VAX 8800 Arrives!

In early October, Digital Equipment Corporation delivered the University's new VAX 8800 to the Computing Center. Current target dates for conversion to the VAX system are

- November 2 - Hardware installation begins
- November 16 - Training of operators and applications conversion staff begins
- November 19 - Customization and systems installation work begins
- November 23 - Installation of applications software begins
- January 1 - Open for limited access by users
- June 30 - Academic use of the DEC 1091 ends
- June 30 - Support for most academic packages on the IBM 4341 ends

Many of these dates are guesstimates at this time. Until the Center staff has received training and experience on the new system, dates must remain flexible.

We expect to open the VAX for selected academic use sometime in January 1988. However, we anticipate that the system will continue to undergo substantial software modifications during Winter term, and will likely be an unstable working environment for the first few months. The next issue of *Computing News* will provide a software implementation schedule for the new machine.

Current plans call for total conversion of the academic community from the DEC 1091 to the VAX by June 30, 1988. Academic support for SAS and most other application packages on the IBM 4341 will also end on this date. Users of both the DEC and IBM systems should watch for conversion bulletins in *Computing News* and in the FF conference "VAX Conversion," and prepare to move applications to the new system.

Questions about conversion may be directed to Joanne Hugi at x4394.

Computing Center Renovations

Microcomputer Support Lab Reopens

On October 19, the Computing Center opened its newly-remodeled Microcomputer Support Lab (MSL) upstairs in Room 202. The new facility accommodates more demonstration models of microcomputers that are available at substantial discounts through the University's Microcomputer Purchase Plan. Currently, the lab includes an Apple Macintosh II, a Macintosh SE, and an IBM PS/2 Model 25, together with many Macintosh and MS-DOS demonstration software packages. Ordering information and price lists are also available. New hours are 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

The new MSL also houses the Apple LaserWriter printer, formerly available in the Documents Room, for public use. (See related article below.)

Adjoining the enhanced MSL is the Consulting Office, which has also been expanded and offers both statistical and general consulting every weekday (see article below for schedule). Consulting and the MSL now share the same phone number, x4402.

New Consulting Office Opens

On October 19, the Computing Center opened its new Consulting Office in Room 207. In addition to being a more attractive physical facility, the Consulting Office has also expanded its hours of service:

- **general consulting:** 9 am-noon, 1 pm-5 pm, Monday through Friday
- **statistical consulting:** 10 am-noon, 1 pm-4 pm, Monday through Friday

Users with questions may stop by the office or call x4402 during these hours.

LaserWriter Printing Service Moves

The LaserWriter printing service formerly available in the Documents Room has been moved to the new Microcomputer Support Lab (Room 202). Please note two changes in this service:

- the cost per page has been reduced to 20¢.

- payment must now be made in the form of coupons called *LaserBucks*. These coupons, available in $1 and $5 denominations, may be purchased at the downstairs reception counter.

For more details, pick up the information sheet "LaserWriter Printing Service" in Room 202, the Documents Room (205), or the downstairs reception counter (108).

MAINFRAME NOTES

Operator Coverage Changes

No Operators on Saturdays

As of November 14, operator coverage on the DEC and IBM mainframes will no longer be available on Saturdays. Users may access these systems on Saturdays at reduced "night-owl" rates, but magnetic tape mount and print requests will not be honored.

Otherwise, normal operator coverage hours will remain in effect:

- Monday through Friday, 8 am - 11:45 pm

- Sunday, 4 pm - 11:45 pm

Both mainframes will continue to be available to users 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Saturday Building Hours Unchanged

The Computing Center building will continue to be open on Saturdays, from 9 am to 5 pm, to accommodate those who need to use the terminal room and microcomputer labs.

IBM Backup Schedule Addition

Disk files on both VS1 and CMS are regularly backed up by Computing Center staff. Last month's issue included a new backup schedule, but inadvertently omitted device VMPKO7. This is the corrected schedule:

Mon & Thurs	VSKP01,VSPK02,VMPKO1,VMPK04
Tues & Fri	VSPK03,VMPK02,VMPK05
Wed & Sat	VSPK04,VMPK03,VMPK06,VMPK07

Back Up Your Files!

Whether you're an IBM or DEC user, be aware of the importance of keeping backup copies of your valuable disk and tape files. While the Center staff regularly backs up disk files for emergency recovery, you should create your own disk file backups, as well as duplicate copies of important tapes.

To back up disk files on CMS, use the TAPE DUMP facility, described in the *IBM 4341 User's Guide*. SAS's TAPECOPY procedure can easily duplicate most IBM tapes. On VS1, use the appropriate IBM utility (IEBGENER, IEHCOPY, etc.) to make tape and disk file copies.

If you're a DEC user, use the BACKUP program, as described in the BACKUP write-up, available in the Computing Center Documents Room (Room 205).

Tailor CMS MAIL to Fit

Tired of the 'Do you really want to quit?' or 'Do you really want to send this?' messages that CMS MAIL issues when you send a piece of mail or try to exit? Here's a solution! CMS allows users to configure their own individual MAIL options file, so you can tailor MAIL to suit your needs.

First, use XEDIT to create a file called MAILUSER XEDIT on your A-disk. To set an option for MAIL, insert a line in MAILUSER XEDIT specifying the option and the value you want to assign it. For example, typing

SETMAIL PSEND NO

SETMAIL PQUIT NO

will suppress the 'Do you really want...?' messages.

To stop MAIL from automatically keeping a copy of every message you send in your ALL NOTEBOOK file, insert the line

SETMAIL LOG NO

You can still use the LOG command inside MAIL to keep copies of your important notes.

For a complete list of MAIL options, see *A User's Guide to Electronic Mail* (Rice University, 1986), on reserve in the Center Documents Room (205).
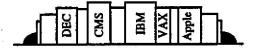
Micro Labs Available for Classes

Faculty members whose courses involve the use of microcomputers may reserve time in one of the Computing Center's three instructional microcomputer labs—an IBM PC lab in Room 165 and two Apple Macintosh labs (Rooms 175 and 185). The IBM lab is equipped with 19 PCs and each Mac lab has 24 Mac 512KEs.

Fees for lab use are of two kinds:

- **drop-in use** - $30 per student per term. Access is permitted at any time during the term that the labs are open and not otherwise reserved for classes.

- **class reservations** - $20 per hour. Instructors may reserve a lab for the exclusive use of their class during a specified time.

Labs are open from 8 am - 11:30 pm on weekdays, 9 am - 4:30 pm on Saturdays, and 4 pm -11:30 pm on Sundays. Arrangements for lab use must be made before the beginning of each term. For more information, contact the Center's downstairs receptionist in Room 108, at extension 4404.

Docs Room Offers Unique Collection

The Computing Center Documents Room, located upstairs in Room 205, features a sizable collection of computer newsletters and literature indexes, many of which are not available elsewhere on campus.

The newsletter collection includes publications from academic computing centers throughout the USA and Canada, educational computing organizations, and local microcomputer user groups.

The Documents Room subscribes to four literature indexes which are helpful to researchers in a variety of fields:

- **PCR2** - a bi-monthly index to hardware and software reviews in dozens of microcomputer-related periodicals.

- **Micro Computer Index** - a bi-monthly index containing abstracts of magazine articles and news items pertaining to new developments in microcomputers.

- **Computer Literature Index** - a quarterly index covering books, reports, and articles in periodicals.

- **ACM Guide to Computing Literature** - a comprehensive index published by the Association for Computing Machinery covering books, journals, conference proceedings, doctoral theses, and technical reports.

The Documents Room is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. Call 686-4406 if you have any questions concerning Documents Room services or resources.

STAT CORNER

New SAS on VS1

Most SAS users on the IBM 4341 have long since migrated from VS1 to CMS. However, those few who are still using VS1 SAS may want to note some upcoming changes. We presently offer two versions of the package—version 82.4 (the standard version, executed with an "EXEC SAS" statement) and version 5.08, which runs with an "EXEC SASV5" statement. Effective November 4, both of these versions were replaced by version 5.16. This means all VS1 SAS users will be using Version 5 of the software.

Migrating to the VAX

Academic users of statistical software on the DEC and IBM systems will be moving their applications to the new VAX 8800 sometime during this school year. The Center staff will be providing more information about the migration process as it progresses.

Statistical users can get a head start on the changeover and avoid future problems by beginning to catalog SAS datasets, SPSSx system files, and BMDP save files which are stored in their disk areas or archived on tape. While the Center staff will provide assistance in reformatting these kinds of files for the VAX, we'd like to know how many exist and where they are.

If you have any questions about this or other aspects of the migration process, please call a statistical consultant at x4402, weekdays between 10 am - noon and 1 pm - 4 pm.

- Pat Holleran

NorthWestNet Update

An article in the October issue of *Computing News* introduced NorthWestNet, a new high-speed regional computing network. NorthWestNet will link the local-area networks of nine University campuses in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Montana, Idaho, and North Dakota. The network will offer

- remote log-on capability
- electronic mail
- interactive access
- batch transfer
- remote graphics output

among other facilities. Network members will pay an annual membership fee and whatever expenses are incurred for equipment, circuits, and installation.

The U of O's connection to NorthWestNet should be in place sometime during Fall Term. Questions can be directed to JQ Johnson, University Computing's Director of Network Services, at 686-4394.

- from the NorthWestNet Newsletter

Local Area Network Support

The Computing Center offers installation and support of the Novell Netware operating system running on Ethernet. Multi-user programming services are also available.

If you're interested in a network demo, need programming work, or want assistance networking IBM microcomputers, contact Susan Hilton (x4394).

HyperCard Erratum

The October issue of *Computing News* indicated that Macintosh owners could copy the Mac's Hypercard software from the Documents Room's public-domain library. There has been considerable confusion about the status of HyperCard within the Apple organization, and we have now learned we cannot allow this.

HyperCard is now being distributed with Macintosh purchases. However, previous Macintosh buyers must purchase HyperCard separately. It is available through the University's Microcomputer Purchase Plan for the discounted price of $30 to University faculty, staff, and students who qualify for the plan.