## Mainframe Use Grows

The increase in microcomputers on campus this year might have been expected to lead to a decrease in the use of the central mainframes. However, data through April, 1986, show a significant increase in IBM 4341 use during 1985-86 as compared with 1984-85, and a less than predicted drop in DEC 1091 use.

IBM users are probably aware of the increased use of that system, since response time has often been slow this spring. The popularity of the old VS1 batch system has declined as expected, with a decrease of 12% in CPU use and 39% in jobs run. However, average CMS use is up a whopping 79% (see graph) as measured by CPU use, with a 46% increase in the number of log-on sessions.



IBM 4341 CMS USAGE
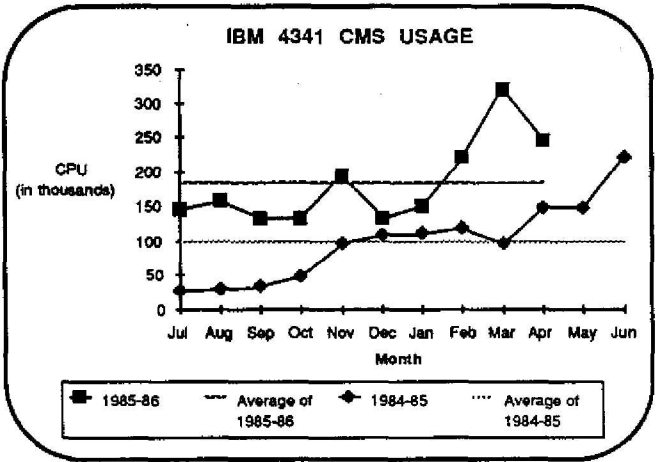
Last fall, nearly 50% of the instructional workload on the DEC 1091 was moved to microcomputers when the majority of the undergraduate Computer and Information Science courses were moved to the IBM PC and Macintosh labs. Coupled with this move, people have been discouraged from beginning new work on the DEC since Digital Equipment Corporation announced its phase-out and the future of the machine is uncertain. Thus a drop in DEC use was expected. While DEC log-ons are down by just about 50%, CPU use has dropped only about 30% (see graph below). This indicates an increasing workload, even with the heaviest class load removed and significant growth on the IBM system.



DEC 1091 USAGE
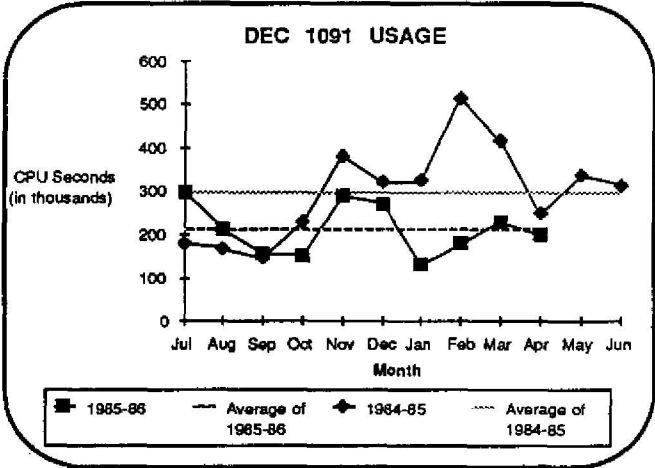
## Too Many Meetings?

Do you find yourself resenting the amount of time you spend arranging and attending meetings? Then consider Faculty Forum (FF), a computer conferencing system provided free of charge to University faculty and staff. Membership can also be arranged for colleagues at other colleges and universities both in and out of state.

Any group can benefit from using FF. Those whose members are located in different buildings or cities will find it particularly helpful, as will those under time pressure. With FF, you can generate reactions from a sizeable group in a short period of time. You can reduce the amount of time needed for face-to-face meetings. More meeting time can be spent resolving difficult points instead of discovering and exploring areas of disagreement. In fact, consensus often emerges as part of the preliminary conference discussion, making the final decision a formality.

Conferencing goes beyond the convenience of electronic mail (no more telephone tag!) by including valuable features such as a running, online transcript of the discussion. This can be reviewed to establish the context of current comments or read by new participants to bring them up to date. FF allows both private and public communications, and even anonymous comments.

If FF sounds like it might be useful to you, contact Rich Haller at x4394, via **MAIL 106** on the IBM or **MAIL/To R Haller** on the DEC.

## Education Program Update

University Computing will not schedule DEC, SED, CMS, or XEDIT sessions for any classes during the summer. However, next fall we will resume scheduling sessions for classes at the request of instructors. Instructors may continue to reserve Room 202 for their own classes.

If you want to learn either the DEC or CMS systems during the summer, the outlines of our short courses are available for purchase in the Documents Room (205). You can bring your problems or questions to the Consulting Office, Room 207, during the DEC 1091 and CMS hours.

The faculty and staff short courses offered before the fall and spring terms this year proved very popular. During spring break, a total of 94 people attended six sessions on the IBM PC, the Macintosh, CMS, XEDIT, and BITNET. Watch for more such courses next fall.

This spring's Macintosh short course series averaged over 40 people per session. We plan to offer another series of Mac lecture/demonstration topics in the fall.

A multi-session "Introduction to SAS" course is planned for next fall and spring. An "Advanced SAS" course will be offered next winter term.

Please direct questions or comments about the Education Program to Pam Prichard at x4394.

## MICRO SCOPE

## New KERMITs Available

KERMIT is a file translation and terminal emulation program which allows microcomputers to communicate with the Computing Center's mainframes and send files back and forth among a variety of machines. If you are new to KERMIT, you can find out more about it and how to use it from the write-up entitled "Micro/Mainframe File Transfer," available in the Documents Room (205).

A new library, called KERMLIB, has been set up on the IBM 4341 CMS system to house supported versions of KERMIT. New IBM PC and Macintosh KERMITs were added to the library in May. Log onto CMS and type KERMLIB to access the library or HELP UO4341 KERMLIB for more information.

There is also a new version of KERMIT on the DEC 1091. Log onto the DEC and type HELP KERV3.

## IBM PC Software for Sale

The Computing Center's General Applications Programming group (GAP) has developed two programs for the IBM PC that are now available for purchase at nominal cost. Both are easy-to-use, menu-driven systems:

- **UO/EQUIP**
  This package provides a method of tracking the equipment (desks, typewriters, etc.) that departments must keep on inventory. The type of equipment, serial number, model number, person and location can be stored and searches done on any fields.
  Cost: $75 for campus buyers; $125 for others

- **UO/LABEL**
  This package produces mailing labels from a database containing name, address, and selection code fields. Entries can easily be added, deleted, changed, and displayed.
  Cost: $50 for campus buyers; $100 for others

Each program is available for IBM PC's and compatibles with either dual disk drives or a hard disk. Each is written in dBase III and compiled, so you do not need dBaseIII or any other software to run it. This means considerable savings compared to programs which require you to own the underlying database or programming language.

The cost of each program includes the program diskette and documentation. Customized versions of either program can be purchased for the cost of the custom work at $30 to $50 per hour, with the packaged price as the minimum. You could have fields added to the database or reports tailored to your needs. You can also contract for special one-time projects. For example, to start their UO/EQUIP system, the Physical Plant contracted to have the inventory records for equipment charged to their department accounts pulled from the central state-wide data tapes in Corvallis.

For more information, contact Susan Hilton at x4394. Suggestions for improvements and additions are encouraged. New versions will be made available to purchasers.

## Try Out Micro Software

Have you heard that Microsoft Excel is the spreadsheet you need for your Mac? Or that ThinkTank is just the program for producing your course outlines? Are you debating between Microsoft Word and Multimate for your IBM PC?

If you are thinking of purchasing software for your microcomputer, we strongly encourage you to try it yourself first. For many IBM PC and Macintosh programs, such as those mentioned above, we can help you do this. Our Micro Support Lab (Room 105) contains not only hardware for the University community to try, but also a growing library of software.

Software available for perusal in the lab ranges from good quality public-domain programs tested by our staff to fully functioning versions of popular and expensive retail programs. This demonstration library includes everything from utilities, word processors, data bases and spreadsheets to music and training programs. If you are looking for a specific program, check the list in the lab or call x4412 weekday afternoons.

Come to the lab between 1:30 and 4:30 any weekday afternoon and try software in an environment free of sales pressure. You can then purchase software from local merchants or by mail order, confident that you know what the program will do for you. Or, if you find public domain software that meets your needs, you can check it out from the Documents Room (205) and copy it.

## STAT CORNER

### Where to Compute

During the past two years, many statistical computing users have moved to the IBM 4341 CMS system, where a wide range of statistical tools has become available. If your work requires one of these tools, such as the latest versions of SAS, BMDP, or SPSS$^X$, you might still want to move to CMS. On the other hand, if the machine you are working on now meets most of your present needs, we'd advise you to stay put. University Computing's plans to replace the DEC 1091 and the academic load on the IBM with new equipment may mean a move to a different machine for academic and research users, beginning late in 1986. We hope the future course will be clear by September. For now, we recommend that statistical computing users postpone any major changes in the way they compute.

### SAS Message

The IBM 4341 upgrade planned for June 7 will cause both the CMS and VS1 versions of SAS to print out a message about an "unlicensed CPU" for a short time. This will not affect the operation of the program in any way and the message should disappear within a few weeks of the installation.

## IBM 4341 NOTES

### Improved Response Time Expected

On June 7, we will be upgrading the IBM 4341 with a group II CPU purchased on the used market. We expect this change to provide a short-term solution to the current slow response time on the IBM.