DUCK CALL Debuts

The first week of reactions to DUCK CALL, the UO's new touch-tone registration system, are in, and everyone seems pleased. One student remarked that she thought registering for classes with DUCK CALL was "fun," a word not generally heard in the days of Mac Court melees.

During DUCK CALL's debut (May 13 through June 28), a designated group of some 6000 students are eligible to register for Summer Term by phone.

Over the next few years, the University will continue to enhance DUCK CALL and expand its capabilities. By Winter Term 1992, full touch-tone registration will be available to all students.

If the first week of its existence is any measure, the transition to DUCK CALL registration promises to be a smooth and happy one.

Sample the Goodies on New PC-SIG CD-ROM

The Computing Center Public Domain Library now includes the latest, most advanced PC-SIG CD-ROM software collection assembled to date. Billed as an "Encyclopedia of Shareware" for PC users, this is the ninth edition of the collection compiled by the PC-SIG organization, a user-group collective based in Silicon Valley.

The new CD contains such programs as shareware databases and spreadsheets, games, home accounting systems, word processors, and utilities. Users may copy software and try it out at home before deciding whether or not they wish to pay the shareware fee for keeping it. In some cases, they may copy a scaled-down version of a program and exchange it for the full version (complete with documentation and updates) after paying the fee.

Interested users may access the PC-SIG library from any properly configured PC connected to UOnet, the campus network. Both the Microcomputer Services Center (Room 207) and the Documents Room (205) have free handouts describing how to make a UOnet connection. Those without other access to UOnet may reserve time on a PC in the Microcomputer Services Center by calling 346-4412. The Services Center is located in Room 207 and is open weekdays from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Network Software Collection Revamped

The Computing Center recently reorganized its Mac public domain software library, dividing holdings into four major categories: *MacOS Updates*, *Virus Software*, *Utilities*, and *Network Software*.

The *Network Software* collection is currently undergoing radical revision. New software in this collection includes

- **NCSA Telnet version 2.4** - A new version of the most popular Mac Telnet program at the U of O.

- **Eudora** - An alternative for those who connect to OREGON via Telnet to read and send mail. Brings electronic mail to your desktop.

- **XferIt** - A new Mac application that facilitates file transfers via network connection using FTP, the TCP/IP file transfer protocol.

- **Network Time** - An INIT that sets the time on networked Macs to Universal Time.

- **Kermit** - The latest version of the Kermit terminal emulation and file transfer application. For Macs that are not directly connected to networks.

- **Internet Tour** - A HyperCard stack describing Internet features and resources.

You may access the Mac public domain library from any properly configured Mac that's connected to UOnet. If you don't have other access to UOnet, you may reserve time on a Mac in the Services Center by calling 346-4412.

MICRO TIPS

Mac Shortcuts

- **Cut the static** - Ever get that annoying message over and over to reinsert a diskette? Press ⌘ . (Command-period) several times to break the cycle.

- **Virus protection** - Here are a list of precautions to help guard against virus infections:

  1. *To protect an application from viruses*, open the "Get Info" box and check "Locked" to lock it.

  2. *To protect your master diskettes*, keep them locked by opening the read/write hole.

  3. *Use a virus protection program.* Disinfectant 2.4, which is available for copying from the Computing Center's public domain library, protects against all the known viruses. Information on how to install this program is contained in the Instructions file in the Virus Software folder.

- **Mouse paralysis** - If your mouse freezes while you're using an application, type ⌘ S (Command-S) immediately. This saves the file you're working on so that you won't lose anything before restarting.

MICROTIPS is a regular feature of *Computing News*. Look for more tips for both Macintosh and DOS in coming issues.

STAT CORNER

Two New Graphics Libraries Replace CA-DISSPLA

The Computing Center staff is currently replacing the costly CA-DISSPLA graphics library with IMSL Exponent Graphics and NCAR Graphics. This substitution is not only more economical, but also offers some notable advantages to users.

Both the IMSL and NCAR packages offer the simplicity of "one call" plotting, in which only one or two lines of code can generate a plot. In addition, the packages afford great flexibility, should you wish to override defaults.

Although relatively new, the IMSL product is exceptionally capable in all areas except computerized mapping. On the other hand, mapping is the forte of NCAR Graphics, a package developed by the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Manuals for both new graphics packages will soon be available in the Documents Room (205).

Those who have DISSPLA programs should contact Joe St Sauver as soon as possible for assistance in converting to the new programs. If you need help with this conversion, send an e-mail message to username JOE.

Note Changes in TeX Service

As of May 1, the TeX Users Group (TUG), assumed all responsibility for disk production and mailing of the TeX typesetting package and catalogs. These functions were formerly performed solely by Jon Radel, as reported in the February issue of *Computing News*.

As a result of the changeover, the TeX catalog is being revised. It will be reissued as soon as all of the changes are in. Anyone interested in ordering a new catalog should contact TUG. Address questions concerning the new policy and ordering procedure to

TeX Users Group
P.O. Box 9506
Providence, RI 02940-9506
Fax: 401-751-1071
Internet: tug@math.ams.com

Compress SAS Datasets to Save Disk Space

Users with huge SAS datasets will be interested to learn that SAS 6.06 supports dataset compression.

To compress a dataset when it is created, use statements that follow the form

```
libname mystuff base '[ ]';
data mystuff.whatever (compress=yes);
```

With minor exceptions, the compressed dataset can then be referred to as usual.

The compression technique is most useful when applied to datasets with large numbers of variables (regardless of the number of cases). Datasets with few variables realize relatively little savings in disk space when compressed.

Compressing and decompressing datasets, although handled easily by SAS, does use additional processing time. Prospective savings in disk space should therefore be weighed against the increased processing costs before opting for compression.

For further information on dataset compression, see pp. 718-719 in Version 6 of the *SAS Language Reference Manual*, first edition.

Index SAS Datasets to Speed Processing

Ever wish you could avoid having to sort datasets before using a BY statement? Do you long to bypass subsetting IF statements, while at the same time accelerating the selection of subsets? Try indexing your SAS dataset.

For example, to index the dataset MYSTUFF. STUDENTS on the existing variables HOMESTATE, MAJOR, and YEARSCHL, use commands like

```
libname mystuff base '[ ]';
proc datasets library=mystuff;
    modify students;
        index create homestate;
        index create major;
        index create yearschl;
    contents data=students;
```

Once SAS creates these indices, you no longer need to sort the dataset before running a procedure referencing HOMESTATE, MAJOR, or YEAR-SCHL with a BY statement. Instead, SAS will automatically employ the index to manipulate your data if it determines that an index will improve performance. SAS also selectively uses dataset indices when you use a WHERE clause to subset data as part of a procedure.

- Joe St Sauver

Get VAX, SAS Help From Online Tutorials

Now you can have VAX and SAS help at your fingertips with the new online introductory tutorials. To start the VMS tutorial, type vms_tutor at the VMS $ prompt. Type cbtsas from the VMS prompt to begin the SAS tutorial.

For more information about the new tutorials, call Howard Loewinger at 346-1718.