

COMPUTING NEWS

May, 1988 The Computing Center University of Oregon Eugene, Oregon 97403 Vol. 3 #8

VAX HOTLINE

UF Replaces Faculty Forum

On May 15, Faculty Forum (FF), the DEC 1091's computer conferencing system, will be replaced by University Forum (UF), a similar facility on the VAX 8800. FF members who wish to continue using a conferencing system will need to open a VAX account.

There are two types of accounts available on the VAX—general and communications. General accounts provide access to all VAX facilities, including UF. Communications accounts are for those who plan to use the VAX exclusively for UF conferencing or other communication activities available through the MAIL and TELNET facilities.

If you're a member of FF and wish to open a communications account, you can use FF to request one. Join the FF conference called "University Forum" by typing

member university forum

after any equals sign prompt. Read the messages and follow the instructions for requesting a communications account.

Otherwise, pick up an Account Request Form—pink for general accounts and blue for communications. They are available at the Computing Center's Accounting Office (Room 107) or the adjacent reception counter. Complete the form, have it authorized, if necessary, and return it to the Accounting Office.

Faculty and staff members opening new VAX accounts, either general or communications, will automatically be enrolled in UF. If you already have a VAX account but haven't been enrolled in UF, contact Rich Haller, the UF System Administrator, at extension 4394.

FF users will find that most of the commands they're familiar with work the same in UF, with a few exceptions. To find out more about UF, pick up a copy of the *University Forum Handbook*, the new UF guide. For quick reference, grab a copy of the *University Forum Summary* handout. Both documents are available at no charge in the Center Documents Room (Room 205).

Once you're enrolled in UF, you can get further assistance by joining the conference named "Difference between FF and UF." This conference is an online forum for airing questions and problems that crop up for new UF

users, and sharing solutions. To become a member of this conference, type

member difference

after any UF prompt that ends with a dash.

New Accounts Urged to Move to VAX

The Center is advising academic users who wish to open new mainframe accounts to choose the VAX 8800.

If special circumstances dictate an account on either the DEC 1091 or IBM 4341, address your request to Gordon Ashby, Director of Computing Facilities, at x4394.

STAT CORNER

Stat Packages Migrate to VAX

Conversion Deadline Nears

On June 30, the VAX 8800 will completely replace the DEC 1091, and all statistical software except the basic SAS package will be removed from the IBM 4341. Statistical consulting support will be gradually phased out for both the DEC and IBM. Academic users of statistical packages are encouraged to move to the VAX in time to meet the conversion deadline.

Statistical software on the VAX includes the most recent versions of SAS, SPSSx, BMDP, MINITAB, SCA, and the IMSL math and stat libraries.

New Stat Bulletin Board

The statistics bulletin board, previously available on the IBM and DEC mainframes, has been moved to the VAX 8800. It contains timely information on topics of interest to users of statistical packages on both mainframes and microcomputers. The board will be updated several times a week.

To access the bulletin board, type

\$ stats

after VMS's \$ prompt.

The old stat bulletin boards on the DEC and IBM are

still online, but are no longer being updated.

Summer Short Courses in the Works

If there is sufficient demand, the Computing Center will offer a short course on SAS and/or SPSSx on the VAX 8800.

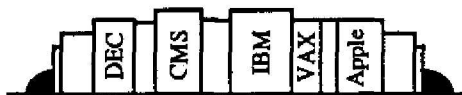
These courses would be offered near the beginning of summer term for academic users considering the packages for research and data analysis.

If you are interested in any of these courses, contact Don Bennett at x4394 or send a BITNET message to bennett@oregon. Course offerings will be based on demand.

New Version of SAS/PC Arrives

Version 6.03 of the SAS package for PC's is now available to rent from the Computing Center. This version takes advantage of the expanded memory in PC's and PS/2's and supports most of the statistical procedures available in the mainframe version of SAS. For information on SAS/PC and rental procedures, call Don Bennett at x4394 or send an electronic mail message to bennett@oregon.

—Don Bennett (bennett@oregon)



Library's Sensors Won't Harm Disks

People concerned about possible adverse effects of carrying diskettes through the UO Library's sensitized exit gates need worry no longer. All magnetic materials, including floppy diskettes, cassette tapes, VCR tapes, and 8-tracks, may be safely transported through these gates without fear of data loss.

According to Gene Heltemes, an engineer with the company that manufactures the gates, the detection system has "such a weak magnetic field that it could not possibly damage a tape being carried through it." This assertion has been borne out by three separate tests conducted by academic collaborators at Roger Williams College and Rhode Island College.

One study created a sequential text file data disk on an Apple II microcomputer. After passing through the gate sensors 100 times, the disk was checked for lost, damaged, or altered data and was found to be intact.

A second study involved storing the test disk inside a

sensitized book (one that would set off the gate's detection alarm) for 10 hours. Again, no data loss or damage resulted.

In a final test, a disk was attached by its paper jacket to the exit gate sensor for seven days; the disk remained unharmed.

Library patrons should be aware, however, that their tapes and disks are in jeopardy if brought into close contact with the sensitizer-desensitizer unit at library service desks. These units, which screen books being checked out, are located at the following library service desks:

- Main Circulation
- Science
- Architecture and Allied Arts
- Reserve
- Documents
- Law

The Library staff recommends that you do not place diskettes or tapes on top of these counters when checking out library materials.

Free Mac Orientations Continue



The Computing Center's free Macintosh orientation sessions are continuing through the month of May. U of O faculty, staff, and students interested in becoming acquainted with the Mac are invited to get some hands-on experience on the following dates:

- Monday, May 9 2 - 3:30 pm Room 175
- Monday, May 23 2 - 3:30 pm Room 175

These sessions offer a taste of software packages such as MacWrite and MacPaint, and introduce basic skills for using the Mac's operating system. Classes will be geared to those with little or no experience with the Macintosh.

Pre-registration is not required; classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Computing News is published monthly during the academic year by the Office of University Computing, Computing Center, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403. Telephone: (503) 686-4394.

Newsletter Editor: Joyce Winslow
Editorial Consultant: David Ulrich

You may reprint articles from *Computing News*, provided you credit the source.