 31 May 1986. The value of the rebate will depend on the configuration purchased. The following are examples of the rebate for common configurations.

	System	Purchase Price (tax free)	Rebate	Effective Price
1.	JX,256KB memory 2x360KB disk drives colour display, PCDOS	2201	300	1901
2.	PCXT,256KB memory 2x360KB disk drives monochrome display, PCDOS	3359	775	2584
3.	PCXT,256KB memory 2x360KB disk drives colour display,PCDOS	3724	949	2775

4. PCXT,256KB memory,
    1x10MB hard disk,
    1x360KB disk drive,
    monochrome display,
    PCDOS   4241   989   3252

5. PCXT,256KB memory,
    1x10MB hard disk,
    1x360KB disk drive
    Colour display,PCDOS   4606   1163   3443

6. PCAT,512KB,
    1x20MB hard disk,
    Professional Graphics
    Display & Controller,
    PCDOS   12075   1850   10225

7. Proprinter   704   94   654

8. Quietwriter   1667   362   1417

For more information on the rebate scheme and pricing in general, contact either myself or Mr Chris Barker on x4233.

STOP PRESS: Rebates for items (1) and (6) have been increased from those shown above; however, confirmed figures are not available for inclusion in this newsletter.

Geoffrey Dengate
extension 3391

4.5 Floppy Diskettes

Floppy diskettes are available from the Central Store. Details are:–

Item Quantity Code	Description Price		
16667	Diskettes Floppy 5¼′ double sided, double density	Box of 10	$26
17531	Diskette Floppy 3½′ single sided, quad density (suitable for Apple Macintosh)	Box of 10	$41
17558	Diskette Floppy 3½′ double sided, quad density (suitable for Apple Macintosh Plus and IBM–JX)	Box of 10	$53.50

Geoffrey Dengate
extension 3391

5. Engineering & Communications Services
– Graham Rees, ext. 3288

5.1 Increased AUSTPAC Charges

On 3 March 1986 charges for use of the AUSTPAC gateway were increased in reflect the increased charges levied by Telecom.

The new charges levied by the gateway are:

(a) Data charge: $1.10 per kilosegment (up from $1.00).

(b) Duration charge: $0.36 per hour for outgoing calls (up from $0.33). The duration charge for incoming (to the gateway) reverse charge calls remains unchanged at $0.16 per call plus $0.067 per minute.

Charges for international calls remain unchanged at $11.00 per kilosegment and $0.13 per minute.

Arthur Hartwig
extension 4079

5.2 Improved Access to AUSTPAC Gateway

Because the use of the AUSTPAC gateway has been growing it has been decided to make some changes to the network to improve the availability of the gateway to on–campus terminal users.

The MICOM circuit switch now has a few lines which will connect a teminal user directly to the gateway (if it is on line) without having to connect to the host UQKL10 then issue a SET HOST AUSPAC.

A MICOM connection to these lines may be requested by selecting MICOM host AUSPAD. This network modification means the AUSTPAC gateway will be available to a small number of users even if the DEC–10 is down.

The AUSTPAC gateway is now connected to two other network nodes (previously it was connected to only one) meaning it will now be available provided at least one of the other network nodes is operational. Previously the AUSTPAC gateway was unavailable to users if node DN87SA was down — now both DN87SA and DN87SC must be down for the gateway to be unavailable.

Arthur Hartwig
extension 4079

6. Applications Development — Sarah Barry, ext. 3944

6.1 Information Concerning Courses

Enrolments for all courses may be made by phoning extension 3018.

The following courses will be offered during the period April — July 1986:

April

SQL	April 14–18 5 half days 1–4pm each day
Conversion to IBM	April 22–24 3 half days 9–12am each day
SPSS	April 28–May 2 5 half days 9am–12.30pm each day

May

SCRIPT	May 6–9 4 half days 1–4.30pm each day
Introduction to IBM	May 12–15 4 half days 9–12am each day

Introduction to PDP-10	May 19-22 4 half days 1-4pm each day
Conversion to VAX	May 27 1 full day 9-12am + 1-4pm
Using PC on the Network	May 29 1 half day 9-12am

June

Elementary programming in BASIC	June 2-6 5 half days 9-12am each day
Introduction to PDP-10	June 10-13 4 half days 9-12am each day
STATPACK	June 11-12 2 half days 2-4pm each day
Conversion to IBM	June 16-18 3 half days 9-12am each day
1022	June 16-20 5 half days 1-4pm each day
Introduction to IBM	June 23-26 4 half days 9-12am each day
SPSS	June 23-27 5 half days 1-4.30pm each day
RUNOFF	June 30-July 4 5 half days 9-12am each day
SAS	June 30-July 4 5 half days 1-4pm each day

July

Elementary programming in FORTRAN	July 7-11 5 full days 9-12am + 1-4pm each day
SQL	July 14-18 5 half days 1-4pm each day

General Notes:

1. Intending users of the PDP-10 system must be familiar with the content of the course *Introduction to PDP-10* (i.e. terminal usage, file-management, editing) before attending other PDP-10 courses.

2. In corresponding fashion, for the IBM system, users should have attended either *Conversion to IBM* (for previous PDP-10 users) or *Introduction to IBM* (for completely new users) before attending other IBM courses.

3. Courses held at St Lucia (with the exception of CAD/CAM courses) are conducted in the Computer Centre's teaching area near the Physics Annexe. Courses designated (GU) are held in Room 1.49, East Wing, SIA Building at Griffith University.

4. Staff and post-graduate students are admitted free to courses. The charge for internal users is $10.00 per half day; $17.00 per half day for affiliated users; and $37.00 per half day for external persons.

5. Enrolments for all courses may be made by phoning ext. 3018.

Barry Maher
extension 3021