

# RSTS PROFESSIONAL

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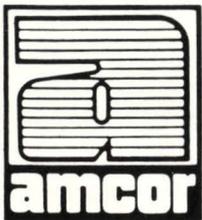
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## From the editors...

waiting . . .

Carl Marbach

Version 7.0 was in its time a neat piece of software. It had all kinds of good new things; big (better, faster) FIP, Data caching, QSTATS, lots of new MODES, ANSIII magtape routines and lots more. It was a definite improvement over V6C. Sure, it had its problems, but these would be fixed in the next release — wasn't that just a year away?

In the Golden, Olden days, when you purchased a one year support contract for RSTS it guaranteed you at least one new release. We became used to a release cycle of about 1 year. Okay, it slipped once and a while to 18 months, but the clear inference was that we could expect releases at about 1 year intervals. In 1975 we were running V6A. In 1980 we were through 6B, 6C and 7.0 giving us 4 versions in 5 years; pretty close to the cycle we were describing above.

December will mark two (2) years since V7.0 hit the streets and the best DEC GUESS is that the next version is still about 1 more year away! Three years! What's going on? Hardware hasn't exactly been quiet over these 2 years; RM05, 11/24, immediate delivery (!) on LS120's and VT100's, MOS memories and more.

Maybe V7.0 is so solid it doesn't need a new release. But what about the 11/70 small buffer problem, the 11/34 task building problems (it's still task building!), the RM05 support (it costs extra), 11/24's are anyone's guess, Stats that don't work and worse (they give erroneous figures) and more. Why is it that RSX seems to get the new bells and whistles first; DECNET, 2780 support, FORTRAN 4 PLUS.

Of course the commercial marketplace has made RSTS one of the most active operating systems around. There is Word Processing, List processing, Data bases, Queuing systems, backup packages, magazines, disk structuring packages, modeling systems, languages and editors — all from sources other than DEC. Just look through this magazine for all the good people working for your money.

Insiders tell me that all this time is being spent figuring out the BEST solution to these problems. That they will be worth waiting for. How do all of you out there feel about paying for three years for support and not seeing a new release? We think that although two women can't make a baby in less than nine months, two RSTS developers could produce a new version of RSTS twice as fast as one. Message: get off INDENT, GIGI and frills; make RSTS work the way it should.

What are you waiting for?

Andy Riebs spelling the small buffer relief. ▶

## DECUS MIAMI The Tide Has Turned

Dave Mallery

The big news from Miami is that two years of stone-walling has ended. DEC is talking to us again! One is tempted to attribute the thaw to the effect of tropical breezes and sunny skies on those inhabitants of the frozen north, but I'd rather think that there have been some fundamental changes in policy.

This was obvious right from the start. As soon as the opening salvos of what I had predicted would be "Buffer Wars" were fired, the development folks informed us that they were promising relief in the next release and would tell us more at a later session. The next morning, at a session entitled "Building a RSTS Monitor", Andy Riebs from the development team disclosed two approaches that were in the works to provide the relief.

First, a new memory pool would be established to hold WCB's and FCB's. Secondly, selected code segments would be re-worked to utilize "I and D" space—a hardware feature never before used by RSTS. Basically, this presents the developer with another set of memory mapping registers to use for buffer pools and the like. Please be very clear that nothing in this article, as well as nothing said at Miami represents a firm commitment by DEC. It is imperative that we accept this information in the spirit in which it was given.

There was also some bad news. The next release is more than six months away.

This symposium was highlighted by many excellent user papers. Mike Mayfield from Northwest Digital Software delivered a six hour marathon on Monitor Tables to large, late night audiences.

Mark Diebert from Squibb gave an excellent paper entitled "So Your Disk Is Irrevocably Corrupt" shedding a great deal of light on one of the more ominous init error messages.

Joyce Hayes and Steve Stepanek gave a three session TECO wonderland tour. It's amazing how some things never die. I have attended more funerals for RSTS and TECO than I care to remember. I heard about one site, in Rochester, NY, that uses about forty

... continued on page 28



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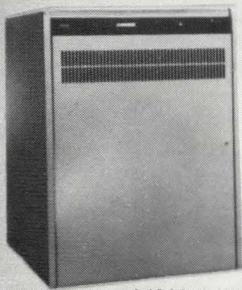
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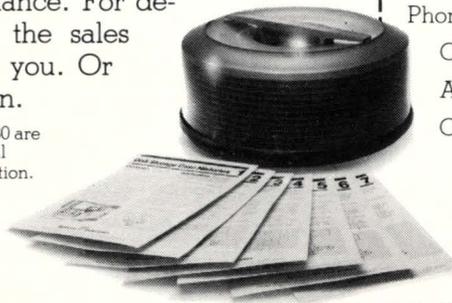
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# MENU THE MISSING LINK.

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**MENU** supplements RSTS security by allowing multi-level access capabilities

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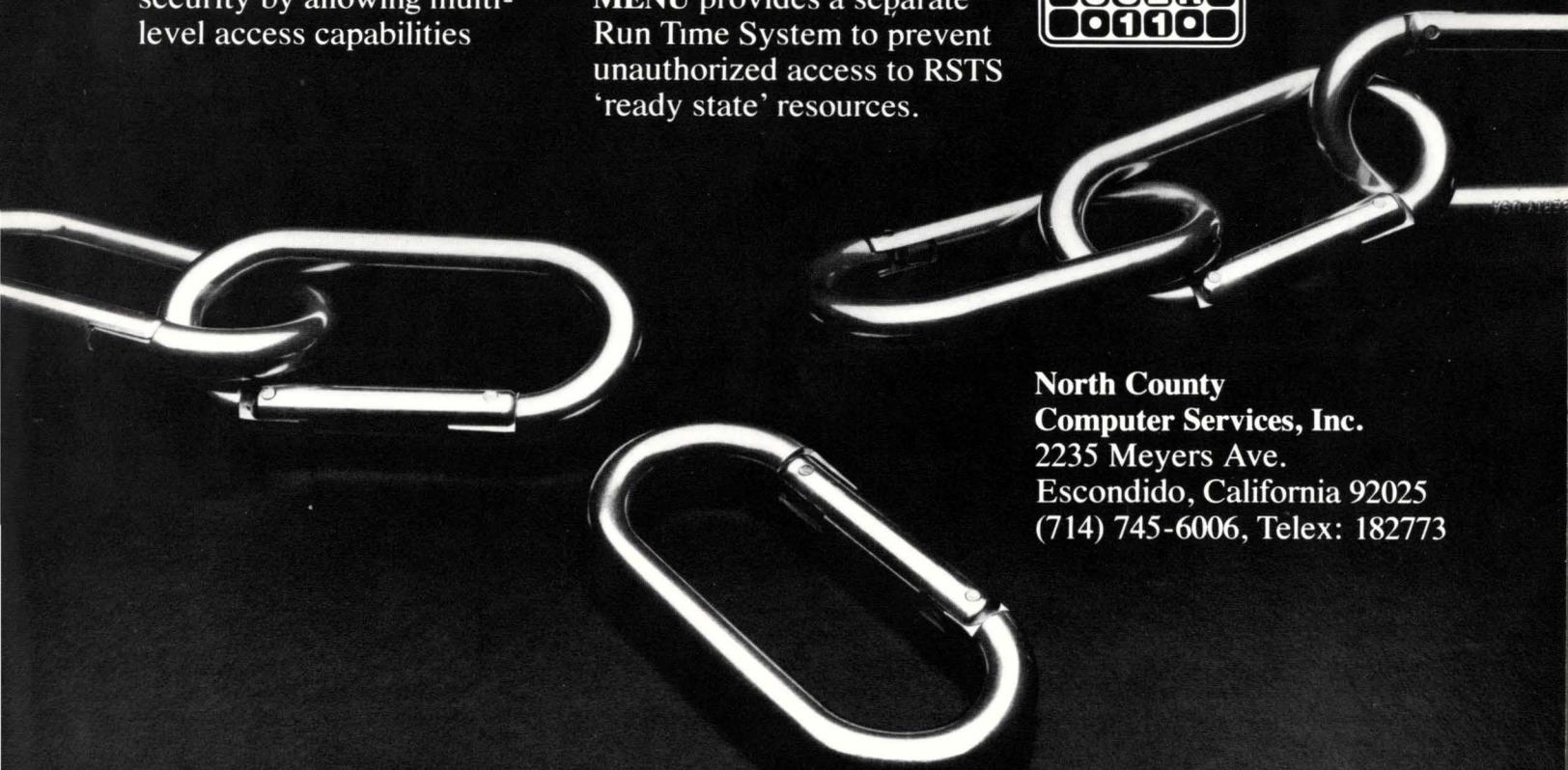
**MENU** is driven by simple text files which determine extent of program control, type and level of security, screen displays, and presentation of on-line '/HELP' information.

**MENU** provides a separate Run Time System to prevent unauthorized access to RSTS 'ready state' resources.

**MENU** installs in minutes and requires no software modifications.

**MENU** provides a common interface for all your users and application needs.

For information on **MENU**, please give us a call. We would be delighted to show you the missing link.

Three metal carabiner hooks are arranged on a dark background. One is on the left, one is on the right, and one is at the bottom center. They are all connected to a thin wire that runs across the top of the image.

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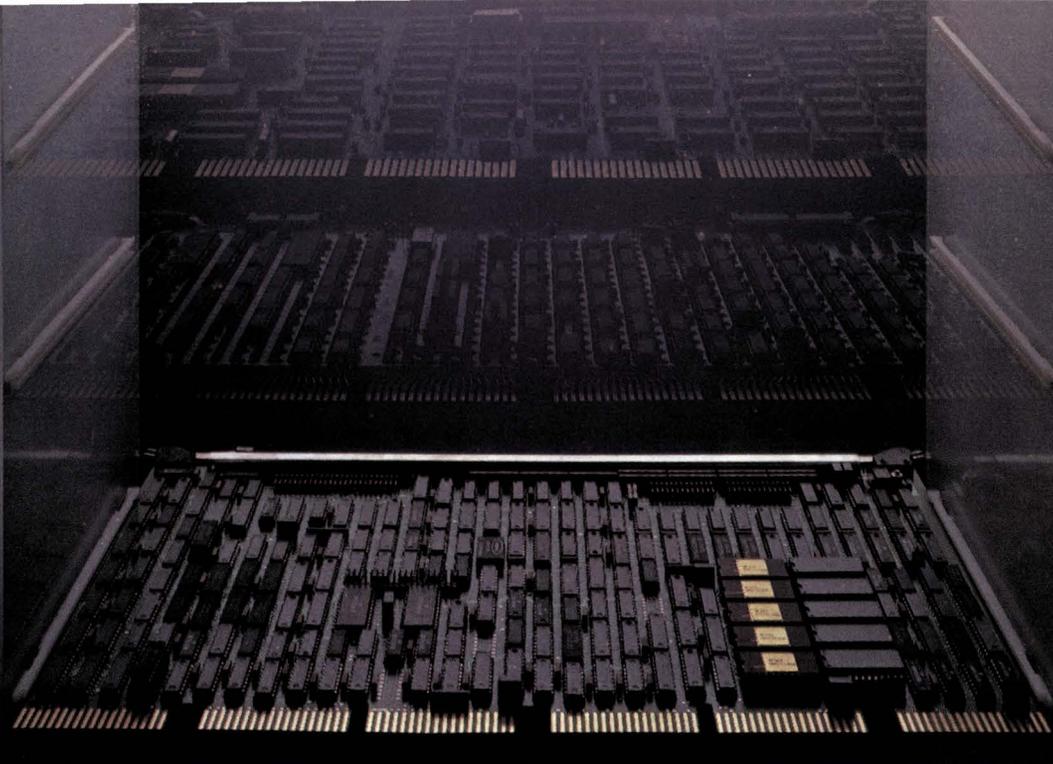












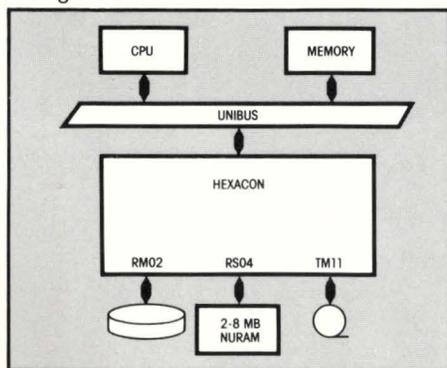
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# "I (for once) was speechless."

-- Dave Mallery, March, 1981 issue of  
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"I then copied the full contents of a 300 MB RM05 equivalent to this new 'well-structured' disk in 45 minutes, optimizing clustersize and contiguity in the process..."

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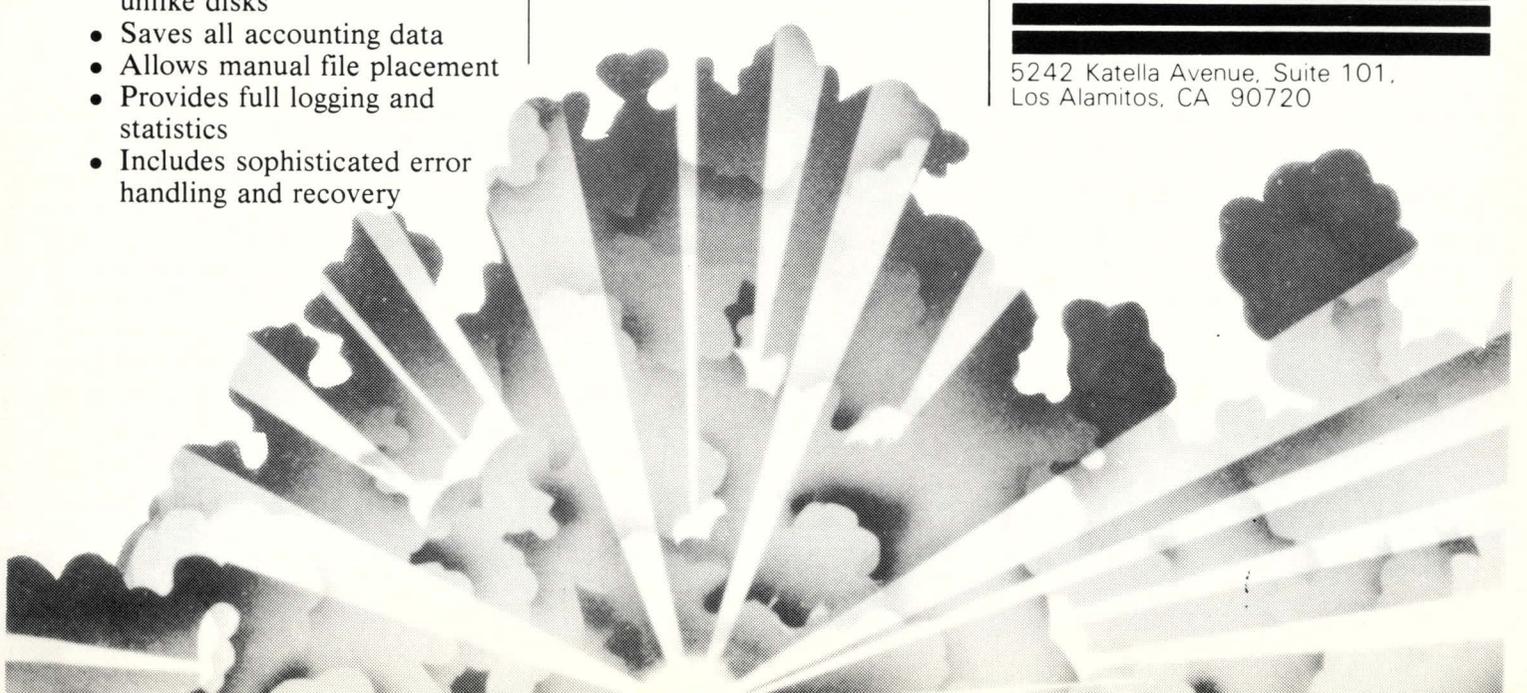
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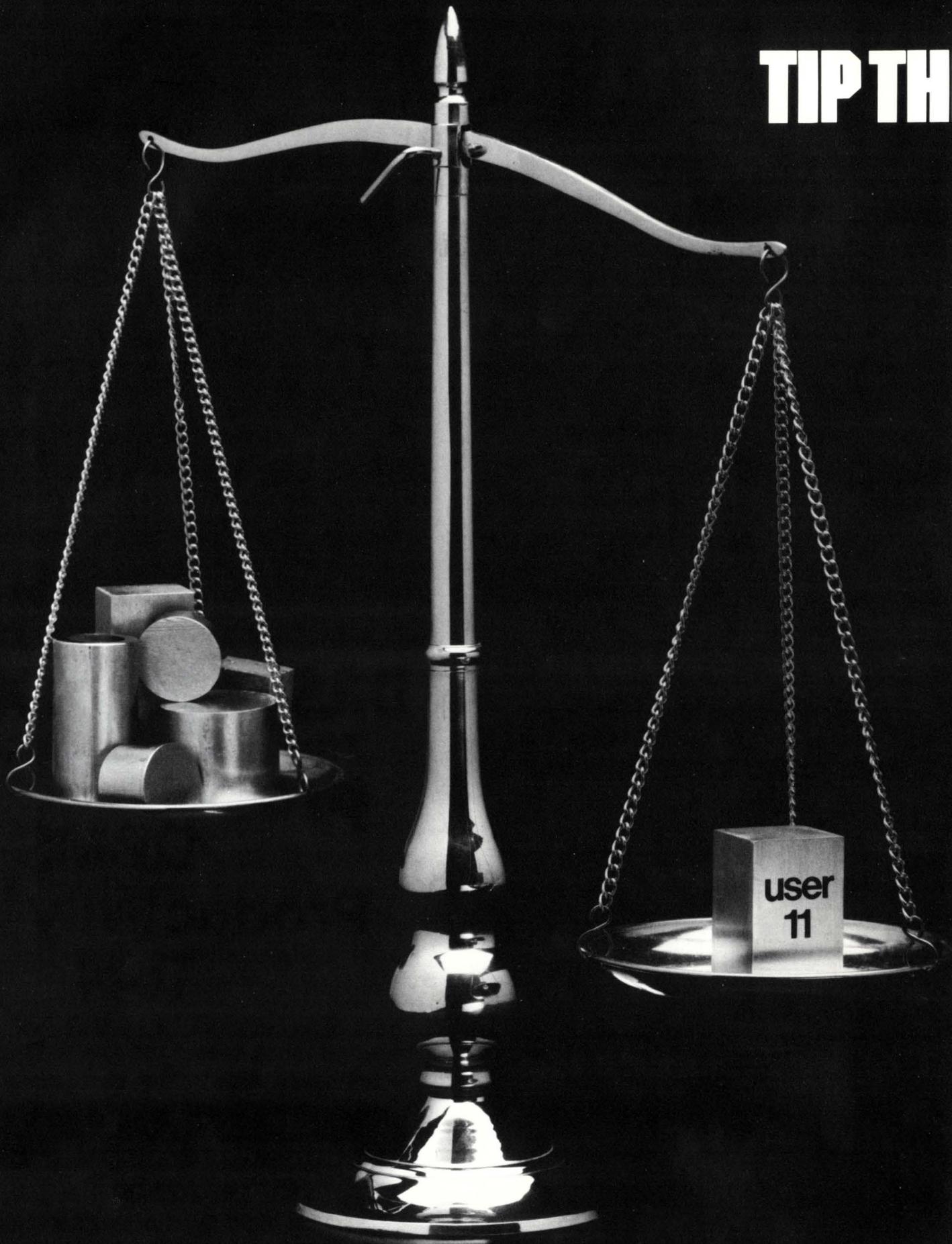








**TIP THE**



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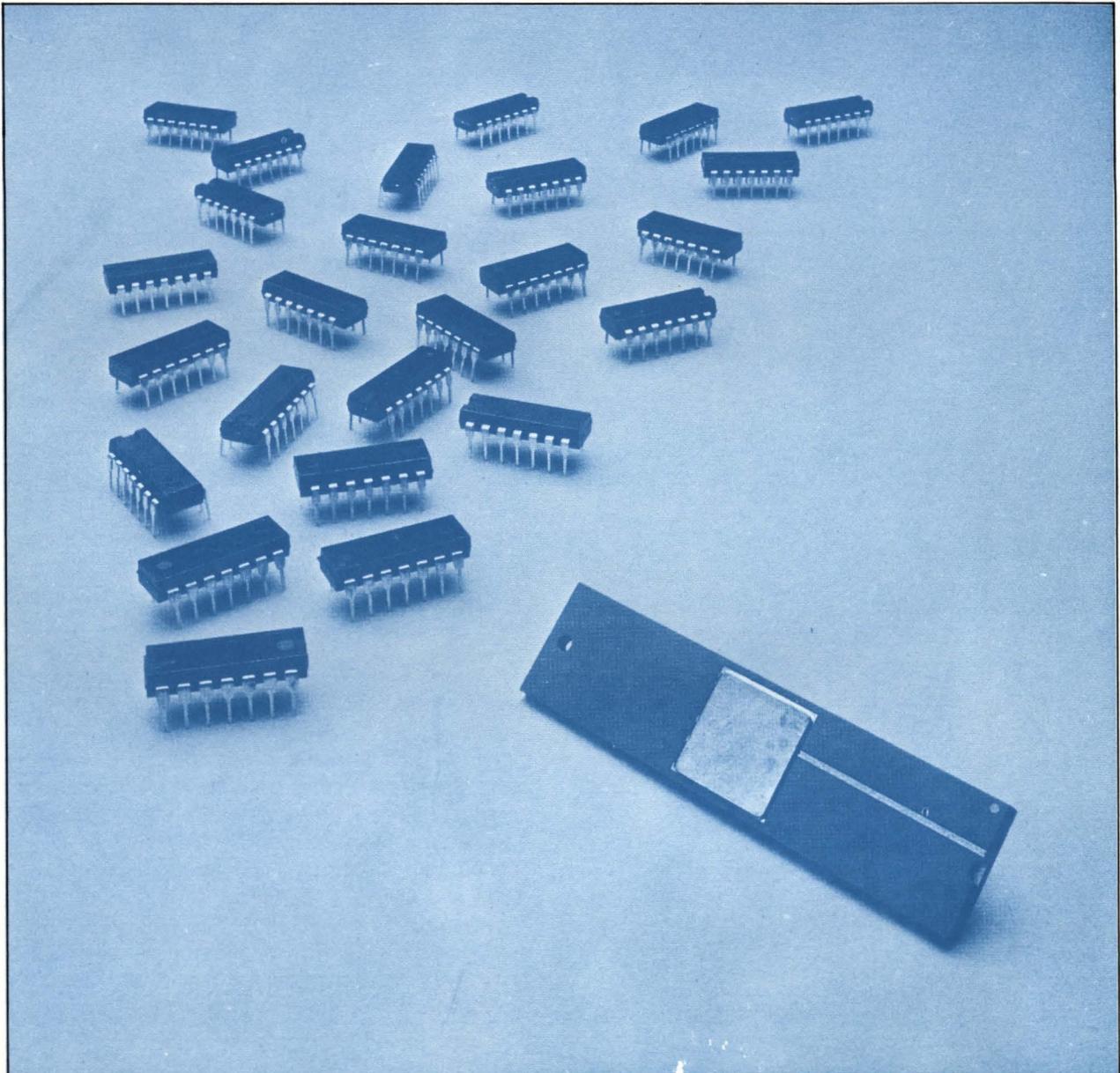


# The VAX-SCENE

Number 3

(RSTS PROFESSIONAL, Vol. 3, No. 2)

June 1981



## INSIDE:

- CONPAX: Conversion of PDP-11 Assembly Code to VAX-11 Native Mode**
- VAX News**









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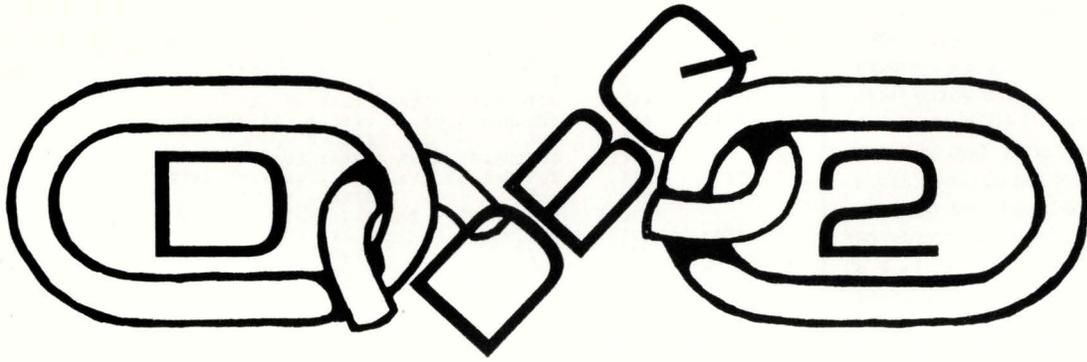








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nice. Why here? Well, telephone charges are minimized because it is very close to the center of the U.S. But they admit that it is easier recruiting people to the quality of life available in the Rocky Mountain foothills. There is also unlimited expansion available on the large site they occupy. The DDC shares the facility with the telephone support group and a disk manufacturing facility. Growth has been so rapid that there are signs of people being moved all over; new desks, new terminals (some in boxes), new walls, and new people.

I met Al in Denver and we drove the one and one half hours to 'the springs'. The DDC itself is spectacular, it sits alone on what appears to be miles of land mostly covered by low vegetation. At the end of the land are the foothills of the Rockies and the Rockies themselves with Pikes Peak standing out like a sore thumb that isn't sore; just pretty to look at. I suppose they get used to it, but guys, it sure is nice looking.

Once inside I met Bob Ross, fugitive from Detroit who is PDP-11 family manager (see corporate chart). Bob suggested that before we went into detail about the DDC itself that I might like a tour of the building and the disk manufacturing facility it contains. Warren Shubert was our guide through a plant that manufactures RK07's, pseudo-manufactures RM03's and RM05's (really CDC) and RP06's (memorex). They are also making the disk packs for the RK07's in a 'clean room'. In another 'clean' room they are making winchester media, this room is 1000 times cleaner than the RK07 room! The RP07 winchester (available for VAX) looks like a state of the art drive, with a monthly service cost less than the RP06 which holds less. The manufacturing system is RSTS of course (we're moving to VAX. . .) and tracks the process from receiving to final production and testing. Testing is done en masse with many smaller 11's, and hundreds of drives seeking forever (on a clear disk you can seek forever). Warren showed us the new packaging and shipping area that had recently been overhauled. They had done a study and found that this area was the bottleneck in production. A new system of wrapping, stacking, and moving these large packages around was installed and . . . now there is another bottleneck somewhere else. Slick this is, a small person (female even) can move huge amounts of disk packs around in a flash. All this confirms how little I know about manufacturing, and at the same time how similar manufacturing is to a complicated program. Maybe if I figured out where the bottleneck was in my trial balance I could. . .well, thanks to Warren and we went back upstairs.

Bob and I sat down and went over some of the goals of the DDC. The main objective of the DDC was to:

- Reach a diagnostic conclusion with a recommendation within 1 hour
- Achieve this in 90% of the cases

```

@S"TI$CTT:" L -1W
@I"TI$CFF:" ;;HANDLE CONTROL/F (OPEN FILES)
" -1W
@S"BNE 40$" @S";;" -1W K
@I"NOPE, IT IS CONTROL/T OR CONTROL/F
" -1W
@S"40$:" -1W @I" CMP R2,#F-100 ;;CONTROL/F MAYBE?
" BEQ 60$ ;;YEP, HANDLE IT
" L @I"50$:" 3L @I"
60$: CALL MAPPED,R5,TTOPNF ;;GO TRY FOR OPEN FILES
BR 50$ ;;DO SAME AS CONTROL/T
" -1W @S"TTYSYST:" 3L -1W @I" TMPORG TTOPNF
TTOPNF: SEC ;;SAY ILLEGAL UNLESS OVERLAID
RETURN ;; AND EXIT
UNORG

" -1W @N".WORD '6-100" OL -1W
@I".WORD 'F-100 ;;CONTROL/F (OPEN FILES)
" -1W @N".WORD TI$CCG" OL -1W @I" .WORD TI$CFF ;;CONTROL/F
" -1W
ET&512 "N 155^T 72^T 155^T 74^T
@^A"CLOSING FILE OUT ..." 13^T 10^T EC
ET&512 "N 155^T 72^T 155^T 74^T
@^A"FINISHED..." 13^T 10^T EX

```

- Continue to work the problem after 1 hour upon branch request

After these the DDC also:

- Can perform/help in PM
- Installation check-outs
- Branch Demo's (on request)

According to Bob, they are getting close to achieving the 90% effectiveness that they are shooting for. To you and me this means that they will make the correct recommendation to the branch for repair within 1 hour of your call about 90% of the time. Great.

In addition there is a 'hot call' list. 'Hot calls' are for VIP's, loud yellers, intermittent problems, and continuing problems. You can be put on this list by your branch, who will then agree on a plan of action with the DDC. You should be an integral part of this plan; if they don't ask you, then ask them. Remember, it's your machine. Once you are flagged on their data base as a 'hot call', the DDC will continue to follow up on the problem, i.e. if they don't hear from the branch or you for a week they will call to find out what's happening.

Why does the DDC work? Mostly because of the people who actually do the diagnosis (they get help from the computer of course). Jim Porter gave us a demonstration of exactly how the diagnosis is done. The computer is an 11/70 (they have four of them) running RSTS (we're moving to VAX). Jim sat at a VT100 and paged through their data base showing me various installations including mine. All necessary data is stored including your configuration, telephone number, contact, contact number, and DDC history. The engineer can look at all this to determine how to proceed. After looking up your configuration, Jim asks the computer (DDC) to connect to the remote location; connection and dial-out (Vadic auto-dialers) is automatic. Once connected he can instruct the computer to run through several 'scripts' of diagnostic sessions. There is a general check-out script as well as many specialized ones. Jim and his fellow engineers know these systems inside and out, you are guaranteed to get an expert. Nice is a keyword here, but then when they go to lunch they look out at Pikes Peak and that is bound to help even my disposition.

The calls are initially taken by the phone answering





# ODT.DOC

By Bob "MACRO MAN" Meyer

Insert for page 74, RSTS PROFESSIONAL, June 1981.

Dear Readers:

We're pleased to present [HOT OFF THE PRESS], Figure 1.

---

.title	demo	
one::	.word	7
two::	.word	6
demo::	mov	one,r0
	add	two,r0
	bpt	
	.end	demo

FIGURE 1.

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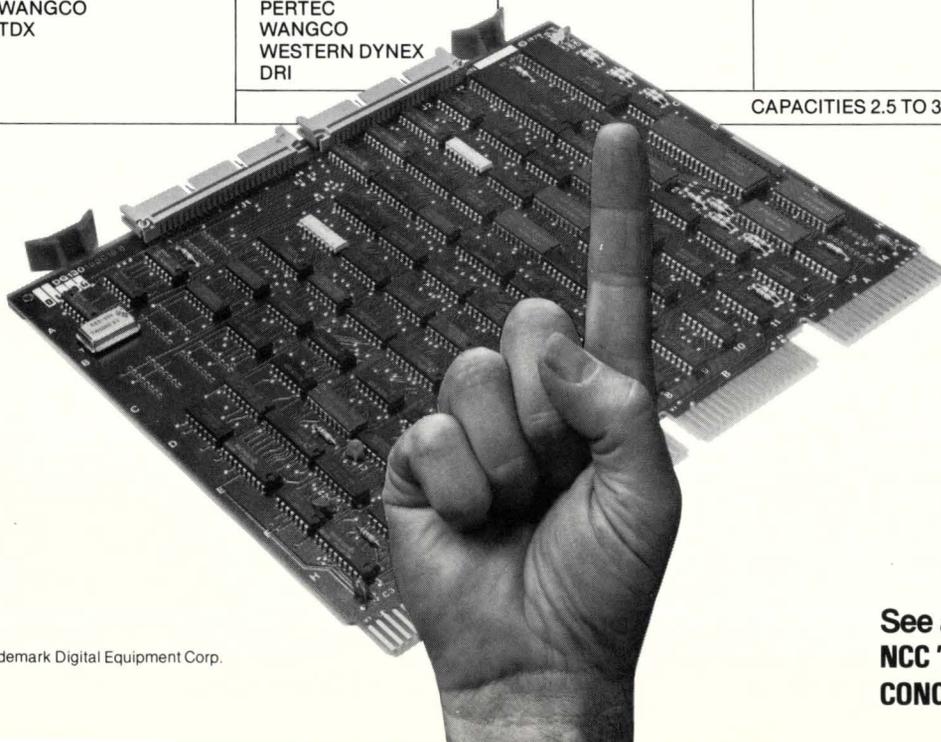
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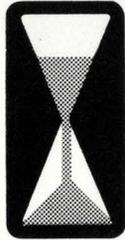




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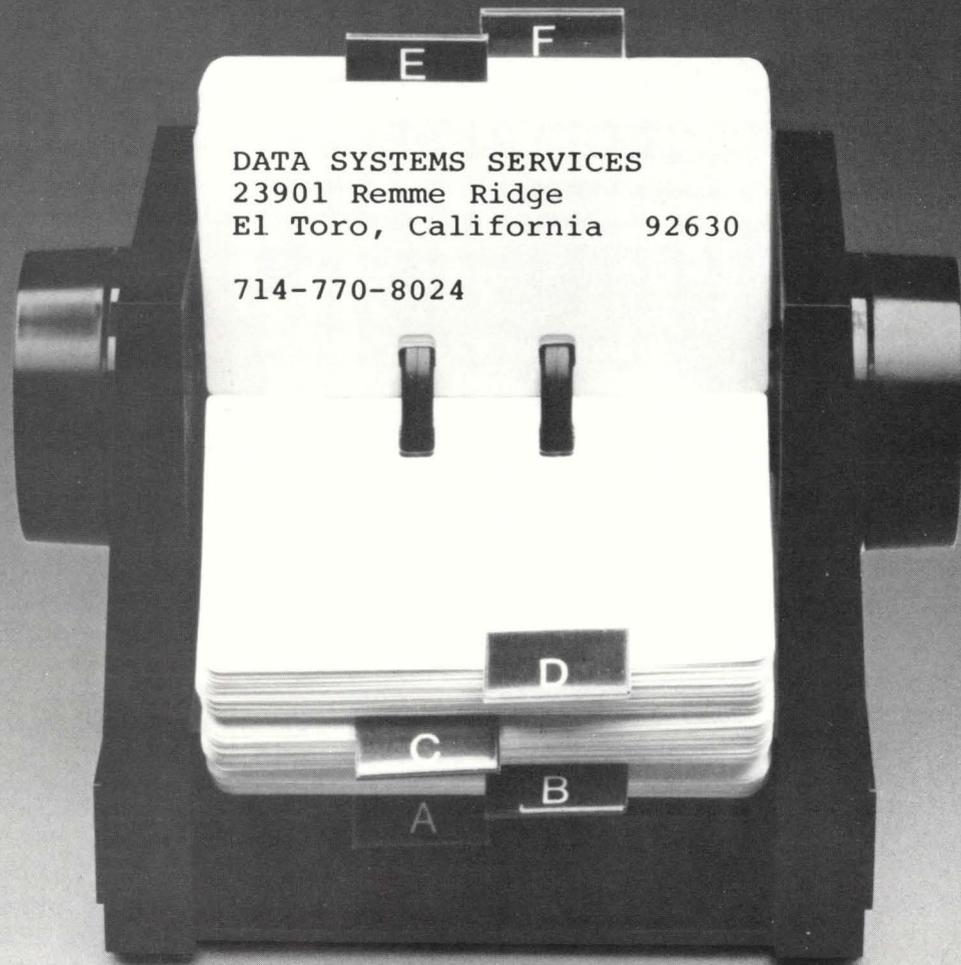
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LCK, IN	The entry is in the process of swapping in.
LCK	The entry is not available for swapping out.
OUT	The entry is not currently in memory and does not desire to be made resident.

## 2.2 MEMLST — RESIDENT MEMORY LIST

All of the memory on a system is defined by the resident memory list, MEMLST. As memory is divided among several different usages the memory control sub-blocks for each usage are linked into MEMLST in ascending order. Thus, by following the links between each MCB we have seen all available memory in the order it is allocated.

The memory control list is based at the location MEMLST. This location is the address of the first entry in the memory control list, rather than a pointer to the first entry as in most other linked lists. The first entry describes the memory used by the monitor and any free memory following it.

The memory control list always contains at least three entries. These are the root MCB, the system default runtime system, and the tail MCB. The root is actually the monitor MCB. The tail terminates the list and shows the highest memory location addressable on the system.

### 2.2.1 Root Memory Control Sub-Block

The first entry in the resident memory list is the root MCB. This entry starts at location MEMLST and describes the memory used by the monitor and any free memory following it.

The format of the root MCB is as follows:

Offset	Symbol	Description
0	M.PPRV	The link to the previous entry is 0 since this is the first entry in MEMLST.
2	M.PNXT	Pointer to the next entry in MEMLST.
4	M.TSIZ	The total of the monitor's size plus any free memory following the monitor.
6	M.SIZE	This byte contains the size of the monitor in K-words.
7	M.CTRL	The status bit LCK is set to show that the monitor's memory is not available for other uses.
8	M.PHYA	The starting physical address is 0 since the monitor always starts at location 0.

### 2.2.2 Tail Memory Control Sub-Block

The tail MCB is the last entry in MEMLST. It terminates the list and defines the highest memory address available on the system. The format of the tail MCB is:

Offset	Symbol	Description
0	M.PPRV	The backwards link points to the previous entry in MEMLST at its M.PNXT entry.

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Offset	Symbol	Description			
0	R.LINK	This word contains the address of the next resident library descriptor block. If this entry is the last LIB block in the list it will contain a 0.	22	R.FILE	These three bytes contain the FIP block number of the block that contains the UFD name entry for this resident library. It is used to close the resident library file when it is removed.
2	R.NAME	These two words contain the resident library name in RAD50.	25		This byte is the offset to the name entry of the RTS file within the directory block specified by R.FILE divided by 2.
4	L.PPN	This word contains the account number (PPN) of the resident library file. The project number is in the high byte. The programmer number is in the low byte.	26	R.CNT	This byte contains a count of the number of jobs currently attached to this resident library.
6	R.MCTL	These five words are the memory control sub-block for the resident library (see 2.1).	27		This byte contains a count of the number of jobs using this resident library which are currently resident in memory. If the residency count is 0 the resident library is eligible for "swapping out". If a resident library is loaded with the /STAY switch, the high bit of this byte is set, ensuring that the residency count will never be 0 and the resident library will always remain in memory.
14	R.KSIZ	This word (within the memory control sub-block) contains the size of the resident library in K-words.	28	L.STAT	This byte is used to differentiate between an RTS block and a LIB block. If bit 7 (symbolically, LS.LIB) is set this is a LIB block, otherwise it is an RTS block. LS.LIB is the only bit currently defined for L.STAT.
18	R.DATA	These three bytes contain the FIP block number of the first block of the resident library image. When a resident library is loaded into memory it is accessed on disk by this block number. Byte 20 is the most significant byte of the block number.	29	L.PROT	This byte is the library protection code. The protection code is used to control access to the memory space of a res-
21		This byte is the FIP unit number for the disk containing the resident library. It is used when loading the resident library image and when closing the resident library file when the resident library is removed.			











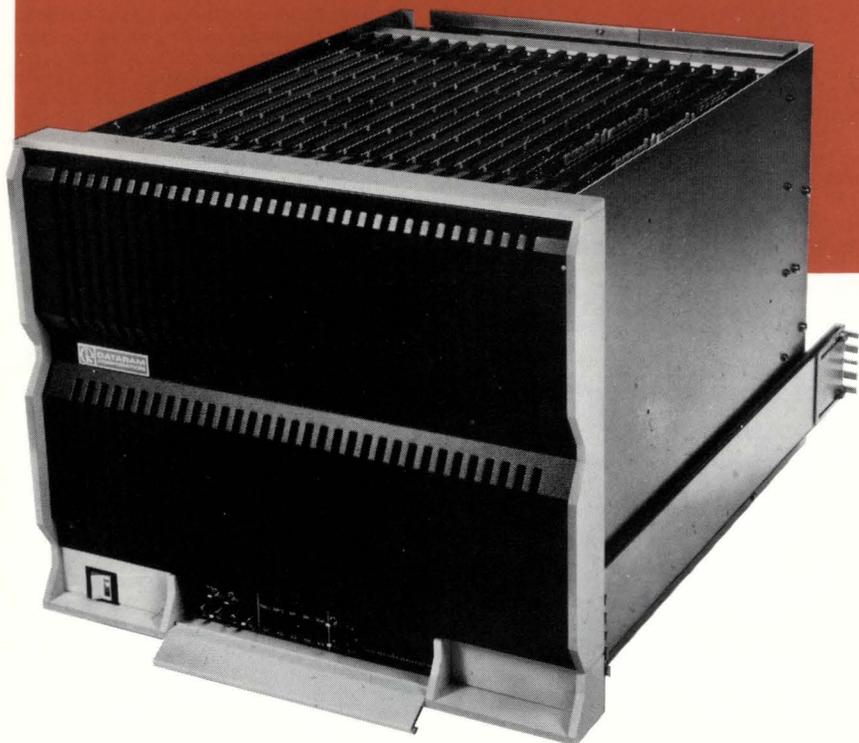






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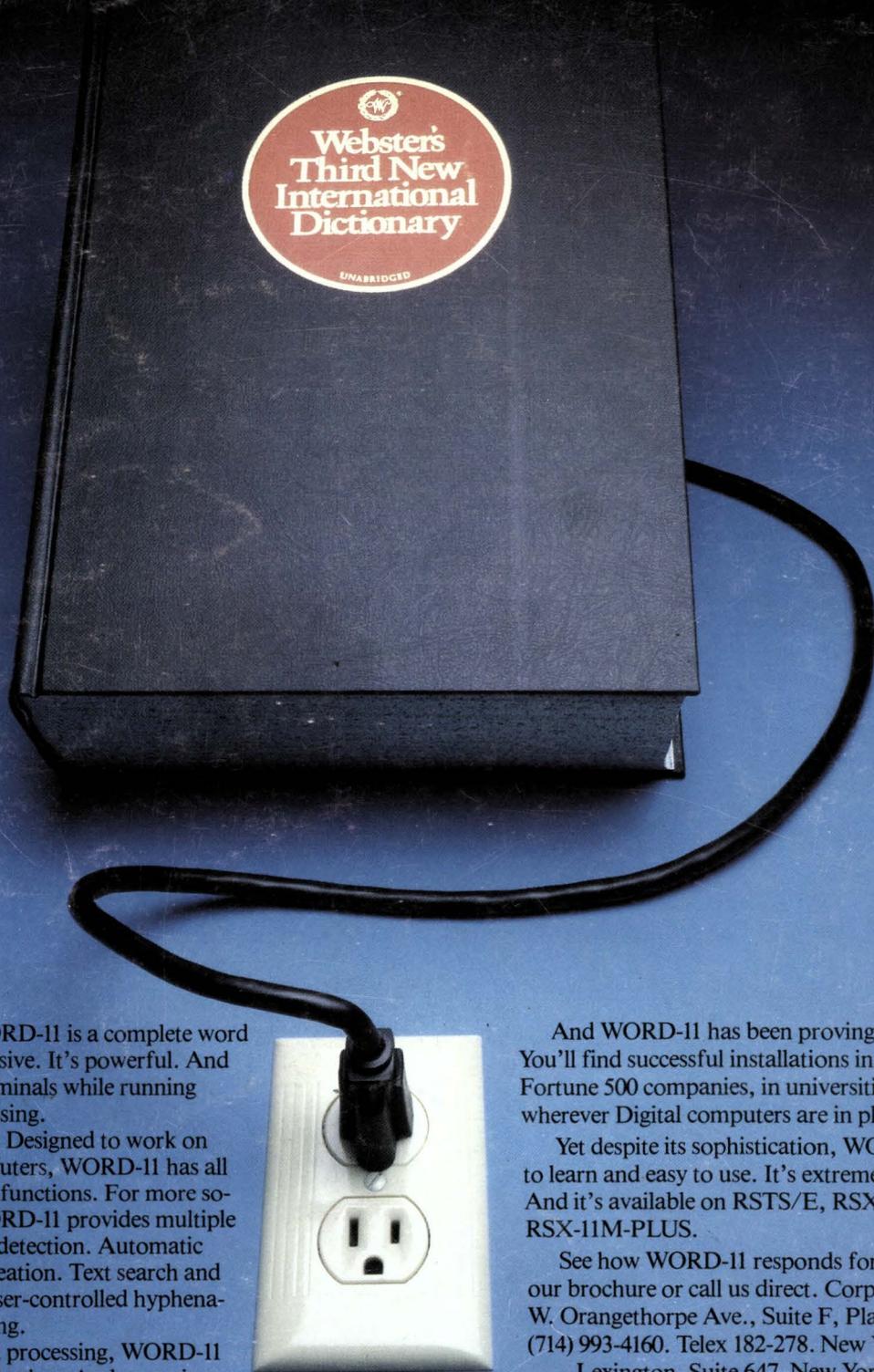
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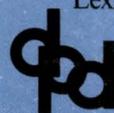
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