

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Computer Centre

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

date : week ended 4 May 1972  
authorization : Director of the Computer Centre

1. OPERATIONS

1.1 PDP-10 System

Friday 28 April system maintenance due to disk errors,  
1045-1055  
testing of plotter symbiont, 1057-1107  
system failure, offline 1420-1440.

schedule for forthcoming week: maintenance 0700-0900  
operations 0930-2300.

1.2 GE-225 System

schedule for forthcoming week: maintenance 0700-0830  
operations 0900-2400.

2. NEW PDP-10 SOFTWARE RELEASES

2.1 COBOL Compiler

Version 3 of the COBOL compiler and other associated programs will be installed on the system on 9 May 1972, in lieu of version 2 as previously used. The Computer Centre has made no changes to

this system. For those interested there is a memorandum, TM-22, available from the Centre secretary detailing the differences in this new system. These notes have been compiled largely from Digital documentation accompanying the release. COBOL will receive type 1 support from this version.

## 2.2 ALGOL Compiler

An ALGOL compiler (version 2) will be implemented on the system on 9 May 1972. ALGOL will be released as a type 4 program. A preliminary ALGOL manual is available in the binders in the clients' room.

## 2.3 MACRO

On 11 May version 47(115)-2 of MACRO, the assembler for the PDP-10 is to be installed on the system in place of version 43 which has been in use previously. The new version corrects all reported errors and includes all patches given in software bulletins up to volume XII no 3.

There should be no change in most circumstances, although it is possible that some programs that used special features of version 43 may yield different results. The new version uses a slightly different presentation for the code created; the output is divided into the fields specified in the source program, for example, instruction, index, accumulator and operand fields, rather than the half word used previously. The listing of literals at the end of the program is also suppressed unless the explicit pseudo instruction LIT is used.

This version offers a number of additional features, which are described in Digital manual DEC-10-NRZA. These facilities are not of general applicability and their presence should not affect the use of MACRO by the ordinary user.

## 2.4 BATCH

Batch, version 2D(67) -3 will be implemented 11 May 1972. This version incorporates a minor change made to correct an error that occurred under some circumstances with the student job system.

3. RUN COMMAND

When the RUN command is specified without arguments the filenames on the loadlist are assumed to be the files required. They are checked for compilation errors and, if satisfactory, are loaded and executed.

However, if arguments are specified with the RUN command, the files so named are not checked for compilation errors, and an attempt will be made to execute these programs even if they do have compilation errors.