UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Computer Centre

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

date   : week ended 7 December 1972
authorization : Director of the Computer Centre

1   OPERATIONS

1.1   PDP-10 System

Friday   1 December   diskpacks failsafed and refreshed
0830-1412, to free disk blocks and
eliminate corrupted disk files
end of day accounting and system setup
1412-1427
teletypes failing to respond, restart
failed, monitor reloaded, offline
1525-1539
system offline 1552-1605, continued
successfully.

Monday   4 December   system offline 1245-1250, monitor
reloaded.

Tuesday   5 December   system maintenance 1415-1445.

Wednesday   6 December   system maintenance 0830-0854
end of day accounting 0855-0923
system looping, offline 1035-1055 and
1145-1200.

Thursday   7 December   card reader maintenance 2000-2250, batch
offline.

2   HOURS OF OPERATION

In the newsletter WN-109 (29Sep72), and the Bulletin B5-10
(26Sep72), it was announced that the hours of timesharing
operation would be extended to 8 a.m. to 12 midnight on a trial
basis until Christmas. Operations during that trial period have
been recently reviewed, and it has been decided to continue these
extended hours of service into 1973.

3 CHRISTMAS SHUT DOWN

The Computer Centre will shut down on 22 December 1972 and remain closed during the intervening days between Christmas and New Year. No further work will be processed after 11.00 p.m. on Thursday 21 December. However, the Centre will remain open until 1 p.m. on Friday 22 December to allow staff to finalize end-of-year accounting and users to collect any work or card punching. The Centre will reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday 2 January 1973.

4 NEW VERSION OF SACS

A new version of Sacs has been placed on the system to remove an incompatibility with the new decoder (WN-118). Sacs did not accept a project other than the job project for the SADAT file.

5 ERRORS IN THE COMMAND DECODER

5.1 Basic abbreviation

The new version of the command decoder does not presently accept BAS as the short form of the command BASIC. This will be corrected with the next version of the decoder.

5.2 Save Command

The Save command when used in batch is not always processed. The cause of this inconstant error has not yet been isolated, although it is currently being investigated. It is hoped that it will be corrected in the near future. However, users are advised to keep their relevant relocatable file in the eventuality of Save not working correctly.

6 LIST ERROR

If a large number of files are specified, as for example by a command such as
        LIST ALL/LST
an error in Lister will cause the actual listing of only the first 18, even though the user has actually been charged for the remaining files, which have also been copied to the listing symbiont area.

It is anticipated that this error will be corrected in a newer version of the listing symbiont which is currently being developed and which will offer a number of additional facilities. In the meantime please ensure that no more than 18 files are listed with a single LIST command.

7 PRINT LAYOUT FORM

The Centre is preparing a print layout form for its own use and for several clients that have requested such a form. Comments and suggestions would be appreciated from any other interested clients. A rough copy is available if necessary for criticism.

8 SUGGESTIONS

8.1 Door Wedge

sug: Have a wooden wedge near the main outside entrance door to hold the door open for production exits, when necessary.

rep: It has been our experience that if such a facility were provided the door would tend to be left open far too often. This increases the demands on the air conditioning system to cope with the rapid increase in temperature as well as increasing the chance for dust and dirt to enter the Centre and possibly the machine room. While we appreciate the difficulties involved in attempting to carry heavy parcels in and out of the foyer it is not possible to meet this request.