VAX HOTLINE

New VAX Docs Continue to Arrive

As the transition to the VAX system progresses, supporting documentation continues to unfold. Sales of EDT pocket reference cards ($1) have been brisk and a new VMS pocket reference (also $1) is due out by mid-April.

A preliminary draft of a *MicroEMACS Reference Manual* ($5) was released early in April. It is a vendor-prepared document, tailored to reflect the local implementation of the MicroEMACS full-screen editor.

Faculty Forum (FF), the DEC 1091's online faculty/staff conferencing system, will shortly be succeeded by University Forum (UF), an FF lookalike for the VAX. A UF handbook is in final draft form and should be available late this month.

The official first edition of the U of O's VAX *8800 User's Guide* ($6) moves to the top of the writing priority list this month, with a publication date set for sometime in May. Preliminary editions are still available, with the $5 purchase price applicable to the purchase of a first edition.

All the above documents are or will be available for sale or checkout in the Computing Center's Documents Room (Room 205).

VAX Now Prints Labels

Address labels—both gummed and Cheshire—may now be printed on the VAX's standard line printer. To request gummed labels, issue the command

$ print/queue=lp$labels *filespec*

identifying the print file. Add a /FORM qualifier for Cheshire labels:

$ print/queue=lp$labels/form=cheshire *filespec*

The printing on labels will be aligned as it is on labels generated by SAS. Any other software written to generate labels must conform to SAS's alignment standard.

New Modems Installed

The Computing Center recently installed four new 2400-Baud modems to facilitate faster data transfer between VAX and IBM workstations and mainframes. Users may access the new modems by dialing **686-3560**.

At the same time, the Center's 300- and 1200-Baud modems have been realigned so that modems of either speed are now accessible through a single phone number, **686-4391**.

MicroEMACS Partially Supported

VAX users with Televideos, ADM-3s, or other terminals that are unable to emulate a standard DEC VT100 terminal may now use MicroEMACS as an alternative to EDT and EVE.

MicroEMACS is a version of the EMACS editor originally written for earlier DEC systems. It features full-screen editing, single-letter commands, split-screen and multi-file editing capabilities, and macros, among other options. Despite its relative complexity, it is the editor the Computing Center staff currently recommends to VAX users with non-DEC-compatible terminals.

The Center consulting staff provides limited support for MicroEMACS. Those interested in learning more about the editor may consult the *MicroEMACS Reference Manual*, available for sale ($5) or checkout in the Computing Center's Documents Room (205).

LOW$BATCH Rates Reduced!

Effective April 11th, the CPU time rate for LOW$BATCH jobs on the VAX was reduced from $50 per hour to $10 per hour.

Free Mac Orientations Set

U of O faculty, staff, and students interested in an introductory look at the Apple Macintosh can attend one of the free, hands-on orientation sessions scheduled throughout the next two months at the Computing Center.

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.

The sessions will be held on alternate Mondays, from 2 pm to 3:30 pm, beginning Monday, April 11, in Room 175

of the Computing Center:

- Monday April 11
- Monday April 25
- Monday May 9
- Monday May 23

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

Supercomputer Research Funded

A grant from Boeing Computer Services to the institutional members of NorthwestNet will soon provide U of O researchers with access to Boeing's Cray supercomputing system. Faculty interested in submitting a request for computing time should contact JQ Johnson, Director of Network Services, or Patrick Holleran, Assistant Director of Computing Services, at x4394.

Additional funding and information on the use of supercomputers will soon become available through the Computing Center. Watch future issues of *Computing News* for details.

BITNET NOTES

Improved LISTSERV Aids Info Access

LISTSERV, an improved version of an earlier mailing-list server of the same name, is a list processor developed at the Ecole Centrale de Paris in France. LISTSERV organizes information messages by topic, enabling subscribers to obtain information on a particular subject by joining the related subscription list. Messages pertaining to a given topic are automatically sent to all members on the list. Individual LISTSERVs may be linked together to expand the information network beyond the local level.

To access LISTSERV on the VAX, begin by typing

$ mail

Then, respond to MAIL program prompts as follows:

MAIL> send
TO: in%"listserv@oregon1"
SUBJ: (hit the RETURN key)

Where you would ordinarily enter a mail message, type one or more LISTSERV commands on separate lines, followed by a CTRL/Z, e.g.,

help
list detailed
register *your-full-name*
   (type a CTRL/Z)

This sequence tells LISTSERV to send
- a brief description of the most useful commands
- a topic list, with a description of each topic

and adds your name to the network data base. When you get a "New mail..." message, exit and re-enter MAIL, hit RETURN, and the information you requested will appear on your screen.

On CMS, you would type

mail listserv@oregon1

to get started. Respond to the mail prompts as above, again typing each command on a separate line. Then dispatch your request with the appropriate PF key. When MAIL responds with a "new mail from...." message, type mail to receive it.

Questions on LISTSERV may be addressed to David Boyes, the University's BITNET postmaster, at university extension 4394, or via BITNET (postmast@oregon1).

Finding People on BITNET

BITNET users frequently ask the question, "How can I find out a person's userid and node name if I know their name and University location?" Here are a few tips:

- Check to see if they are listed on a local name server list. The Computing Center Documents Room keeps a printed copy of these lists.
- Check the larger name servers, like NETSERV or CSNEWS, to see if the person is registered on one. CSNEWS' Bitnauts List is a particulary useful resource. Information on using these services is available in issues of *Netmonth* magazine (the Documents Room's collection dates from February, 1988).
- Log in and type
  tell listserv /whois *name*   (IBM)   or
  send listserv@oregon1 /whois *name* (VAX)

  providing as much of the person's name as you know. After several minutes, you'll get the full names and BITNET addresses of network members with matching names.
- If you can get the phone number of the person, the simplest route may be just to call and ask them for their userid and node name.

—David Boyes