



COMPUTING NEWS

October, 1989

The Computing Center University of Oregon Eugene, Oregon 97403 Vol. 5 #1

Welcome...

Welcome to campus and another year of computing at the U of O. To help familiarize you with the various facilities and services offered by the Computing Center, this issue of *Computing News* is devoted to describing the Center's major resources.

For those of you who are new to the University, *Computing News* will keep you up-to-date on campus

computing developments and offer occasional tips for solving common computing dilemmas. Copies are mailed to all faculty, staff, and GTF's, and are available in wall racks at the Computing Center. If you're not on one of the mailing lists and want to receive *Computing News*, contact the editor at x4394 for a subscription form.

Get Acquainted With Center Services

The Computing Center offers a wide selection of computing-related facilities and services to the University community. For those of you who are new to the U of O or have been out of touch with computing for awhile, here's a brief summary of our most popular resources:



Microcomputer Support Lab

- The Center's Microcomputer Support Lab, in Room 202 of the Computing Center, is the information and distribution center for the Microcomputer Purchase Plan (MPP). MPP enables University faculty, staff, and students to purchase Apple, IBM, Zenith, Microsoft, Claris, and Ashton-Tate products at substantial discounts (see "MPP Features New Products..." in this issue). Information on discounts from many other vendors is also available.

The Support Lab staff offers product demonstration and assistance in selecting equipment to meet your needs. Call 686-4402 or visit the Support Lab between 9 am and 5 pm for prices and additional details.



Microcomputer Services Center

- The Microcomputer Services Center, housed in Room 207, provides a number of services related to owning and operating

personal computers. The Services Center provides access to a selection of public domain software libraries, and is staffed with consultants to help with file transfer, virus detection and eradication, and disk repair.



Public Domain Libraries -

The Computing Center maintains a public domain library service to provide faculty, staff, and students access to public domain software and shareware. There is no charge for public domain software, and shareware is offered at no cost on a trial basis (if you decide to keep shareware and use it, you'll need to pay a minimal fee to the software's author).

Macintosh BCS Public Domain Library: This library service utilizes a CD-ROM disk containing public domain software from the Boston Computer Society (BCS). A catalog describing each program available through BCS is on hand in the Service Center (207) and Documents Room (205).

Macintosh CC Public Domain Library: The Computing Center's Public Domain disk, located on the U

of O Appleshare network, contains public domain and shareware software that is not available in the BCS public domain library.

Macintosh users may access both these libraries via UOnet, the campus network. Those without other access to UOnet may reserve time on a Mac in the Services Center.

Handouts describing how to use the library facilities are also available in the Service Center. You may direct further questions to the consulting receptionist, next door in Room 207, or call x4412 and your question will be referred to someone who can help.

IBM PC Public Domain Library: IBM PC public domain software is housed in the Documents Room (205), and may be checked out for two days at a time.



File Transfer, Virus Clinic, and Disk Repair - During certain specified hours on weekdays, you may request assistance from a Center expert with file and disk transfer, repair of damaged disks, or virus detection and eradication. Hours for these special services will be announced later this term. Call the consulting receptionist at x4412 to find out when you may come in for assistance.



Public LaserWriter - You may reserve the Apple LaserWriter printer in Room 207 to print out your Macintosh documents. The fee for

Center Services...

printing is 20¢ per page, paid in Computing Center *LaserBucks*. You must purchase *LaserBucks* at the downstairs reception desk (Room 108) prior to beginning any print job. Call 686-4412 to reserve printing time.



Consulting - Center consultants are available during office hours on weekdays to answer a wide range of computing questions. Consultants field questions on VAX statistics packages, communications software, and utilities; microcomputers (especially Macintosh and MS-DOS-based); and microcomputer software, among other topics.

If you need help with a computing topic, visit the Consulting Reception Office, upstairs in Room 207, between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm, or call the consulting receptionist at 686-4412. The receptionist will direct you to a staff member with expertise in your topic, or help you set up an appointment if a consultant is not immediately available.



Public VAX Access - The Center's public terminal room (105) provides 9 terminals for accessing the VAX 8800. Terminals are available on a first-come, first-served basis to campus users.

MPP Features New Products, Deals

The Center's Microcomputer Purchase Plan (MPP) is celebrating the arrival of Fall Term with a number of new products and back-to-school specials. MPP is the University program that enables U of O faculty, staff, students, and departments to purchase microcomputer products at substantial discounts.

Products from Apple, IBM, Zenith, Claris, Microsoft, and Ashton-Tate are available in the Center's Microcomputer Support Lab (Room 202, 686-4402), which offers product demonstrations and assistance with selection. The Lab is open weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm. New products and Fall specials are described below.

Apple

Apple's back-to-school promotion features a campus drawing for a Macintosh Plus on October 13, and the introduction of two recently announced products during the Lab's Open House on October 26. The new MacIIci features enhanced performance and built-in video. The new Macintosh Portable is a fully functional Mac utilizing revolutionary screen and battery technology. Those interested in participating in the drawing for the Mac Plus may sign up in the Lab beginning October 2.

AppleCare: This extended service plan, which covers replacement parts and labor on Macintosh computers and peripherals, is now available through the Support Lab for both University departments and individual purchasers. Contact the Lab staff for full details and prices.

IBM

IBM is offering specially-priced product packages through October 31, and is sponsoring a national sweepstakes for a Jeep Wrangler. Product bundles pair various models of the PS/2 with displays, mouse, and software. Special price reductions for three PS/2 printer models are also available during the Fall promotion. More information on prices and sweepstakes rules are available in the Support Lab.

Zenith

This summer Zenith introduced the new MiniSport notebook portable computer, a battery-powered laptop weighing less than 6 lbs. In addition, Zenith is offering some special promotions on selected products and reduced prices on older models.

Software Specials

While supplies last, the Support Lab is offering special price reductions for Claris MacDraw II and MacWrite II. Stop by the Lab for details.

Microcomputer Support Lab

OPEN HOUSE

room 202 and adjacent lobby

Thursday, October 26 9 am - 4 pm
representatives from

• Apple • IBM • Claris • Microsoft
• Zenith • Ashton-Tate

will be on hand to answer questions
and demonstrate products

Visit the Documents Room

New Computing Center users may be surprised to find a well-stocked computing documents library upstairs in Room 205. The Documents Room collection includes the following materials, many of which are not available elsewhere on campus:

- several hundred books on all aspects of computing
- manuals and locally-prepared write-ups for the Center's IBM and VAX systems and supported software
- over 100 periodicals, many on microcomputers
- a reference collection of literature indexes, hardware and software directories, and reviews
- over 200 newsletters from educational computing organizations and microcomputer user groups

- printed indexes of magazine articles on computing topics (see related article on indexes in this issue)

Anyone is welcome to use the collection and check out items. Books and newsletters may be borrowed for one week, while back issues of periodicals may be checked out for two days at a time.

Visit the Documents Room Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm, or call 686-4406 if you have questions.

Ferret Out Articles with Indexes

If you're looking for magazine articles on computing topics, the Computing Center Documents Room can help. The Documents Room stocks several printed indexes that direct you to such items as

- articles on computer-related topics
- hardware and software reviews
- book reviews, conference proceedings, doctoral theses

The following indexes are available:

- *Microcomputer Index*
- *Computer Literature Index*
- *ACM Guide to Computing Literature*
- a *Magazine Keyword Index* to major articles and reviews in current issues of journals

These indexes are kept on the Documents Room reference table, together with listings of computer-related magazines in the Documents Room, U of O Library, CATE Resource Room, and Eugene Public Library. Information about the CD-ROM search service at the U of O Library is also available.

IBM 4341 Phase-out Continues

800-bpi Tape Drive Goes October 1

Since early 1988, the Computing Center has been gradually phasing out the IBM 4341 and converting administrative applications to run on the VAXcluster. As part of this ongoing conversion, the 4341's 800-bpi magnetic tape drive will be removed on October 1, 1989. After that time, the Center will be equipped to handle only 1600- and 6250-bpi magnetic tapes. If you have any 800-bpi magnetic tapes, you should copy their contents to other tapes at one of the two supported densities.

1403 Line Printer, Controller Exit January 1

If plans proceed according to schedule, the Center will retire the 4341's 1403 line printer and controller on January 1, 1990.

E-mail Courses Scheduled

This term the Computing Center is offering two introductory courses in electronic communications for University faculty, students, and staff. Each class is offered twice. "Introduction to E-mail on the VAXcluster" covers VAX/VMS basics and procedures for sending and receiving electronic mail messages. "E-mail and EVE" demonstrates how to use the EVE full-screen text editor to compose mail message text.

There is no fee for the classes, but participants must have an active VAXcluster account before they can register to attend. Communications accounts with no monthly charges are available for those who just wish to use the MAIL program. To open an account, see the Center's accounting clerk in Room 107 at least one week in advance of the class. To register for a class, call extension 4394.

All e-mail sessions will be held in a special training room in Oregon Hall. Participants are asked to meet at the west end of the 2nd-floor foyer in Oregon Hall no later than 1:25 pm, and to know their VAX account userids and passwords.

E-Mail Sessions (1:30-3:00 pm 2nd floor, Oregon Hall) *Pre-registration and VAXcluster accounts required*

Introduction to E-Mail on the VAXcluster (covers basics of sending, receiving e-mail)	Tues. 10/10 and Mon. 10/16
E-Mail and EVE (using the EVE editor to compose e-mail messages)	Thurs. 10/12 and Fri. 10/20

Flyers giving a brief description of these courses are available at the Computing Center's reception counters.

Center VAX Manuals Revised

The Computing Center's two VAX/VMS publications, the *VAXcluster User's Guide* and *E-Com on the VAXcluster*, have both been revised for Fall Term. The first of the two manuals replaces the former *VAX 8800 User's Guide*, expanding its focus to the entire VAXcluster. It also includes accumulated changes and additions through September, 1989, including

- VMS release 5.0 enhancements
- withdrawal of support for the University Forum (UF) conferencing system
- the recognition of EVE as VMS's "standard" full-screen editor instead of EDT

The new version of the Center's electronic communications guide replaces the preliminary edition published in June. It includes information on WHOIS, the Center's new electronic "white pages" facility; more on

e-com terminology, including a discussion of network hardware and a glossary; and deletion of the University Forum section.

Both manuals are available in the Center Documents Room for \$5. If you purchased an earlier edition of either manual, you may bring it in and exchange it for the current edition at no cost.

STAT CORNER

New Stat Packages, Updates Arrive

Updated versions of the statistics packages MINITAB and LIMDEP are now available on the VAX 8800. And, math wizards can now experiment with Mathematica, a new mathematics/graphics package available via UOnet.

MINITAB version 7.1 - The VAX 8800 is currently running this long-awaited MINITAB update, which includes such enhancements such as GLM support, procedures for generating process control charts, support for alphanumeric data, and enhanced non-parametric support. For more information about these new features, type

```
$ minitab
MTB> news
Continue? (press RETURN)
MTB> stop
```

You may also order the Version 7.1 manual from Minitab directly by calling (814) 238-3280, or writing

Minitab
3801 Enterprise Drive
State College, PA 16801

LIMDEP, version 5.1 - The College of Business has provided us with the latest version of the LIMDEP statistical package for the VAX 8800. This version features a default data matrix size of 1,000,000 cells, a great convenience for those who have been running large LIMDEP jobs that take days to complete on a microcomputer.

LIMDEP handles logit, tobit, and advanced econometric models in a particularly efficient fashion. It can be run in interactive mode by typing

```
$ limdep
```

A version 5.1 LIMDEP manual should soon be available in the Documents Room for those interested in studying more detailed examples of LIMDEP's capabilities. In the meantime, contact Joe St Sauver (x4394) for more information on LIMDEP.

Mathematica - Mathematica is a symbolic/numerical mathematics and graphics package currently available for the Macintosh, advanced PCs, and NeXT computers. At the U of O, a copy of this package is available for trial use on a NeXT computer that resides on UOnet, the campus network. Mathematica's capabilities include

- infinite precision arithmetic
- symbolic integration and differentiation
- numerical integration and root finding
- matrix operations (inverse, transpose, determinant, Eigen problems, etc.)
- Fourier transformations
- graphics (including 3-D graphics) with PostScript output

For full details on these and other features, see *Mathematica: A System for Doing Mathematics by Computer*, by Stephen Wolfram, now available in the Documents Room.

If you're interested in trying Mathematica, send a VAX MAIL message addressed to JOE for information on how to access it on UOnet.

Time to Renew Your SAS/PC License

By now all SAS/PC users should have received a license renewal letter for 1989-90. If you haven't, contact Joe St Sauver at x4394 as soon as possible.

Try EzPATH

If you use structural modeling programs such as LISREL and EQS, you may want to investigate EzPATH, a new supplementary module for SYSTAT/SYSGRAPH that is reputedly easier to use. EzPATH costs \$150 and requires the MS-DOS version of SYSTAT/ SYSGRAPH. For more information, contact SYSTAT at (312) 864-5670.

- Joe St Sauver

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