

COMPUTING NEWS

March, 1988

The Computing Center University of Oregon Eugene, Oregon 97403 Vol. 3 #6

VAX HOTLINE

VAX Short Courses Begin Spring Term

The Computing Center will offer two introductory VAX short courses throughout Spring Term for users with limited experience in mainframe computing. These courses are very basic and are not intended for the experienced mainframe user.

- **Introduction to VMS** - 1 one-hour session
April 5, 19; May 3, 17 1:30 pm
April 11, 25; May 9, 23 10:30 am
Room 165, Computing Center

An introduction to the VMS operating system on the Center's VAX 8800. No pre-requisites.

- **Introduction to EDT** - 1 one-hour session
April 7, 21; May 5, 19 1:30 pm
April 13, 27; May 11, 25 10:30 am
Room 165, Computing Center

Instruction and hands-on experience in using EDT, VMS's standard editor. Pre-requisites: attendance at the "Introduction to VMS" course or comparable experience. To use EDT's full range of features outside the course, you must have access to a DEC VT100-compatible terminal or a microcomputer that emulates one.

Interested U of O students, faculty, and staff may begin registering two weeks before the session is scheduled by calling 686-4394. All registrants must establish a VMS account before signing up for a course; see the Center's Accounting Clerk (Room 107) to set up an account.

PC Lab Available for VAX-Oriented Classes

The Computing Center does not plan to schedule special VMS training sessions for instructors or their classes. However, instructors teaching courses that use the VAX 8800 may reserve the Center's IBM PC Lab (Room 165) to provide instruction themselves. The lab houses 19 IBM PC's from which students may access the VAX mainframe.

Reservations should be made as far in advance as possible by contacting either Mary Bradley or Connie French at x4404.

More VAX Teaching Aids Coming

At the beginning of Spring Term, the Center Documents Room (205) will release two packets of instructional materials for checkout to interested instructors. One packet includes VMS and EDT handouts which may be photocopied, as well as paper copies of transparencies used in class instruction. The second packet contains transparencies for VMS and EDT instruction.

Instructors may also arrange to check out an overhead projector and screen by contacting Connie French or Mary Bradley at x4404.

VAX Conversion for Experienced Users

Users with extensive mainframe computing experience should be able to make the transition to the VAX 8800 without attending short course training sessions. The following documentation can help in do-it-yourself conversion:

- *The U of O VAX 8800 User's Guide* - introduces the VAX and VMS, as implemented here, including reference sources...available in the Center Documents Room (205) for \$5.
- **VAX 8800 Conversion Packet** (available at the beginning of Spring Term) - a guide to moving to the VAX from either the DEC 1091 or IBM 4341, with introductory handouts on VMS and EDT. May be checked out from the Documents Room and photocopied.
- **Online Tutorial** (requires a DEC VT100-compatible terminal or a microcomputer that emulates one) - a step-by-step introduction to VMS operation. To use it, type

```
$ vms_tutorial
```

when logged in on VMS.

Laser Printer Moves to the VAX

On Monday, March 28, the Computing Center will begin testing the Xerox 2700 Laser Printer on the VAX for a period of two weeks. During this period, the laser printer will serve both the VAX and the DEC systems, alternating on a daily basis. Consequently, files directed to the laser printer on either system may be printed a day late during the test period.

To send a file to the laser printer from the VAX, type
`$ print/que=lp$xerox filespec`

identifying the file.

Watch the next issue of *Computing News* and daily log-in messages for news of further laser printer developments on the VAX and how they will affect DEC and IBM users.

STAT CORNER

VAX Stat Packs Supported

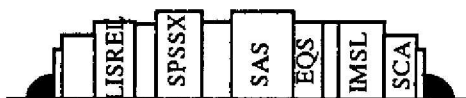
The Computing Center's statistics software staff announces support for the most recent versions of the following statistical packages on the VAX 8800:

- SAS version 5.16, including
 - SAS/IML - interactive matrix language
 - SAS/ETS - econometrics and time series analysis
 - SAS/FSP - full-screen procedures
 - SAS/GRAPH - graphics procedures
- SPSSX (version 3.0)
- LISREL (version VI) - linear structural relationships
- BMDP - biomedical data package
- EQS - linear structural relationships
- MINITAB
- SCA (interactive time series)
- IMSL (mathematics and statistics libraries)

New write-ups for SAS, BMDP, and SPSS* on the VAX are already available in the Center Documents Room (205). Documentation for other statistical packages is currently being prepared. Watch future issues of *Computing News* for notices of new documentation releases.

Center Offers Statistical Consulting

The Center continues to offer statistical consulting in Room 207 on weekdays from 10 am to noon and 1 to 4 pm. Three full-time staff members and two student consultants are available to assist with experimental design, analysis, and programming. Call x4402 during regular consulting hours if you have questions that can be answered over the phone.



'Viruses' Invade Computing Centers

Computer "viruses" have wreaked havoc and made headlines as they spread through academic and research computing centers across the country in recent months. "Viruses" are destructive programs that propagate themselves from disk to disk, or from computer to computer on a network, destroying data or damaging programs as they go.

Two distinct strains have recently been identified—the "Brain" virus and the "Lehigh" virus. "Brain" originated with student pranksters in Pakistan and has contaminated data at George Washington University, the University of Delaware, and the University of Pittsburgh. The Lehigh virus, presumably hatched on the Lehigh University campus in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, is more virulent, destroying hard disks as well as floppy disks.

Despite the catastrophic potential of viruses, the risk of contamination is still relatively slight. Most viral outbreaks can be prevented by taking the following precautions:

- Examine diskettes for indications of tampering, such as changes in the date the system was last updated. The Brain virus, for example, leaves copyright notices for "BRAIN" after the volume number on the operating-system software
- Routinely make backup copies of your data on disks that do not have MS-DOS, PC-DOS, or other operating systems on them
- Write-protect your backup and program diskettes to prevent anything from being added to them
- Turn off public-access computers and re-boot them with your own operating system before using them
- Don't download executable programs from public bulletin boards
- Avoid copied and pirated programs; stick to those originating from legitimate sources

Contaminated disks can be saved by replacing the infected operating systems with clean ones. The manual accompanying your operating system should provide instructions on how to do this.

- compiled from recent articles in the *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *InformationWEEK*, and *MacWEEK*

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.