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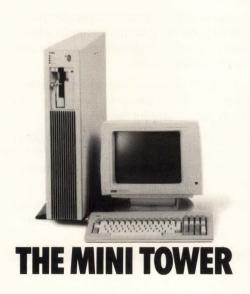
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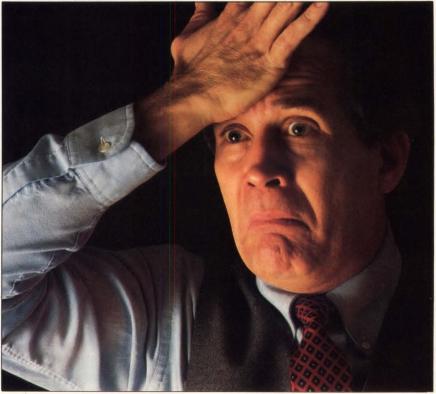
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COVER PHOTO: Bob Ward

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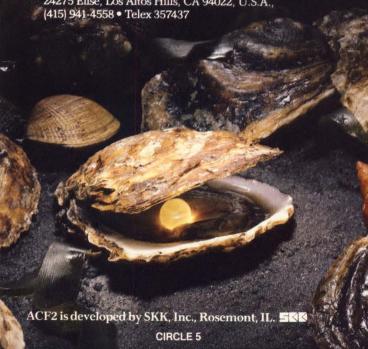
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LETTERS

ENDING END-USER BLUES

Regarding your article "Bend or be broken" [December], I would like to offer what many regard an eminently workable solution to dp's end-user dilemma. Other than the understandable reluctance of some MIS/dp executives to admit outsiders to their empires, there's really only one major obstacle to resolving the end-user dilemma. That's the scarcity of high-quality, general-purpose software. To get both dp and end users moving in the same direction, a single software package is virtually mandatory. But to function well in the broad range of end-user environments, such software must be flexible and powerful enough to handle extensive and intricate applications, yet simple enough for even novice users to use effectively.

Satisfying both the flexibility and ease-of-use criteria has a double benefit. First, it reduces the support burden that dp must ultimately bear. Secondly, such software provides an intrinsic growth path for novices. As a result, both dp and end users experience tremendous improvements in productivity and information usefulness.

We can accept as fact that MIS/dp executives' territoriality stems less from ego-vulnerability than it does from the need to maintain and control information resources. The real threat isn't from rising end-user competence, it's from loss of data and data relationship integrity—again, an overpowering argument for a single software package.

Though there is (as yet) no single software system that satisfies all criteria, Knowledge Man (manufactured by Micro Data Base Systems Inc.) comes closest. Beyond the usual spreadsheet and data-management functions, it also includes a structured programming language as well as comprehensive security features (write/write access codes, passwords, automatic data encryptions). Furthermore, end-users can arrive at simple solutions almost immediately and turn to MIS/ dp only for enhanced or more sophisticated solutions. This allows users not only to bootstrap themselves as far as they are willing or capable of going, but also to rely on MIS/dp expertise in the traditional way.

Solving the end-user dilemma is a lot simpler than many realize. Encouraging all end users (and where appropriate. dp, too) to use a single integrated software package and providing online access to a central database will let the problem practically solve itself. Richard C. Bailev

Product Support Manager Micro Data Base Systems Inc. Lafayette, IN

Address letters to the editor to Computer Decisions, 10 Mulholland Dr., Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604.

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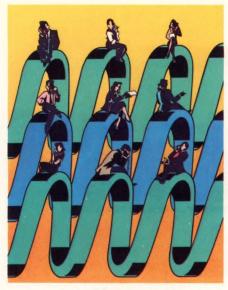
AND, STILL MORE NEWS.

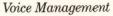
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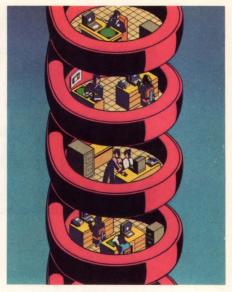








Data Management

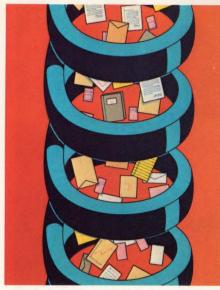


Networking

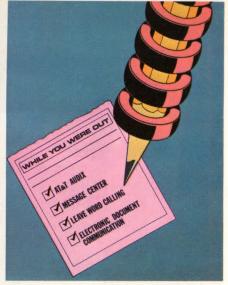
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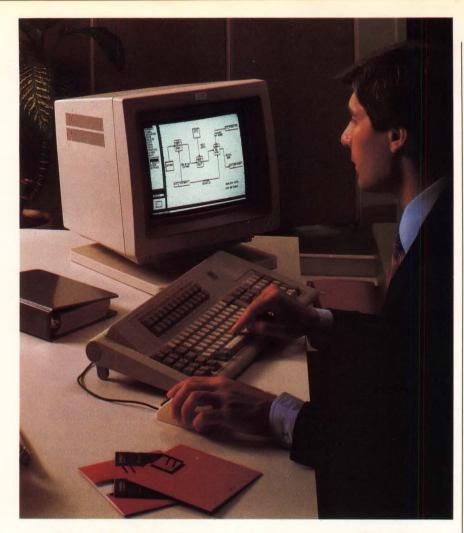
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GETTING THROUGH TO THE TOP

esponsiveness is no doubt high on your list of the desirable characteristics of a supplier of data-processing equipment. When hardware or software fails to perform as promised, or a vendor's service falls below par, you need a fast fix. If your vendor's local representative can't quickly come up with a solution to your problem, it would be a consolation to know that it's possible to seek redress at a higher authority at the vendor.

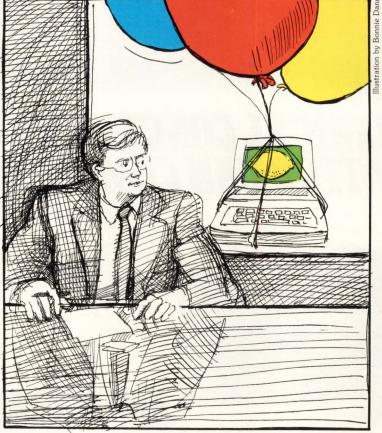
That's why I was so heartened to read, in the February 27th issue of The Wall Street Journal. that there are chief executive officers who keep in touch with their customers and the problems they have with products and services. Of the half dozen or so CEOs mentioned in the article, two head major computer corporations. John Sculley, president and CEO of Apple Computer Inc. in Cupertino, CA, listens to customers' complaints on Apple's toll-free "800" lines. He insists that other executives at Apple do the same. James G. Treybig of Tandem Computers Inc., also in Cupertino, CA, regularly scans his terminal for the complaints and suggestions that Tandem receives.

The article reminded me that it has long been the practice at IBM for the CEO and other top executives to frequently contact their customers—presumably the biggest ones—to find out how IBM and its products are performing. Not too surprisingly, IBM has a hard-to-match record for customer support and service.

How accessible are the top managers of the MIS/dp vendors your organization does business with? If a product or service is less than satisfactory, can you reach to the very top, if necessary, for satisfaction? I suspect that you are more likely to get results if the primary business of your vendor is MIS/dp equipment. In contrast, you are less likely to obtain redress if the vendor is part of a conglomerate whose primary business is not computer-related. For example, if office-automation products were the primary business of Exxon Corp., the former owner of Exxon Office Systems, the

latter might be faring much better.

This is not to suggest that you should only do business with vendors whose primary business is data-processing equipment. In fact, in the "News & Comment" section of a recent issue of Computer Decisions, an article on the effectiveness of the hot lines of vendors whose primary business is micro software pointed out that their customers think the hot lines aren't so hot. Fortunately, most vendors are responsive to their customers' needs. But, if your vendor's initial response to your problems is unsatisfactory, remember where the buck really stops, and that using your clout as a customer can often result in a "top-down" solution. \square



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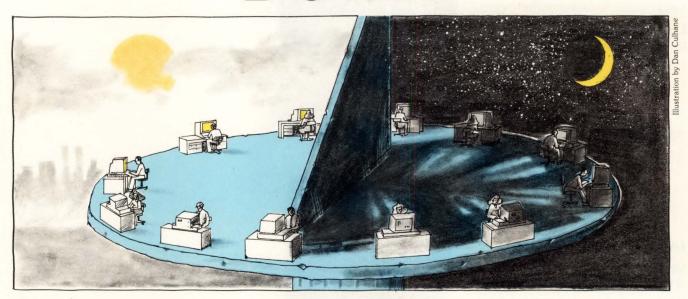
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Edited by Joseph Braue, News Editor

KEEPING DOWNTIME DOWN



n 1975, the computers at the U.S. Census Bureau in Washington operated for only about 10 to 12 hours between crashes. Today, the mean time between hardware breakdowns is more than 19 days, and software crashes occur only about once a month, according to Brian Benton, associate director of the bureau.

As organizations come to rely ever more heavily on computers, "acceptable downtime" is becoming no downtime. "Computers have become like telephones," says Roger Tydberg, performance planner for General Mills Inc.'s consumer-foods division in Minneapolis. "Employees expect them to be there and won't put up with any lapses."

In a sampling of organizations across the country, Computer Decisions found most downtime rates for

mainframes to be under 2 percent. For more positive thinkers, this means' uptime is better than 98 percent.

Of course, getting accurate and comparable statistics on downtime is complicated by the number of variables involved in the operation of a computer system. Such variables include the age and configuration of

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hardware, the varieties of applications used, the volume of use, the ratio of online to batch processing, the quantity and quality of routine maintenance, the physical conditions in the dp shop, and the reliability of the communication lines that tie a system together. Also, some downtime figures reflect component-by-component tracking, while others represent a total-system-performance level.

The 98 percent uptime figure refers to the amount of time a system's hardware is functioning. But for users, a more valid measurement of uptime is user availability. "A central-processing unit almost never crashes," says Bob Browning, assistant director of operations at Washington University's computing facility in St. Louis. "It's more relevant to define downtime from the user's point of view. If an application is

16

The BTI 8000 outperforms the HP 3000 3 to 1



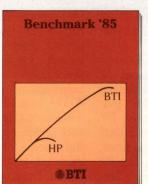
That's right! Benchmark tests prove that the latest version of the BTI 8000 can support more than three times as many online interactive COBOL users as HP's top-of-the-line Model 3000/68.

We programmed a "driver" computer system to simulate from 10 to 250 individual users performing representative data processing tasks. This provided us with a controlled and repeatable test of each benchmarked system, operating in a real world multi-user environment. Overall, we timed more than one million responses.

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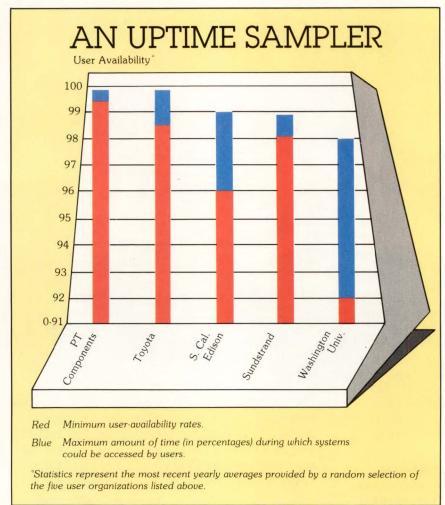


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NEWS & COMMENT



not available for use by a given individual, the system is down as far as that person is concerned."

The MIS/dp shops surveyed report user-availability rates of between 92 and 99.9 percent. The accompanying chart contains user-availability percentages for five corporations: PT Components Inc., Indianapolis; Southern California Edison Co., Rosemead, CA; Sundstrand Corp., Rockville, IL; Toyota Motor Distributors Inc., Torrance, CA; and Washington University, St Louis.

Southern California Edison says it now posts user availability of 99 percent, up from 95 percent to 96 percent in 1980. Jack Van Paddenburg, manager of information services at the utility, says his department's three

IBM 3084 mainframes run 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and handle all the utility's business applications except power-grid operations. The three mainframes process 1.4 million transactions per day and service 4,000 terminals linked by 400 communications lines. They also handle such critical applications as measuring the amount of radiation workers are exposed to in Southern California Edison's nuclear plants. The utility has a full-time manager who tracks system failures and keeps statistics on uptime, as well as a troubleshooting department that fields 500 to 600 calls per

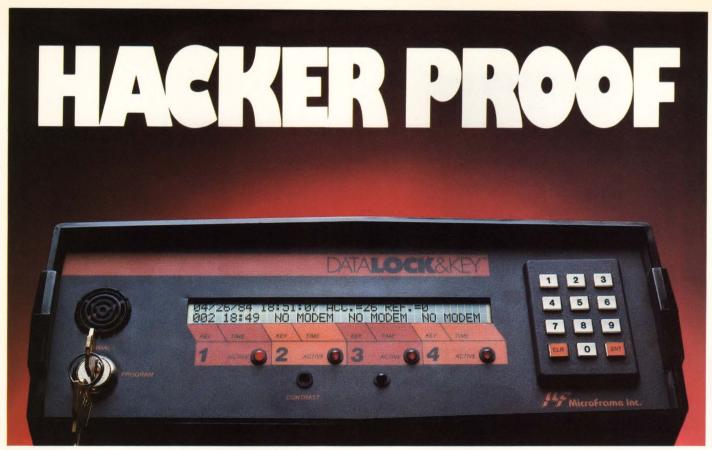
Although Southern California Edison has enjoyed some months of 100 percent computer availability and has hit the limits of machine reliability without installing completely redundant facilities, Van Paddenburg isn't about to sit back and relax. "We have not reached the point at which we don't have to worry," he says, adding that average user availability fluctuates from 96 percent to 99 percent. "If a department manager can't get into a database or an administrative assistant can't collect the day's electronic mail because the communication lines are down, our 100 percent uptime rate loses its sparkle," Van Paddenburg says.

The computer facility at Washington University reports a useravailability rate of 92 percent to 98 percent, a rate that Bob Browning says is typical for university MIS/dp shops. Browning claims an aging IBM 4341 mainframe that supports an interactive system heavily used by students is responsible for most of the unscheduled downtime and holds down the average user-availability percentage. He adds that inexperienced users often cause system disruptions. "Students do a lot of crazy things that can hang up a system," Browning says.

Even small equipment problems can cause a breakdown in user availability. "A bad cable or peripheral can make a single application unavailable while the rest of the system keeps going," says Browning. Power outages, another cause of downtime, can have long-term as well as short-term consequences. "Brownouts or power failures are followed almost invariably by equipment failure within two weeks," Browning reports.

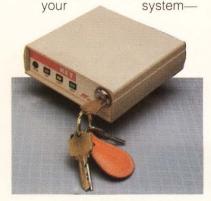
Joyce Amenta, deputy director of the U.S. Department of Transportation's computer center in Washington, points out that an operation going through a transition period or experiencing a high rate of growth is more likely to be unavailable to users. "If you're constantly adding new software and communications modules, for example, you're at risk," she says. "Every time you change something,

(Continued on page 22)



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NEWS & COMMENT



Toyota's Robert Best promises users a 98 percent availability rate.

(Continued from page 18)
your downtime goes up."

MIS/dp shops are often faced with the dilemma of having to guarantee user availability even though system downtime is inevitable. Robert Best, vice president of Toyota Motor Distributors, has promised 99.9 percent total-system uptime and 98 percent availability to remote-site users, including 700 dealerships nationwide. Without a high uptime rate, Toyota runs the risk of losing customers, he says.

Some businesses have even more to lose when their systems are down. A study coordinated by Jim Wetherbe at the University of Minnesota's (Minneapolis) MIS research center shows that

24 to 48 hours of downtime can ruin a financial institution. "Most banks have contingency plans for 30 hours of downtime," Wetherbe notes. Wells Fargo & Co., the San Francisco-based bank that survived the famous 1906 earthquake, is ready for the next big rumble. The bank has convinced the state of California to put financial institutions—the only private enterprises so designated—on the priority list for emergency aid during a major disaster, according to Joseph Koonin, manager of safety at Wells Fargo.

Large organizations that are particularly sensitive to system downtime can often convince vendors to guarantee an uptime percentage. The Gener-

al Services Administration, the accounting arm of the federal government, demands that vendors guarantee at least a 90 percent uptime rate for government systems. Much higher percentages are expected for critical applications, such as systems for national defense. Most vendors contacted by *Computer Decisions refused* to reveal what percentages of uptime they guarantee users. Computervision Corp., a vendor of CAD/CAM systems based in Bedford, MA, says it guarantees 97 percent uptime.

Generally, the larger the amount of equipment users purchase, the more likely a vendor will guarantee a certain percentage of uptime. Bill Doyle, assistant general counsel for the Colonial Penn Group Inc., a Philadelphia-based insurance carrier, was able to get a guarantee of 95 percent uptime when he negotiated a \$2 million maintenance contract with Honeywell Inc., Minneapolis. Yet Robert Bramson, who heads the computer-law group at Schnader, Harrison, Segal, and Lewis, a Philadelphia law firm, says Honeywell would not include an uptime guarantee in a \$500,000 maintenance contract he worked on. A Honeywell spokesperson confirms that in certain undisclosed circumstances the vendor will give an uptime guarantee. IBM, which has more than 70 percent of the corporate-mainframe market locked up, would not comment on the subject of uptime guarantees. —Anita Micossi

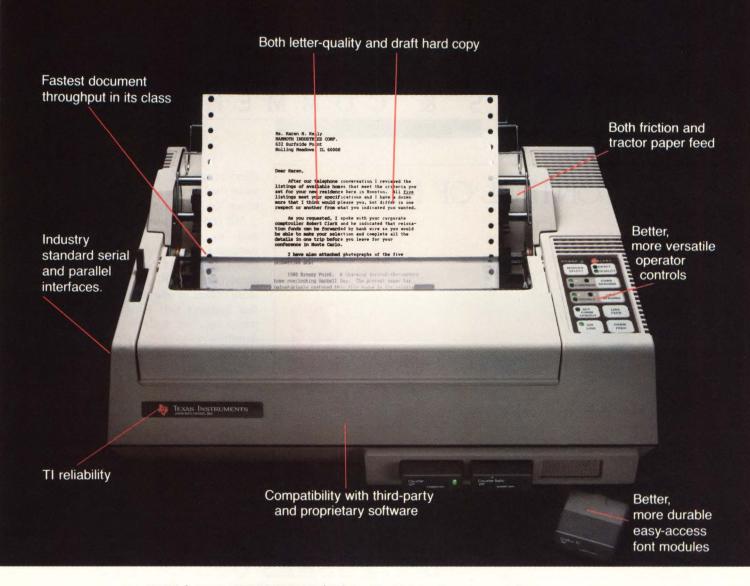
MICRO USERS TAKE THE DATA AND RUN

A lthough MIS/dp's responsibility for the flow and integrity of data is increasing, managers are losing control over what users do with information resources, says Hank Janson, director of information systems for International Data Corp. (IDC), Framingham, MA.

Janson, who made his comments at a day-long briefing held last month in Boston by IDC, blames MIS/dp management's dilemma on the spread of personal computers in large corporations. IDC projects that domestic shipments of business micros in 1985 will be 60 percent of the value of mainframe shipments; within three years, IDC says, the two values will be equal. The installed base of IBM Personal Computers now represents roughly three times the processing power (in-

structions processable per second) of Big Blue's installed 370 and 30XX mainframes. IDC also reports that corporate off-the-shelf software purchases increased by 30 percent during the last 18 months.

MIS/dp managers often have little or no control over the influx of personal computers into corporations, Janson claims. At least one third of 20,000



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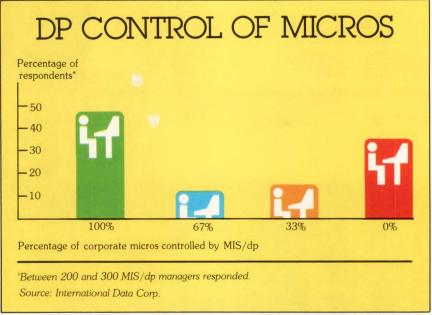
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NEWS & COMMENT



managers recently surveyed by IDC say they have no power to control the purchase and use of micros in their organizations; another 25 percent say they have only partial control, Janson reports.

Janson says a recent lawsuit brought by Lotus Development Corp. (Cambridge, MA) against Decatur, IL-based Mueller Co. Inc. highlights the double bind of responsibility without control. In the suit, Mueller's manager of data processing was named as a culpable party in the illegal copying and distributing of Lotus micro software.

At the same time that MIS/dp managers are losing control of users, Janson argues, their responsibility for all corporate data resources, security, communication links, data integrity, and the dispersal of a combined \$111 billion in spending on information resources is increasing. New titles—such as chief information officer—and the elevation of MIS/dp directors to higher management positions signal the rising expectations of MIS/dp performance, Janson says.

The biggest challenge to MIS/dp over the next half decade is in using the communications arena to regain lost control over data, Janson believes. IDC expects communications expenditures

to grow twice as fast as hardware expenditures in the near future. "MIS/dp can use communications to enforce

standardization," says Janson. "Lay down the law and say, 'If you can't talk to me, you can't have my data."

MIS/dp management would also do well to cultivate communications-systems analysts, Janson argues. Such analysts may be hard to find now, Janson says, but they will become ever more critical to operations. Janson further suggests that MIS/dp managers pump up their systems-programming departments to keep pace with—and control over—off-the-shelf microsoftware purchases.

Another way for MIS/dp directors to reassert authority is to establish inhouse stores to supply and support users and information centers to help users develop their own applications, Janson says. He claims that such services help MIS/dp ensure hardware compatibility and steer users to corporate-sanctioned software.

-Anita Micossi

DEC PUSHES USE OF ITS MICROS WITH THE VAX

Digital Equipment Corp., Maynard, MA, has given its VAX-minicomputer customers more reasons to buy DEC personal computers by providing a consistent menu interface between DEC micros and VAXs running DEC's All-in-One office software.

Two of the new packages, DECmate Office Workstation 2.0 and Pro/Office Workstation 4, are new releases of communications software that give DECmate IIs and IIIs and DEC Professional 350s and 380s the same menu interface as a VAX-terminal user would have. Of course, each micro has to be hooked to a VAX host to take advantage of these capabilities.

DEC has also announced a new communications package, the Rainbow Office Workstation, which allows Rainbow users to download VMS-operating-system files. It also integrates the new All-in-One interface. A new package, DECnet-Rainbow, allows Rainbows to

be connected to DEC's DECnet networking scheme. Previously, Rainbow users only had the limited access of a terminal to VAX hosts. Now users can perform more complex tasks, such as transferring files back and forth between the Rainbow and the VAX host. Prices for the new software range from \$295 to \$995.

In addition, DEC recently announced the Rainbow 190, a Rainbow 100 personal computer with more standard memory (from 256 Kbytes to 640 Kbytes), a 10-Mbyte hard disk, WPS-Plus/Rainbow software, and a special keyboard that allows Rainbow users to use WPS-Plus, DEC's mainline word-processing package. Like Rainbow 100, Rainbow 190 runs off-the-shelf MS-DOS applications, with the exception of IBM versions.

News of the upgraded Rainbow buries rumors—fueled by reports of a halt

(Continued on page 28)

Test Your Microcomputer IQ*

1.	Name a totally integrated software package that was rated #1 by Software Digest.
2.	Where can you buy an IBM PC XT or AT, AND have it installed, AND get on-site warranty for it?
3.	Who will educate IC personnel or end-users at their site or yours?
4.	What provides virtually any type of PC communications capability — from simple TTY to 3278/79 emulation?
	What provides a micro software facility that allows you to customize a system to your specific requirements?
6.	Who are the premier micro consultants to the <i>Fortune</i> 1350 companies?
7.	Who has made the word hot-line obsolete, by staffing a full- service support center with computer professionals?
8.	What is the easiest way for an IC manager to satisfy the many end-user needs in the organization?
9.	What company's evolutionary approach to software and service (also demonstrated by NOMAD, now NOMAD2, the premier 4GL/DBMS) ensures that they'll be a major force in the micro marketplace for years to come?
0.	Name the companies that can provide <u>all</u> of the above?

*(Turn Page Upside Down for Answers)

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 4. DunsPlus's Communications Utilities 5. The DunsPlus Tool Kit 6. DunsPlus's Professional Consulting Staft 7. The DunsPlus Support Center 8. Call DunsPlus at 800-DNB-PLUS 9. Dun & Bradstreet, the parent company of DunsPlus 10. DunsPlus

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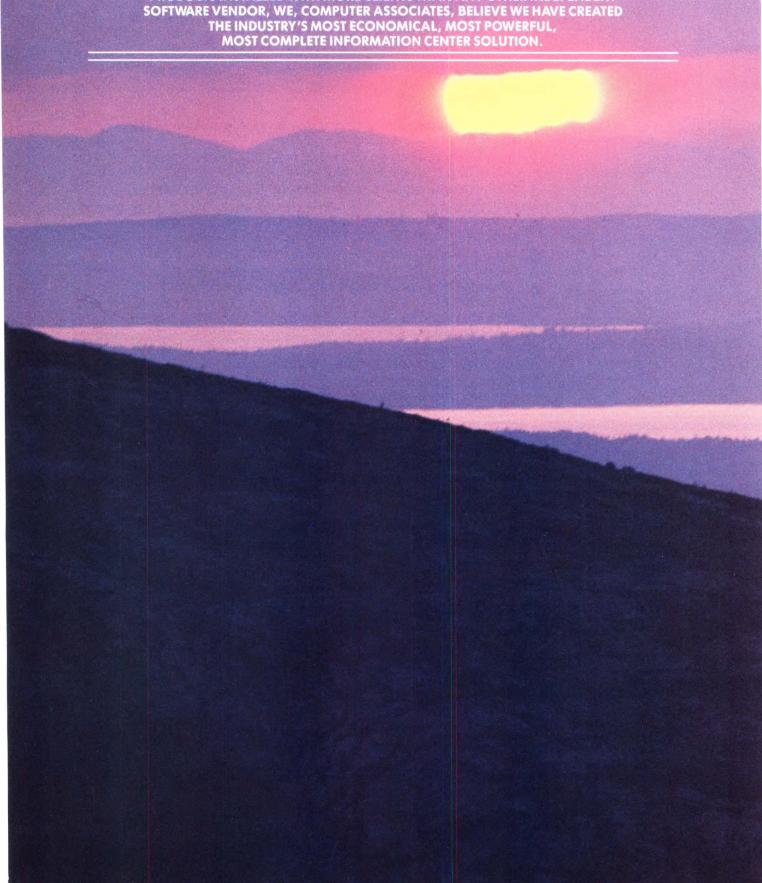
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NEWS & COMMENT



The Rainbow 190: A new hard disk, more memory, but still IBM incompatible.

(Continued from page 24)

in Rainbow 100 production at DEC's main assembly plant in Westfield, MA—that DEC is abandoning the machine. DEC spokesman Joe Codispoti explains that the upgraded Rainbow

will be assembled at Westfield, with parts manufactured at other DEC sites.

The Rainbow 190 will available in July for between \$6,495 (single purchase) and \$4,990 (purchase of 100)

each. Kits to upgrade Rainbow 100 to Rainbow 190 functionality will also be available in July. DEC says it will continue to sell and support the Rainbow 100. The purchase price of the Rainbow 190 includes VAX menu-interface software and the WPS-Plus program.

"Stand-alone personal computing is a thing of the past," says Henry Ancona, group manager of office and information systems. DEC's office-automation strategy is to create and tie together a family of desk-top computers that address the needs of a range of users, from the casual collector of electronic mail to the engineer.

Although Ancona sees the elimination of stand-alone micros for business use, the fact is that almost 80 percent of corporate micros were not connected to hosts or networks in 1984, according to Future Computing, a Richardson, TX-based market-research outfit. Future Computing predicts that in 1985, just over 75 percent of corporate personal computers will be standalone devices.

SMALLER MICRO MAKERS CLAIM STRENGTH

Despite predictions that dire times are in store for smaller makers of personal computers, several of those vendors say their companies remain strong and competitive.

Future Computing Inc., the Dallas-based market-research group, predicts a relatively stable market until 1990. But George F. Colony, president of Forrester Research Inc., Cambridge, MA, predicts the micro market will become so rugged this year that "a number of vendors will burn in the aftermath." Colony named Eagle Computer Inc. (Garden Grove, CA), Columbia Data Products Inc. (Columbia, MD), and Corona Data Systems Inc. (Thousand Oaks, CA) as potential dropouts.

The prediction is hogwash, say the vendors. "We are very solidly entrenched with distribution channels,"

says Dan Carter, president of Corona. "We have new products that are in production and shipping today."

Sam Irwin, CEO at Columbia Data says, "The Columbia personal computer is still very well received, and we have some innovative products that will be brought out before the end of the year."

Frank Wiekel, director of communications at Eagle Computer, says it will remain in the personal-computer business, although 1984 was a difficult year for the company. "There is a place in the market for the smaller companies with attractive products at attractive prices," says Wiekel.

Colony believes the shakeout is underway right now and will continue through the first and second quarters of 1986. The shakeout, according to Colony, is in

part a reaction to IBM's growing dominance. "IBM's hegemony has forced major players like Digital Equipment Corp. [Maynard, MA] to retrench and pushed smaller vendors to the brink," he says.

According to a Forrester Research report, the growth of personal computer sales is expected to decline this year. Colony says this slowing in demand for personal computers is contributing to the shakeout.

Although the office personal-computer market is very competitive, there is still room in the top tier for new entrants with ample capital, says a report by Future Computing, Office Personal Computer Systems Manufacturers: Analyses and Profiles. Bill Ablondi, vice president of Future Computing, says a shakeout is coming, but it is not immi-

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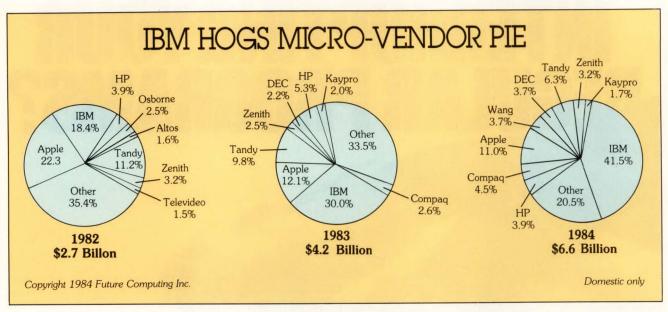
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NEWS & COMMENT



nent. He says the personal computer market will stabilize by the late 1980s or early 1990s. "You'll begin to see a shakeout of the weaker competitors and a stabilizing of the top tier of manufacturers. Many observers claim the shakeout is happening right now, but this isn't true. There are more competitors now than last year," says Ablondi.

The vendors in top positions this year will probably be the industry leaders through the end of the decade, according to the Future Computing report. But, adds the report, other suppliers have a chance at moving to the top as new entrants.

Regardless of when the shakeout happens, the reports indicate that IBM will dominate. Right now Big Blue controls about 40 percent of the office personalcomputer market. Apple Computer Inc., Cupertino, CA, is in second place, but there is some disagreement about its future. Colony says Apple's position is far from secure because of its lack of penetration in the businesscomputing market. Laura Lundquist, office group analyst at Future Computing, disagrees. She says Apple has successfully positioned products in both the home and office markets, which will allow it to remain a strong leader in the industry.

Colony is also skeptical about the future of Tandy Corp., Ft. Worth, TX, in the personal-computer market. Tandy's focus on IBM compatibility is dangerous because IBM changes the rules regularly, he says. Lundquist disputes this. She says, "Tandy has remained third during the past few years, maintaining a stable share of the market. There's a good chance it will keep a po-

sition among the top five."

Office Personal Computer Systems Manufacturers: Analyses and Profiles is available from Future Computing for \$3,000. For more information, call (214) 437-2400. The report by Forrester is part of the Professional Automation Report and Bulletin, which costs \$800 a year. For more information, call (617) 497-7090.

KODAK BUYS FLOPPIES

E astman Kodak Co. (Rochester, NY), expanding its move into the floppy-disk market, has agreed to acquire Verbatim Corp., the Sunnyvale, CA, floppy-disk manufacturer, for approximately \$175 million.

A spokesperson for Kodak says the move will allow Kodak to concentrate on producing high-density magnetic disks and optical disks. Kodak has been making floppy disks on a small scale since last October.

According to industry estimates, Verbatim controls about 20 percent of the floppy-disk market in the United States. Verbatim reported a net income of \$15 million for fiscal 1984 and losses of about \$250,000 for the sec-

ond quarter of 1985. Kodak will retain the Verbatim trademark and continue to manufacture floppy disks in Sunnyvale, the spokesperson says.

Bridge Communications Inc., the Mountain View, CA-based manufacturer of Ethernet-based local-area network (LAN) products, has acquired Coherent Systems Inc. of Bedford, TX, a manufacturer of broadband radio-frequency modems. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Coherent Systems, formed in 1982, will become Bridge's radio-frequency-products division. According to Bridge, the new division will remain headquartered in Texas.

(News continued on page 32)

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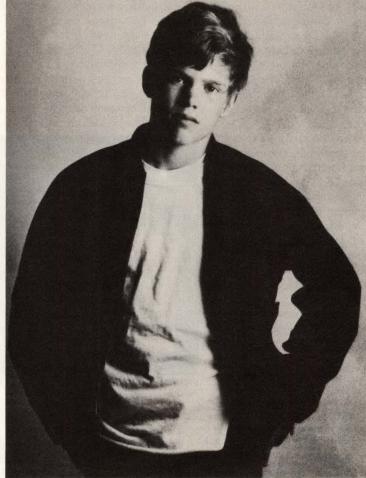
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(News continued from page 30)

IBM EMBRACES DATA-CENTER FIBEROPTICS

IBM has, in effect, sanctioned fiberoptics in the data center. Big Blue's new 3044 Fiberoptic Channel Extender pumps data from hosts to peripherals faster and farther than Big Blue devices could before. The promise is of higher speed data transmissions between floors in a building or sections of an office campus.

What's more, a key IBM executive suggests that corporate customers can expect more fiberoptic announcements from Big Blue. "An investment in fiberoptic channel-extension networks today will continue to pay dividends in the future as strategic enhancements continue," says Carl J. Conti, president of IBM's Data Systems division.

Peter Balbus, director of strategic planning for Network Strategies Inc., a Burke, VA, consultancy, says IBM's move into fiberoptics opens the possibility of T-1 communications between IBM hosts and peripherals without modems and costly front-end processors. A T-1 line-with some sort of interface and buffer device-might be plugged into a 3044, allowing data to fly over long distances at 1.544 million bits per second (Mbps), instead of the maximum 56,000-bit-per-second speed currently available using telephone lines. IBM does not encourage users to entertain these expectations.

The combination of T-1 and the 3044 would eliminate much of the need for front-end processors and modems that are cluttering data centers today, says Balbus. The consultant predicts T-1 costs will eventually drop to make this method of data transmission more cost-effective.

Robert Gilbertson, president and CEO of Channelnet, maker of Syslink, a fiberoptic channel extender similar to the 3044, knows of no such interface between a fiberoptic channel extender and a T-1 line. IBM has a T-1 connection, but it requires a front-end processor and costly attachments, he says.

"It's something we're looking at for the future," Gilbertson said of a T-1 interface.

Using the 3044, MIS/dp managers can place peripherals such as high-speed printers and terminals farther away from hosts and maintain the same response time as more close-knit systems. The maximum distance data



The IBM 3044 is IBM's first fiberoptic product for the data center.

can travel using the 3044 is between 4 and 5 kilometers, says IBM.

Both the 3044 and Syslink give corporations the benefits of fiberoptic cable. Heavy, bulky bus and tag cables that currently extend channels can be replaced by fiberoptic cables about one-tenth the size and weight for half the price. Moreover, these fiberoptic products will take some strain off frontend processors that are conducting communications to nearby and remote hosts and peripherals, notes David Passmore, a group manager for Network Strategies.

Channelnet, a Southport, CT, subsidiary of Data Switch, announced Syslink about a month before IBM announced the 3044. Unlike the 3044, which provides both host-to-host and host-to-peripheral channel connections, Syslink only provides host-to-host con-

nections. But Channelnet claims Syslink is less expensive (a 4-kilometer link between two hosts would cost about \$40,000 less than IBM's fiber solution) and transmits data faster (2.4 million bytes (Mbytes) per second to IBM's maxium 1.25 Mbytes per second) and farther (16,520 feet to 13,200 feet) than IBM's 3044.

Channelnet claims Syslink offers better diagnostics than the 3044. Also, rather than simply transmitting signals at high speeds, Syslink alters data from the host and sends them to a device that reconverts them into a format the receiving host understands. The 3044 simply repeats the signal over fiberoptic cable, Gilbertson claims.

The IBM 3044 can be viewed as a followup to the IBM 2944 channel extender, which was introduced in 1967. Both products attack the problem of how to extend the distance between hosts and peripherals and terminals without degrading response time. Before the advent of the 2944, control units could be placed 400 feet from the host and up to 32 terminals could be attached via coaxial cable up to 5,000 feet away. The 2944 extended the 400-foot maximum at which channel speeds (and thus response time) could be maintained to 4,000 feet.

The 3044 (which costs half as much as the 2944) extends the maximum distance still farther-to 6,600 feet. It transfers data to peripherals at speeds of 76,000 bytes (76 Kbytes) per second at 3,300 feet and 43 Kbytes per second at 6,600 feet. If the 3044 is hooked to an IBM 3088 Multisystem Channel Communication Unit, the combination transfers data in the faster data-streaming mode—used to send data to disks—at 1.25 Mbytes per second, at least 150 times faster than in non-data-streaming mode. A 3088 placed exactly 6,600 feet from a host can double the range of the 3044 to 13,200 feet. (Continued on page 37) How can you get your people together with systems for information management that offer the flexibility, cost-effectiveness and reliability of a phone system?

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GRAPHICS

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It's a system offering over 300 Mbs of bandwidth, of which up to 40 Mbs is used to create a high-speed, media independent LAN. This innovative architecture allows all relevant media—

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The Meridian DV-1, like the Meridian SL-1, utilizes twisted-pair distribution. It's designed for applications of up to 100 users.

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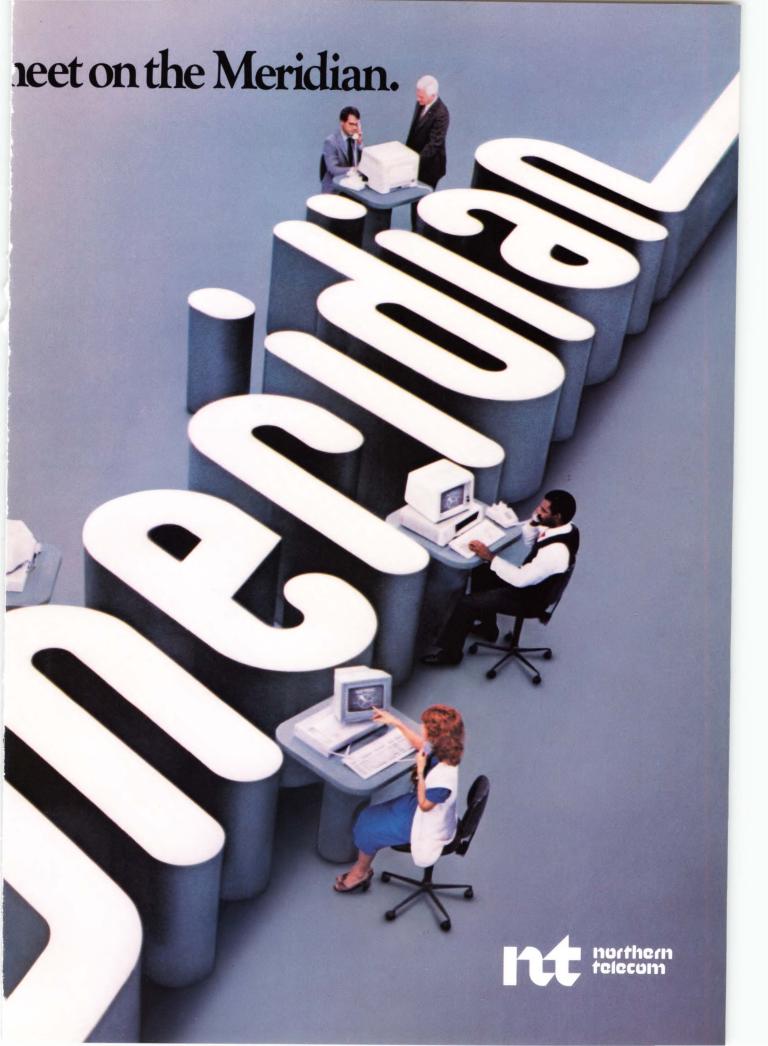
multi-functional data terminal but also sophisticated phone features from which to choose.

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NEWS BRIEFS

(Continued from page 32)

Achieving the higher data speeds will cost you. The 3088 costs from \$95,000 to \$145,000. The two 3044s needed for a fiberoptic link cost a total of \$17,000. IBM is offering fiberoptic cable at \$315 for a jumper cable and \$1.70 per additional foot, plus installation.

IBM offers a word of caution on the performance of control units and peripherals connected to the 3044 link. The performance of 3044-connected devices may not be the same as devices directly connected to the channel without the fiberoptic attachment. Further, IBM cautions that the performance of other devices on the channel—up to eight control units can be connected to a channel-may be degraded by the existence of a 3044 on the same channel. To Gilbertson, this suggests that MIS/dp managers may have to dedicate an entire channel to the fiberoptic attachment in order to obtain "near local" response time for mediumresponse peripherals, such as highspeed printers in continual use.

By increasing the distance that the host channel speeds can be supported, users will be able to reconfigure their equipment and local communications to take make better use of resources, say IBM and Channelnet representatives.

Gilbertson outlines four such configurations:

- Separate databases on different hosts up to 4 kilometers apart can be quickly updated by bulk transfer of files at the fast channel data speeds, instead of the slow speeds available by transferring data over telephone lines.
- Terminals will be able access information on different hosts at subsecond response times. This would fulfill the promise of IBM office-automation schemes, such as DISOSS, in which any terminal user can instantaneously send a document through a mainframe to any other user.
- Hosts in a campus could share resources better. Often, one host on a campus is working full time while an-

other in another building is underutilized. The new fiberoptic products could allow MIS/dp managers to balance workloads more easily.

 Corporations with separate hosts and printers could download printing jobs to other sites that aren't being used.

RECOVER LOST DATA

Lost data may no longer be a problem for some users of Polaroid floppy diskettes. The Cambridge, MA-based vendor has a new free-of-charge service that recovers data from damaged disks when recovery is possible.

Users with disks damaged from heat exposure, coffee spills, fingerprints, or dust should call Polaroid's customerservice department for help. Polaroid will send users protective mailers for shipping disks to its data-recovery center in Cleveland.

When damaged disks reach the center, they are reconditioned and resealed in vinyl jackets, tested, and returned to users within 48 hours. If data cannot be recovered, Polaroid will send along a new disk and an explanation.

"We want to make sure our customers have every opportunity to recover as much data as possible from damaged disks," says Iain Gilmour, marketing publicity manager. For more information, call (617) 577-2024.

MAIL-IN VDT SERVICE

Now instead of waiting for on-site service of your Lear Siegler VDT, you can mail it to one of the vendor's express-service depots and have it back in 48 hours. The Anaheim, CA-based VDT manufacturer has turned 28 of its 70 service centers throughout the country into Express Depots. Users pay the postage one way, and Lear Siegler pays for the return via UPS. The cost of the repair depends on the problem and the VDT model. The Express

Depot Mail-In service is a cheaper alternative for customers outside a 100-mile radius of a Lear Siegler service center. The vendor services VDTs outside this radius, but there is a hefty charge for the additional mileage. The other option is to bring the VDT to a service center. For more information, call (714) 778-3500.

BUDGET CUTS FOR ICST

The Reagan administration's 1986 budget proposal calls for a \$5 million cut in the federal government's allotment for the National Bureau of Standards' Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology (ICST). This 50 percent reduction would terminate 35 positions at the ICST, eliminating its computer-security program.

The ICST provides the public and private sectors with guidance on how to secure data. It developed Federal Information Processing Standards for the federal government and was responsible for issuing the Data Encryption Standard, an algorithm for scrambling data transmitted between terminals.

The ICST prescribes standards for federal use. Most of its other standards are voluntary, although the U.S. Department of the Treasury requires the use of data encryption in electronic funds transfers. The ICST also lends its support to groups that develop standards for the computer industry and makes recommendations to industries based on its research of security standards for the federal government.

The elimination of the ICST's computer-security program would affect private enterprise, according to Jack Bologna, publisher of *Computer Security Digest*. "These budget cuts will limit the amount of research on computer-security enhancement," Bologna says.

This is the fourth consecutive year that a major budget cut was proposed for the ICST. In the past, Congress has restored the proposed cuts.

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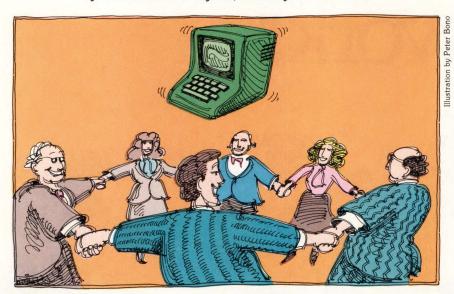
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PERSONAL COMPUTING

by Susan Foster Bryant, Microsystems Editor



SPREADING THE USER-GROUP GOSPEL

anaging personal computing in a large organization is in itself the management of change. It wasn't that long ago that office workers used only calculators for math, only columnar paper for financial analyses, only typewriters for correspondence, and only weekly planners or calendars to manage projects. That may not have been long ago, but it was yesterday.

Corporate employees today have access to personal computers and a pressing need for knowledge about the hows and whys of information processing. Even if a corporation sponsors personal-computer training, has an information center, MIS/dp liaisons, and perhaps a computer store, its employees need more information. They need to share experiences, biases, questions, and solutions. They need a forum to discuss what they have found to be the best—and worst—of the personal-computing world. Large organizations have begun to recognize this need and

to encourage the formation and growth of user groups.

How do you set up a user group when you're responsible for 18,000 users? "We'd need a stadium to pack them in," says Henry Kee, vice president of personal-computer systems and office-technology architecture at Chemical Bank, New York. When Chemical Bank acquired large numbers of micros, Kee began a user group for employees and a newsletter that presents information germane to personal-computer users.

Kee's user group is organized around a unique concept. "Instead of having a single user group," Kee explains, "what we have is a two-tiered user group. The first tier is the corporate-user group, the second tier is made up of the user groups in different divisions." Chemical Bank's corporate-user group meets bimonthly and includes divisional liaison managers—office-automation officers and personal-computing liaison officers. During

the months when the corporate-user group does not meet, Kee meets with individual divisions when they hold their own user-group meetings.

"We like to offer two topics that we cover in detail," Kee says of the meetings' format. "We also invite vendors to talk about what they're doing that's new. Sometimes we invite a software distributor to discuss current trends. There is no difficulty in getting a vendor's representative to come in; they use our user groups as a forum.

"Another routine we have at meetings is to have the users themselves make presentations on what they are doing within the bank. We do this because employees always want to hear about what other employees are doing. For example, spreadsheet templates for dedicated applications are shared. And we often give a presentation ourselves on Chemical's personal-computer policies.

"For example, we adopted the IBM (Continued on page 44)

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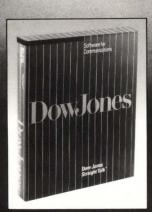
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"I think we turn left here."

PERSONAL COMPUTING

(Continued from page 40)

3278 emulation card because we did not want to have many file drivers out on the whole system. Explaining something like this to users helps them accept the policy. When users are given a flat 'no' to an idea or a proposal, they tend to fight back. So user groups provide both direction for users and forums for policy explanations.

"Also, we may talk about the current state of development in micro-toconnections, or how mainframe personal computing relates to data security. We also go over issues, such as what's in the public domain in terms of software. At the end of each meeting we have a period called 'random access,' during which users may ask questions about products or company policies regarding micros." When Kee meets with the individual divisional managers, either he or one of them will give a presentation on some topic of interest to personal-computer users.

For both of the Chemical Bank user groups, other kinds of information are provided by the bank's personalcomputing newsletter, which covers such topics as how to write a program that will run on many personal computers without a recompilation, how a user can transport data back and forth between software packages, such as Condor (Phoenix Computer Corp., Culver City, CA), and 1-2-3 (Lotus Development Corp., Cambridge, MA), or how a user can bring up a system without going through the full memory check. "These are topics of general interest, but we also try to appeal to the different levels of technical knowledge our users have." Kee says.

"We encourage users to attend our corporate-user-group meetings. On a sustained basis, the meetings are attended by a few hundred users—20 to 30 users for each of Chemical's divisions. The turnout is that high because the meetings are held bimonthly. Managers don't get upset about losing someone for three hours once every two months."

Chemical Bank has more than 1,500 IBM Personal Computers, Professional Computers from Wang (Lowell, MA), and Rainbows from Digital Equipment Corp. (Maynard, MA). Some are net-

"User-group meetings are a little like group therapy."

Galgano, Grumman

worked, but most are not. For the most part, users run database-management, spreadsheet and project-management applications on their micros. Some word processing is done on micros, but the bank depends mainly on its dedicated word-processing systems.

Does Chemical Bank's corporateuser group have input on purchasing decisions? Not yet, says Kee. "The meetings are a forum for that, but the users haven't availed themselves of it yet." Users also have the forum they need when they want the bank to provide services for and answers to their personal-computing needs.

What will become of Chemical's user groups in the future? Kee foresees the support functions for personal-computer users as being needed at the grass-roots level of the organization as the corporation brings in more micros. "User groups are here to stay and the need for them will continue to grow," Kee says.

A similar philosophy is espoused at Grumman Corp.'s Bethpage, NY, headquarters, where the Aerospace and Data Systems divisions are busy fulfilling government contracts for aircraft and electronics products. With the arrival of micros in 1982, management began looking for ways to make sure the IBM, Wang, and Hewlett-Packard (Palo Alto, CA) personal computers scattered throughout that are Grumman's satellite offices are used to full effect. Management also was worried that without support, users would not increase their understanding of using micros.

User groups were formed about eight months ago, when the manufacturer initiated bimonthly meetings to zero in on topics that demanded users' attention. Topics covered so far have included micro-to-mainframe links, communications, bulletin boards, data encryption, and data integrity, accord-

ing to Judy Galgano, senior specialist for office automation. With a staff of 13 managers dedicated to personal computing, Grumman has organized user groups to find out what can be done to make personal computing easier and more productive for users.

These groups, unlike those at Chemical Bank, are not by invitation only; any employee who wants to come may do so. Grumman's user-group meetings usually last 90 minutes, with employees sharing information on graphics packages, how to convert Lotus files to dBase III (Ashton-Tate, Culver City, CA), and how to get disinterested employees "turned on" to micro use.

In addition to the open-invitation user-group meetings, smaller meetings of "leaders"—users from each department who are particularly interested in personal computing—are held. These smaller groups talk about personal-computing issues and put together memos for other users in the leaders' departments.

Grumman also has traveling user groups. Galgano recently returned from Milledgeville, GA, where she held a meeting at a Grumman location. "We invited employees from all over the Southeast to join us, and we essentially recreated what user groups at headquarters have done. We brought some of our corporate trainers with us and attempted to solve the problems at this location. which does not have mainframe resources available to it and relies very heavily on micros."

With 300 personal computers mostly IBM PCs-Grumman is attempting to serve the needs of any user who has access to a micro-even to the point of holding user-group meetings for specific applications. For example, meetings have been held on the use of Lotus 1-2-3 and word-processing software from Multimate International Inc., East Hartford, CT. Summing up the benefits of user groups for all corporations, Galgano says, "We are trying to get information to all users, all at once. Many users are in their own little worlds and have problems they think are only theirs. User groups make them realize that this is not so. They feel good about themselves and computers. It's a little like group therapy."



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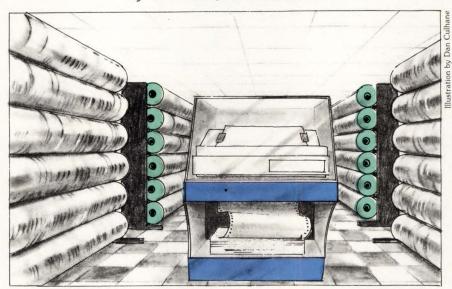
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STRICTLY SOFTWARE

by David Kull, Software Editor



GETTING THE INFORMATION OUT

want that report on my desk first thing Monday morning!"
Many an executive has uttered these words, putting the fear of the Top Brass into information-age subordinates. The report! MIS/dp managers recognize its importance, but wonder how in the world they or their harried staffs are ever going to get it done on time. For managers under the gun, finding ways of getting the information out is serious business.

The latest trend in generating reports is to let report-demanding executives get the reports themselves. Several approaches are available to allow nontechnical users to extract information from bread-and-butter applications like payroll or inventory control.

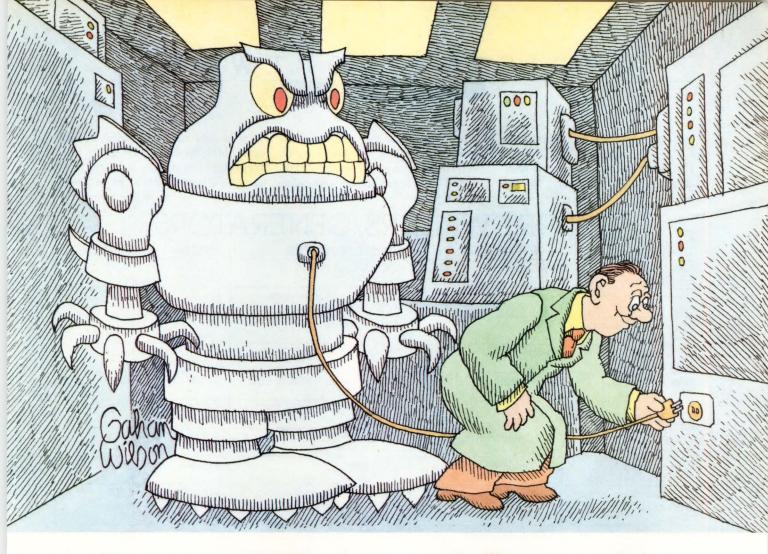
One approach is to run the applications on a relational database management system (DBMS) with end-user reporting facilities. Running all applications on a full-blown DBMS can provide benefits that go beyond facile reporting. Applications that run on a re-

lational DBMS can share data, and developers can integrate new applications into the system easily. But a full-blown DBMS with application-development and query facilities has a six-figure price tag—not including the costs of converting applications to the system—and means at least partial abandonment of investments in systems operating under older technologies.

A second way to get information quickly to nontechnical personnel is to download data into an information-center DBMS designed for trained users. Information-center DBMSs offer ample facilities for data analyses and give users easy access to the data they need. But consolidating information from numerous files into an information-center DBMS may require some awkward maneuvering, as well as the creation of duplicate files. An information-center DBMS requires a significant commitment of computer resources.

If expensive production or information-center DBMSs are out of the question, report-writing applications may be a solution. Report writers are not perfect. They generally provide users with only limited data-analysis and computational features. Some report writers are too complex to be used by nontechnical personnel. But report writers require a relatively small commitment of computer resources, and they use information from existing files and databases to generate reports online, responding to a request immediately, or in batch, acting on the request at a more expedient time. What's more, report writers are relatively inexpensive.

Management Science America (MSA), Atlanta, offers a report writer called Information Expert free to buyers of MSA's mainframe applications. Information Expert allows users to create reports from MSA applications files, and from files of other programs. The program is organized around a data dictionary, which contains definitions of all items and data views—logical groupings of items that users are apt to want



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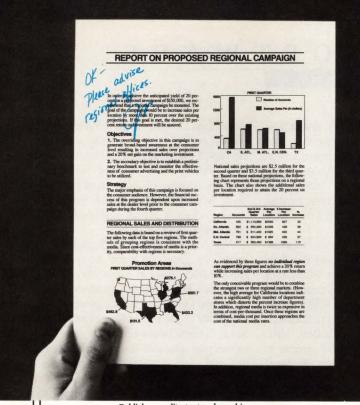
to see together—in an application's files.

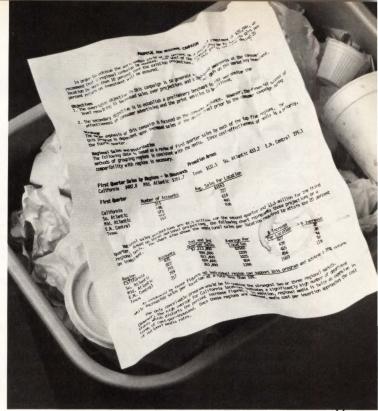
The data views help users find related information without having to scan

loads of files. They also provide an element of security; certain users may be given access only to specified data views. The dictionary comes with defini-

tions of data items from MSA applications. MIS/dp can define items from other application files, including those run on the major DBMSs, for access by

Vendor	Package	Requirements	Price	Circle
Amcor Computer (502) 491-9820	Amwriter	mwriter DEC VAX and PDP-11		617
Answer Systematik (613) 828-0114	Seth IBM mainframes under MVS, MVT, or DOS/VSE		\$18,500	618
Applications Software (714) 891-2616	ASI-ST	IBM mainframes	\$40,000	619
Applied Data Research (201) 874-9000	Datareporter	IBM mainframes	\$11,900 (DOS) to \$14,900 (OS)	620
Business Controls (201) 340-9893	Report Builder I	DEC VAX under VMS with CDD and a compiler	\$4,500	621
Carleton (617) 494-1232	CQS-Infotec	CQS-Infotec IBM systems under MVS, VS(E), or VM/CMS		622
Cincom Syst. (513) 662-2300	TIS Computer Retrieval IBM mainframes		\$26,400	623
Collier-Jackson (813) 872-9990			\$7,500	624
Computer Assoc. Int'l. (516) 333-6700			\$13,000 to \$16,500	625
Computer Data (818) 991-4060	CDIS Report Writer HP 3000; DEC VAX		\$3,500	626
Cullinet Software (617) 329-7700	Culprit	IBM mainframes under OS or DOS		627
Dylakor (818) 366-1781	DYL-260 DYL-280 DYL-280 II	IBM mainframes under OS, DOS, CMS, or SSX Same systems Same systems	\$11,000 \$11,000 \$15,000	628
General Data Syst. (215) 985-1780	Dx Report Generator	IBM mainframes	\$10,000 to \$15,000	629
Gentry (415) 547-6134	PAL (Programmerless Assist HP 3000 Language)		\$7,000	630
HMS Computer Syst. AIM/3000 Dedicated Report Writer		HP 3000	\$2,000	631
nfocentre 416) 678-1841	Reactor	HP 3000	\$8,000	632
informatics General (818) 887-9040	Answer/DB Personal Reporter Answer/DB Inquiry Answer/DB Inquiry module for Answer/DB Personal Reporter	IBM mainframes with IMS/DC, CICS, or TSO Same systems Same systems	\$45,000 (OS) \$30,000 (DOS) \$45,000 (OS) \$30,000 (DOS) \$15,000 (OS) \$10,000 (DOS)	633
Information and Systems Research (ISR) (412) 262-5507		DEC VAX and PDP-11	\$1,250 to \$2,500	634
nformation Builders 212) 736-4433	Focus	IBM mainframes	\$43,000	635
J&S Assoc. 312) 882-2878	Mars (Management Analytical Reporting System)	Honeywell DPS 6 under GCOS 6 Mod 400	\$3,800	636
Kennerly Assoc. (301) 441-1390	Fires (Flexible Information Reporting and Editing System)	DEC systems	\$14,500	637





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users. Users can build reports by checking a series of menu items, or by using Information Expert's fourth-generation language.

Carnett Inc., a division of Southeast Toyota Distributors, Deerfield Beach, FL, uses Information Expert with MSA's general-ledger, fixed-assets, accounts-payable, and accounts-receivable applications. According to John Lamelas, project manager for accounting information systems, Carnett will soon be using the report writer to extract data from several applications developed in-house, including systems for tracking leases and installment loans and for determining which vehicles go to which dealerships.

"Defining the in-house systems to the data dictionary is time consuming," Lamelas says. "Four technical staffers are working on that right now. But once they're done, the report writer will be a real time-saver." Lamelas expects 100

users, including executives, managers, and clericals, to soon generate their own reports using Information Expert's step-by-step approach. Their queries, developed online, will run as batch jobs, which means users may have to wait seconds, minutes, or perhaps overnight for their responses.

Superior Oil Co. Inc., a Houston-based oil producer, has used the Answer/DB report writer from Informatics General to give users access to its VSAM files and major DBMSs, IMS from IBM and Adabas from Software AG of North America (Reston, VA). Answer/DB processes users' queries in batches; companion program, Answer/DB Inquiry, processes queries online.

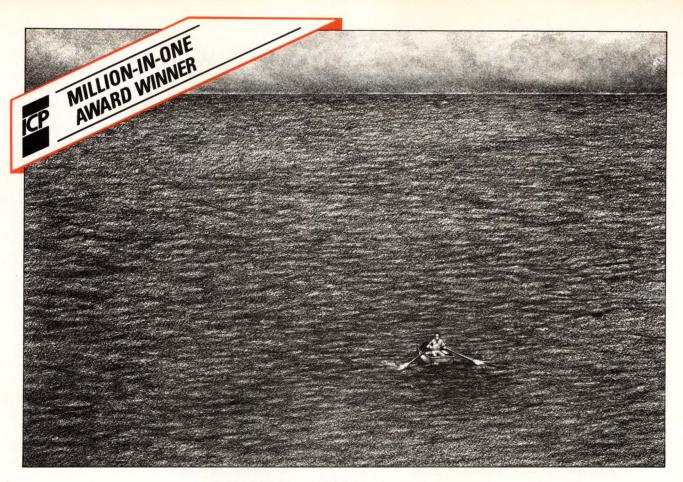
Carl Garrison, manager of data processing at Superior Oil, says users have been pleased with the response times of Answer/DB. The number of users has grown from about 50 in late 1982 to

more than 1,000, located nationwide and in London. At first, the sole users of the report writer were accountants, who used Answer/DB to analyze the books after the closing of each fiscal period. Now, Answer/DB has a wide range of users, including human-resources and engineering personnel.

According to Garrison, Superior Oil wrote its own program to prompt Answer/DB users in formulating their requests. The program produces the necessary job-control language based on responses to the prompts, assigns priorities to reports based on both responses to the prompts and the content of the requests, and monitors the resources used. MIS/dp uses the monitoring information to determine chargeback fees. It also analyzes the data to determine which files users are most interested in and reconfigures the files accordingly.

(Continued on page 52)

Vendor	Package	Requirements	Price	Circle
McCormack & Dodge (617) 655-8200	Millennium Matrix Report Writer	IBM mainframes under DOS or OS/MVS	\$25,000	638
Multiplications Software (617) 547-8050	Imagine	IBM mainframes	\$59,500 (OS) \$45,000 (DOS)	639
On-line Software (201) 592-0009	Executrieve Omnilink	IBM mainframes running CICS Same systems with IBM PCs	\$20,000 to \$30,000 \$10,000 to \$30,000 plus a per-micro fee	640
Pansophic Syst. (312) 986-6000	Easytrieve Plus	IBM systems under DOS/VS(E), VM/370, or VM/PC	\$21,000 (DOS) \$27,000 (OS)	641
Park Software (206) 284-4025	Xentis	DEC VAX	\$1,000 to \$7,000	642
Protos Software (512) 480-0865	The Write Stuff	HP 3000	\$8,500	643
SAS Institute (919) 467-8000	SAS SAS/FSP	IBM mainframes and PC XT/370 or PC AT/370 Same systems	\$8,000 (first year) \$5,000 (first year)	644
Scientific and Business Syst. (213) 313-1340	Easywork	Honeywell systems	\$6,000 to \$27,500	645
SCA Products and Svcs. (212) 532-2990	Gateway Environment Gateway Reporting	IBM mainframes under VM or MVS with Focus, Ramis, or Nomad 2 Same systems	\$18,000 \$23,500	646
Software Int'l. (617) 685-1400	Comprehensive Report Writer Transaction Analyzer	IBM S/34, S/36, or S/38 under OS or DOS; HP 3000; Sperry 9030 or 1100 under OS/3, 80; Wang VS; Data General systems IBM mainframes under DOS, OS, VS1, VS2, or MVS	\$4,000 to \$4,500 \$7,300 to \$9,700	647



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For example, if files stored on tape are being heavily used, MIS/dp might move them to disks. Conversely, if certain disk files have attracted little attention, they might be moved to tape.

By assigning each report a priority classification, MIS/dp can use its resources more efficiently. A report that may entail culling through two or three years' worth of data can be put in the overnight hopper; simpler requests are handled relatively quickly. According to Garrison, 75 percent to 80 percent of requested reports are turned around in five minutes. "Typically, users enter four or five queries at a time through a terminal, go about their business, and return later to pick up the reports at a nearby printer," Garrison says.

Like MSA's Information Expert, the Answer/DB report writer offers a dataview feature. An employee from Superior Oil's user-services department is responsible for setting up data views under Answer/DB. That employee consults with a liaison in each user department to ensure the usefulness of the data views.

At Superior Oil, new users of Answer/DB receive two and a half days of training, Garrison says. The trainees learn techniques for designing efficient searches by developing reports using terminals located in a training room. A key element of training, Garrison says, is instilling an understanding of the timing of data updates so that the users can be sure they are searching the correct file versions.

Of course, allowing nontechnical users to gain access to live files through report writers means running the risk of having those users make mistakes with the files. For this reason, several report writers can be used with security packages to control access to data. But even without security software, organizations can develop file-protection procedures on their own. At Liberty National Life Insurance, Birmingham, AL, programmers use the Easytrieve Plus report writer from Pansophic Systems Inc. to field ad-hoc report requests. "Nontechnical users can have a hard time sorting out the data," says Ken Johnson, vice president of information services at Liberty National. "Programmers can go right in and dig out the information that's needed."

Queensboro Community College in Bayside, NY, uses the CA-Earl report writer from Computer Associates International Inc. to give users "read-only" views into databases that contain student information. Users can view and extract data in a variety of ways, but they can't manipulate the stored information.

At E.F. Hutton & Co. Inc., the New York-based brokerage, MIS/dp provides users with the files from which they create reports using Data/Analyzer from TSI International Corp. In some cases, programmers delete sensitive portions of the files before passing them along to users. "If a department wants to go into any files, the request comes through me," says Ed Maggio, assistant vice president of MIS/dp operations and security at Hutton.

About 150 users at Hutton create reports with Data/Analyzer, Maggio says. The personnel department recently began using the package to develop all its reports for Hutton's employee-savings program. In addition, a nontechnical employee in MIS/dp uses Data/Analyzer to fill many requests for reports that come through the regular application-request channels. Without such a service, the reports would have to be created in Cobol by programmers.

Some organizations may place a very high value on rapid turnarounds of reports, both to get the reports out

(Continued on page 145)

Vendor	Package	Requirements	Price	Circle
SPSS (312) 329-2400	SPSS-X SCSS	IBM mainframes DEC Systems 10 and 20, VAX, and PDP-11; HP 3000; other systems	\$6,500 \$6,000	648
System Dynamics (416) 475-5155		Honeywell DPS 6 under GCOS; DEC VAX	\$5,000 \$3,000	649
Systems Mktg. Consultants (617) 682-2380	SMC/Report	Honeywell DPS 8, Level 66, Series 6000	\$1,000	650
System Support Software (513) 435-9514	Quikwrite Quikjob	IBM mainframes IBM mainframes under DOS, OS, or VM/CMS; Sperry System 80 under OS 3	\$8,500 to \$9,500 \$6,500	651
Technalysis (612) 925-5900	Turf (TPS 6 Utility Report Facility)	Honeywell systems under GCOS 6 Mod 400	\$6,000	652
Thorn EMI Computer Software (617) 938-8811	Data-Man II	IBM systems under VM/CMS, OS/VS1, MVS, or DOS/VS(E) with a CICS/VS or Shadow II online prompter	\$22,000 to \$28,000	653
TSI Int'l. (203) 853-2884	Data Analyzer	IBM mainframes	\$23,000 to \$38,000	654



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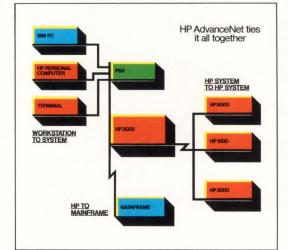
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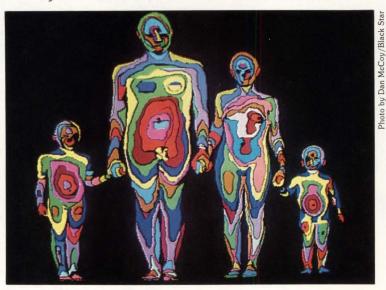
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DATA COMMUNICATIONS

by John Seaman, Data Communications Editor



WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE IBM 3270 FAMILY?

he IBM 3270 informationdisplay line of products has been around since 1972 and enjoys wide popularity. Although IBM has made a number of changes in the 3270 family's terminals and peripherals in the past 13 years, it has been careful not to make previously released equipment obsolete. To this end, it has left the 3274 cluster controller virtually intact, only adding an occasional enhancement to it. But the 3274 is fast becoming obsolete and soon will be replaced, according to several experts. Users will be wise to prepare themselves.

"The 3274 is creaking at the seams," says Anura Guruge, product marketing manager at Case Rixon Communications, the Silver Spring, MD-based data-communications vendor. Guruge, an ex-IBM employee who worked on the development of the 3274 controller during the 1970s, predicts Big Blue will replace the 3274 by the end of next year at the latest.

According to Chet Hopkins, communications manager at Electronic Data Systems, the Dallas-based division of General Motors Corp. (Detroit), IBM sales reps have hinted the 3274 will be replaced soon. "The 3274 is an old product," says Hopkins. "IBM has continued to build it up with enhancements, but there's a limit to how far the adaptation process can go."

What can users expect from the 3274's replacement? Robert Follett, regional vice president for the DMW Group, a consultancy headquartered in Ann Arbor, MI, predicts the new controller will allow peer-to-peer communications between personal computers connected via the controller, eliminating the need for communications to take place through the host mainframe. "IBM has to move network control away from the host to keep in line with what's been going on in the rest of the data-communications arena for years," he says. Follett also predicts the new controller will have a store-and-forward

feature that will eliminate the requirement that communications take place in real time. That requirement is a limitation, says Follett.

Case Rixon's Guruge points out that IBM's announced upgrading of the Type 2 node in its System Network Architecture (SNA) to a Type 2.1 node paves the way for several enhancements to the 3270 family's cluster controller, including the ability to allow peer-to-peer communications. Even though the 3274 controller is classified as a Type 2 node, Guruge predicts its replacement will be a Type 2.1 node. The Type 2.1 node upgrade, which IBM announced last November, will permit enhanced controllers to be hooked together. "A 3270 terminal attached to one controller could then communicate with another terminal attached to another controller without going through a mainframe host," Guruge notes. The Type 2.1 upgrade will also allow the new controller to sup-

(Continued on page 60)

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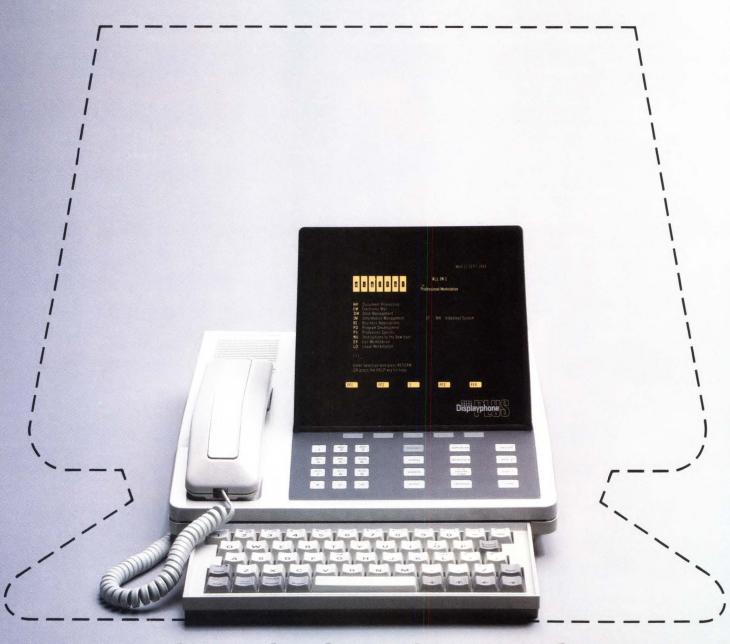


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DATA COMMUNICATIONS

(Continued from page 56)

port a hard disk, according to Guruge.

Guruge says he expects the 3274's replacement to have 64 ports, double the number of ports available on the 3274. He also predicts the new controller will offer a multiple-link feature. "Instead of having just one modem connection between two controllers, you'd have multiple connections, which would ensure continued communications during a line failure," he says.

Another important feature of the new controller will be image quality, says Guruge. The new controller will allow images resembling color photographs—annotated with text, if desired—to be brought up on 3270 terminal screens. To get such image quality, IBM will have to develop a new image terminal. Guruge predicts the new terminal will be based on IBM's 3290 terminal, an expensive gasplasma device with a large, flat screen.

Guruge looks for the new controller to offer loop cabling, which is often employed in local-area networks. With loop cabling, users will no longer have to connect each terminal to its controller with a separate cable, greatly reducing coaxial cable requirements.

Guruge anticipates that the new controller will give 3270 terminals personal-computer capabilities. "Right now, the IBM PC AT can support up to three dumb terminals and make them emulate personal computers," he says. "Put that same capability in the replacement controller, and users will be able to employ up to 64 terminals as personal computers." On the other side of the coin, Guruge says, the new controller should also be able to let personal-computer users who need to emulate 3270 terminals to access mainframe applications achieve emulation without having to buy special addons or software, as is now the case.

The new controller will also have an interface to IBM's Distributed System Executive (DSX) software, Guruge predicts. DSX software, which runs on IBM mainframes, can distribute applications software on a controlled basis. "With a DSX interface, large-network users could generate most of their software initially at the central site, and

"The 3274 is creaking at the seams."

Guruge, Case Rixon

then download it to all the new controller," Guruge says. "This would be a simpler way to run an operation."

In general, Guruge sees the new controller as providing a stronger link between the 3270 system and IBM's office-automation schemes like its Distributed Office Support System (DISOSS). "Right now, the 3270 family doesn't have much of a link to DISOSS," Guruge notes. "But with improvements like built-in terminal emulation, hard-disk support, and peer-topeer communications, the link between 3270 and DISOSS will become stronger," he says.

Although the replacement for the 3274 controller will probably offer users several key advantages over the 3274, the coming of a new controller carries with it a major question for users. Will the new controller make existing equipment in the 3270 family obsolete?

L. David Passmore, group manager of the network architectures and protocols division at Network Strategies Inc., a consultancy based in Burke, VA, believes users won't have to worry about 3270 equipment already in place. "The new controller will have to conform to SNA standards," Passmore points out.

But Guruge believes that at least one member of the 3270 family—the 3277 terminal—will not be supported by the new controller. As Guruge notes, the 3277 is the first-generation terminal for the 3270 system. Since 1976, the 3277 has been superseded by the 3278/3279, 3178/3179, and 3180 terminals. Because, in Guruge's estimation, IBM will probably add yet another terminal to the 3270 family to take advantage of improved image qualities, the 3277 is a likely candidate for obsolescence.

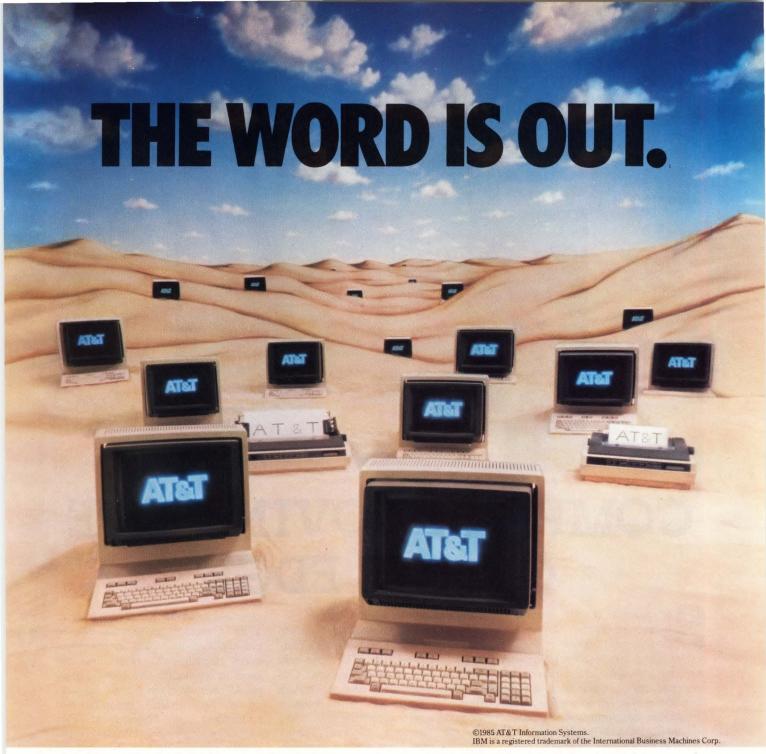
Although most existing terminals will not be made obsolete by the new controller, users probably won't be able to take advantage of many of the new controller's features unless they invest in new terminal models, according to Robert T. Fertig, president of Enterprise Information Systems Inc., a consultancy based in Greenwich, CT. "The 3274's replacement will be a bridge that will allow users to gradually phase out older terminals while adding the more advanced terminals," Fertig predicts.

Of course, replacing existing controllers and terminals can be costly, and both Fertig and Guruge predict that users will have to pay more for the advanced features the new equipment will offer, particularly if they buy gasplasma terminals. "Users won't be forced to replace most of their existing terminals unless they want the advanced functions, which is fair enough," says Guruge.

What plan of attack should users employ for the new controller and new terminals when IBM makes them available? "The only product users will have to buy initially is the replacement controller," predicts Guruge. "With the new controller, you may not have many benefits from the start, since most of the benefits will probably reside in the new terminals, but at least you'll get better performance from your existing equipment," he says. "Later, you can buy the new terminals with their added features as you need them, piece by piece."

Guruge says the older terminals will be far from obsolete for many users. "Users will always have applications that require simple terminals, without the new functions and features," he says. He also suggests that users who want to liquidate existing equipment will probably have little trouble doing so. "There are plenty of leasing organizations that would be interested in old equipment," he says.

Undoubtedly, the coming of a new 3270 controller and terminals will present users with a host of intriguing questions and problems. But, according to the experts, the questions and problems will not be unmanageable. Users who plan intelligently and have some idea of what to expect beforehand should have little difficulty in adapting to IBM's new product line.



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CIRCLE 29

FOLLOWING THE LEADERS

by Jordan Gold, Southwestern Editor



Rod Canion oversees Compag's upward climb at the Houston plant.

COMPAQ'S LOVING LIFE ON THE EDGE

ix percent of the corporate-personal-computer market and third place in the race to become number one—if those sound like paltry numbers, look again at the vendor that produced them. Compaq Computer Corp., started only two years ago, has racked up an impressive record of growth. Compaq had revenues of \$111 million in its first year of operation and sales increased last year to \$329 million. Compaq's growth may be unprecedented, according to some observers.

Compaq's growth has continued apace despite the efforts of IBM to stunt it. Last July, and again in December, IBM cut the prices of its Personal Computer line. Big Blue also brought out a Portable PC designed to neutralize Compaq's bread-and-butter product, the Compaq Portable. IBM's moves, however, had a negligible effect on Houston-based Compaq. The Compaq Portable is outselling the Portable PC, fueling Compaq's moves into desk-top micros and tele-

communications workstations.

But Compaq's spectacular growth has a dark side. Can Compaq's management control it or will Compaq burn out like most meteoric startups? Otis Bradley, investment analyst at Alex Brown & Sons, New York, believes Compaq's management team is a key to the vendor's success. "Other startups may have a good entrepreneur, but they don't have proven managers. Compaq has tremendous depth of management. Compaq's key managers have been around for years at vendors like Texas Instruments and IBM."

However, Bradley has reservations about Compaq's fast growth. "The fact that Compaq has grown rapidly makes you wonder whether all aspects of the company have been pulled along in unison," he says. Rod Canion, president and CEO of Compaq, claims Compaq has taken steps to ensure its management team can handle high growth. (Compaq has more than 1,400 em-

ployees, up more than threefold from 1983.) Compaq's strategy has been to put top-level managers in charge of small departments, eliminating the need to constantly hire more experienced managers to keep up with growth. As a result, Compaq has had no turnover in top management. "Part of our success in controlling rapid growth is having stronger management than we need," Canion says.

Compaq also prepared for growth by reorganizing on at least two occasions, most recently, early this year. The office-computer, advanced-computer, and portable-computer divisions were combined into a personal-computer division. Compaq also formed corporate-operations and telecommunications divisions this year. The reorganization was necessary to give Compaq better focus says Canion. "Last year, our product-development divisions developed new products that will be on the market in 1985," Canion explains. "This will be a year of coordi-

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nation, making sure these products all fit together."

Compaq's first new product of this year is an executive workstation integrating a phone and a personal computer. It was developed by the telecommunications division and, once again, puts Compaq in competition with IBM. IBM's newly acquired subsidiary, Rolm Corp. (Santa Clara, CA) offers a copse of workstations that integrate telecommunications—the Cypress, the Cedar, and the Juniper.

Canion adds that Compaq will not introduce a product just to be in a certain market. "We conceived, designed, and built a prototype of a lap-top micro," Canion explains. "In tandem, we did market research-and we couldn't find a customer. We discovered that the amount of functionality sacrificed to achieve lap-top size is more than customers are willing to accept." Introduction of a lap-top computer would have been a mistake, concedes Canion, and Compaq can't afford mistakes. "We make a lot of little mistakes, and we have small and medium-sized problems, but the benefit of having a good management team is that mistakes are spotted before they get so big they can't be fixed."

And then there's IBM. Historically, IBM has rarely let compatible manufacturers survive for long, but Canion dismisses the evidence of history. "There's a fundamental difference between other compatible markets and the one we're in," Canion asserts. IBM's open-architecture strategy made the IBM a standard, but it also redefined the phrase IBM compatibility. "IBM is limited by its own standard; and IBM proved its commitment to the PC standard when it introduced the PC AT," says Canion. "We designed a high-quality product that is fully compatible with the [PC] standard and yet very different because it's portable," Canion says.

A key ingredient in the Compaq Portable's success is the way it is sold—almost exclusively in stores that also sell IBM PCs. "We could have chosen to go to the computer dealers who didn't carry the IBM PC," Canion says. "It seemed safe. But you either go in there and compete with IBM or you're

not going to be a competitor. Our competitors who went to the other stores have not fared nearly as well."

Since the introduction of the Compaq Portable, Compaq has released two other products, the Compaq Plus, an IBM PC XT-compatible portable machine that includes a built-in 10-megabyte hard disk, and the Compaq Deskpro, a line of four desk-top computers that use the 8086 microprocessor. The 8086 is faster than the 8088 used in Compaq portables and in the IBM PC and PC XT, but is still compatible enough to run virtually all IBM PC software.

Deskpro sales started slowly, largely as a result of the introduction of the PC AT, which is powered by the still-faster 80286 microprocessor. But, thanks to a shortage of PC ATs, Deskpro sales have increased and now represent 25 percent of all Compag sales. Bradley, of Alex Brown & Sons, does not believe Deskpro sales will dry up when the PC AT becomes available in good supply. He believes IBM's supply problems have put Compag in an enviable position. "The more time a product has in its market cycle, the more confidence dealers have that it works," he says. "The day the PC AT is available in large quantities, Compag will counter with a price drop, improved performance, or a new model." Canion believes the Deskpro would have succeeded on its own merits anyway, because it's more compatible with the PC than is the PC AT.

Canion has visions of Compaq moving even higher than third place in market share. He sees the number-two spot in corporate-micro sales as a very real possibility. "If you look at the corporate-micro marketplace now, there are certain ways of cutting it so Compaq would show up as number two," he says. "We don't have any delusions of grandeur about overtaking IBM, at least not this decade, but ask me again in 10 years."

Compaq was ranked 90th in Computer Decisions' Top 100 in data processing for 1983, but it should move up strongly on 1984's list. Canion would like to ease Compaq into the Top 20 within the next two years and ultimately into the Top Five.

Compaq's growth has spiraled despite the efforts of IBM to stunt it.

It could be said that Compaq has arrived through a combination of luck and IBM's mistakes. After all, if IBM hadn't taken so long to introduce a portable, the Compaq Portable wouldn't even have been considered as a choice. But, IBM's dawdling gave Compaq enough time to build acceptance of its product. When IBM finally introduced its portable, the Compaq Portable was not only firmly entrenched in the micro marketplace, but was rated by many analysts as a better product than IBM's.

Canion is unimpressed by reports that IBM is about to announce a low-cost 80286-based micro. "IBM is always about to announce a fantastic product. After it's announced and understood, it's almost never nearly as good as expected," he says. Besides, if IBM does make an *important* 80286-based micro, Compaq will compete with its own offering, says Canion.

Despite Compaq's success, many analysts are skeptical about its future. "Compaq's biggest weakness is that it's a small vendor in a market dominated by IBM. It probably will be able to survive because it's a very strong vendor, but it will always be on the brink," asserts Esther Dyson, president of Edventure Holdings, a New York market-research firm.

Canion understands analysts' uneasiness about Compaq. He believes that as Compaq's profits increase (profits were only 3.9 percent of sales in 1984 and 2.5 percent in 1983), it will gain more believers in the industry-analyst community. Compaq's recent reorganization was only one part of the push to increase profitability, but Canion adds that profits were sacrificed to achieve growth. "We are not a quirk," he says. "We've done things right and built a very capable corporation. We believe those ingredients are also what will take us into the future."

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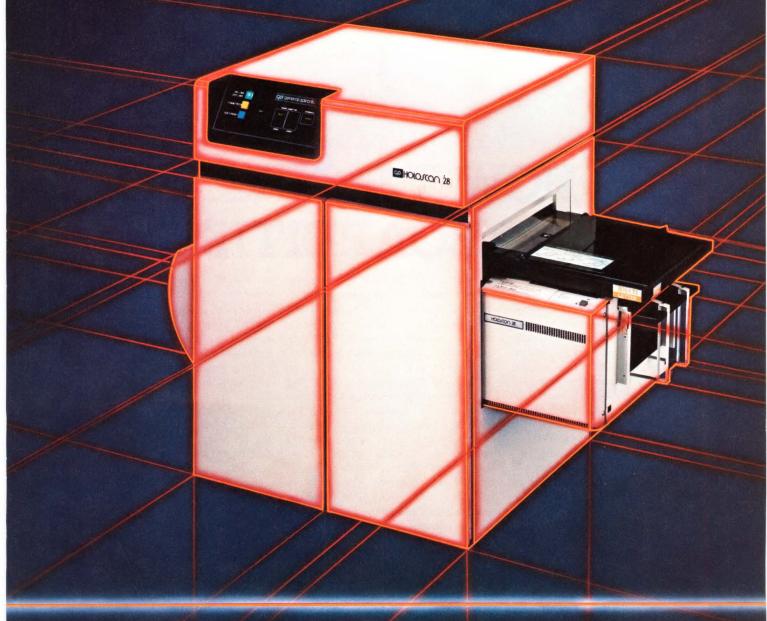
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TRAINING

by David Roman, Associate Editor



HOW TO CURE KEYBOARDITIS

ancy alternatives like the mouse aside, typing is a prerequisite for anyone hoping to use a computer well, from the clerical on up to senior executives. Yet many users don't have good typing skills. Indeed, they may believe typing is beneath their status. "There's a big demand for keyboard training," suggests Norma Girouard, an instructor for New York-based American Express Co.'s Card Division in Plantation, FL. Many new workers at the Card Division lack the typing skills needed to use computers, according to Girouard. For this reason, keyboard instruction has become part of the sixweek training program for every new employee at the Card Division.

Rather than make the risky assumption that your workers possess adequate typing skills or will manage well enough with their two-fingered huntand-peck methods, you can provide your organization's employees with structured training like that offered by American Express. A training program

can give you the confidence of knowing workers aren't wasting time scanning their keyboards searching for every other key. Almost a score of disk tutorials are available for personal computers, and a few stand-alone systems are available as well.

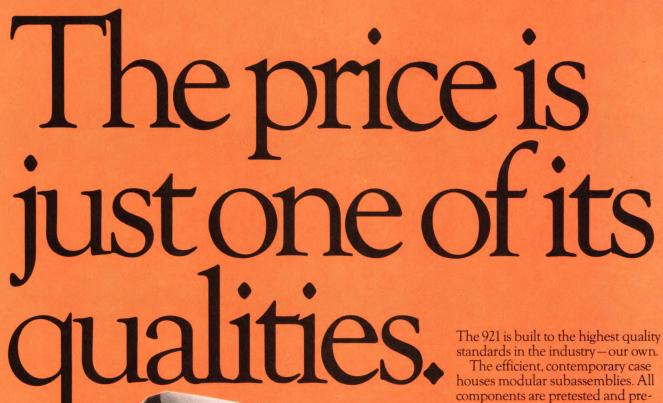
And what about your own typing skills? Even if they're not up to par, you may feel you're too busy to do anything about it. If you're like many of the managers Girouard trains, you may be too embarrassed to take typing classes with others during normal working hours. But you have no reason to avoid improving your typing skills if they're less than they should be. Disk tutorials train individuals, not groups, so you can use them at your desk or at home.

Stand-alone typing systems like Keytrainer from Keyboard Productivity Inc. (Marina Del Rey, CA) and Executive Keyboarding System 6/12 from TLC Learning Corp. (Huntington Station, NY) also offer individualized instruction. Keytrainer costs \$5,900, a

price that includes instructional audio cassettes and instructor training. Executive Keyboarding System 6/12, a control console that runs audio cassettes, has a base price of \$1,550, with tapes and manuals extra.

Disk tutorials vary widely in style and content. Scarborough Systems' Master Type is set up as an arcade game. Users type correct letters or words to destroy enemy bases. Most of the programs included on the accompanying list use a more straightforward teaching approach.

Some tutorials only teach three of the four rows of the standard "Qwerty" keyboard, but most teach the top row of numbers as well. Others teach the keyboard of a specific machine, such as the IBM Personal Computer, and so can cover specific function keys, or the group of keys clustered on the right-hand side of the PC's keyboard. Most tutorials advise the beginning typist on the proper way to sit and position the hands and arms. They also emphasize



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TRAINING

the importance of practice. "If you don't practice," Girouard says, "you lose it."

Disk tutorials and stand-alone typing systems can provide the keyboarding

training computer users may need to do their jobs more effectively. As long as the keyboard is the computer's primary user interface, shortcut interfaces like the mouse popularized by Apple Computer Inc. (Cupertino, CA) or the touch-screen method endorsed by Hewlett-Packard Co. (Palo Alto, CA) will have minimal impact on the need for keyboard expertise.

Vendor	Name	Description	Requirements	Price	Circle
Behavioral Engineering (408) 438-5649	Letter Man Typing Strategy	Game format Tutorial format with two practice games	IBM PC; Apple II, IIe Same systems	\$35 \$40	466
Compu-tations (313) 689-5059	Typing Teacher Keyboard Command	Tutorial format with basic keyboard instruction exercises Tutorial format with game component; teaches Apple keyboard	IBM PC; Apple II, II Plus Apple micros	\$20 \$35	467
Digital Mktg. (415) 947-1000	Hypertyper	Tutorial format; automatically calculates words per minute and percent accuracy	IBM PC; micros under CP/M or CP/M-86	\$30	468
Dynacomp (716) 671-6160	Typemaster	Tutorial format	TRS-80	\$15 to \$19	469
Excel Syst. (415) 381-4410	Protype	Tutorial format; teaches standard Qwerty keyboard, as well as 10-key numeric pad; Dvorak-keyboard version available	ІВМ РС	\$50	470
Individual Software (415) 341-6116	Typing Instructor	Tutorial format with game elements	IBM PC; TI PC; Wang PC	\$50	471
Keyboard Productivity (213) 827-7616	Accutouch	Tutorial format; teaches keyboard and numeric keypad	IBM PC; Apple IIe, Macintosh; Corona; Victor 9000; Wang PC	\$169	472
Micro-Art Programmers (805) 995-2329	Touchtyp	Tutorial format; teaches keyboard and control keys common to most micros	IBM PC; Kaypro II and 4; DEC Rainbow 100; micros under CP/M or MS-DOS	\$79	473
Microsoft (206) 828-8080	Typing Tutor II	Tutorial format; employs skills tests	Apple II	\$25	474
Newline Software (401) 624-3322	Touch Typist	Tutorial format; teaches alphanumeric keyboard, as well as keypad and editing keys; uses drill format	IBM PC; DECmate II and III, and DEC Rainbow under MS-DOS; Zenith Z100 or Z89	\$30 to \$79	475
Orange Microware (714) 639-8106	Type-Riter	Tutorial format	Micros under CP/M or MS-DOS	\$40	476
Portable Computer Support Grp. (214) 351-0564	Tutor Plus	Tutorial format with game component	TRS-80 Model 100	\$50	477
QED Information Sciences (617) 237-5656	Typing Made Easy	Tutorial format; teaches Qwerty keyboard; Dvorak-keyboard version available	IBM PC XT	\$60	478
Scarborough Syst. (914) 332-4545	Master Type	Game format; teaches Qwerty keyboard; Dvorak- keyboard version available	IBM PC; Apple II, II Plus, IIe, IIc, Macintosh	\$40	479
Simon & Schuster (212) 245-6400	Typing Tutor III	Combination game and tutorial format	IBM PC; Apple II series, Macintosh	\$40 to \$60	480
Simsoft (313) 984-1570	Type & Learn	Tutorial format	IBM PC	\$50	481

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LAUGHTER GIVES YOU AN EDGE

Your well-timed or spontaneous joke can unmask absurd incongruities or smooth frustrations in the office.

by Martin Lasden, Western Editor

uestion: How many programmers does it take to screw in a light bulb?

Answer: None. That's a hardware problem.

When we laugh, it is most often at the darker side of life—the failures, embarrassments, and impending disasters: events that would otherwise make us cry. As the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche observed: "Man alone suffers so excruciatingly in this world that he was compelled to invent laughter."

In the world of MIS/dp, a world replete with tales of doom, gloom, and despair—of downed computers, distressed users, and cost overruns—humor can definitely play a positive role. As a recent *Computer Decisions* survey of MIS/dp executives dramatically demonstrates, the value of humor is widely recognized. Of the 105 executives who responded to the survey con-

ducted last January, all but three indicated that having a good sense of humor was either "important" or "very important" to their jobs. "If I didn't have a good sense of humor, I'd go nuts," was a refrain that echoed throughout the replies.

Although the need for mirth would seem to be obvious, executives are quick to admit that when they circulate among unsmiling programmers and resentful peers, humor is a rare commodity. So rare, in fact, that the stress of MIS/dp management can sometimes seem overwhelming.

Of course, in the heat of crisis, no one expects—or wants—you to be constantly aglow with good cheer. But every crisis, large or small, has a beginning, middle, and end that need to be put into perspective. Intelligence, foresight, and resolve will help you to realistically assess crises and lesser problems. But, to that list must be added the





OFFICE HUMOR

powers of wit and humor.

"Humor rescued us," declares David K. Hurst, who, as an executive vice president at Russelsteel Inc., Toronto, witnessed some grim times when the survival of his company was threatened several years ago. Hurst's account of that crisis and how he dealt with it points to the benefits of humor. "Laughter helps people escape from their emotional cages or rigid beliefs," he says. "For the past three years, we've laughed a lot. Although much of the humor has inevitably been of the gallows variety, it has been an important ingredient in releasing tension and building trust."

The touted benefits of humor notwithstanding, clowning around has its hazards, especially in the office. If you play the jester, you risk putting subordinates on the defensive and giving users the impression that you're not taking them or their problems seriously. Worse yet, you risk offending your boss. Humor in the office is definitely on the decline, says Richard J. Cronin, whose executive-search firm, Hodge-Cronin & Assoc., Rosemont, IL, has conducted surveys on the subject over the last few years. Among the findings:

• The rising number of minority and female executives has inhibited the use of humor in business because of the greatly increased fear of offending someone.



"System been down long?" is an example of the gallows humor that personifies the frustrations rampant in MIS/dp shops.

- In spite of a universal preference for executives with well-developed senses of humor, the use of humor in business has declined during the last 10 years in favor of a stern, no-nonsense approach to business.
- · A majority of corporate CEOs and deans of graduate schools of business

believe a sense of humor is essential to success, but business schools largely ignore humor in MBA curriculums.

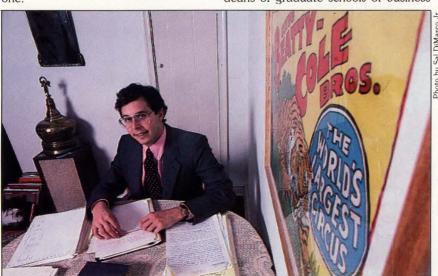
The Hodge-Cronin surveys suggest tremendous ambivalence in the way humor is perceived in corporate America. On the one hand, it is valued as a boon to both corporate success and personal peace of mind; on the other, it is depreciated as much too risky in business. How can this conflict be resolved? For all those who would dare indulge themselves with an on-the-job chuckle or two, it's a question that bears looking into.

How do you know which computer terminal the ---- (insert ethnic group) has been working at?

Answer: It's the terminal with the whiteout all over the screen.

Temple University (Philadelphia) psychologist David Baum believes trust is what distinguishes destructive humor from benevolent humor. Baum's studies of the ways managers use humor suggest that the same remark told by two different managers can have dramatically different results. Without

David Baum. a psychologist at Temple University in Philadelphia, cites the element of



trust between teller and listener as a factor that determines whether or not a joke will be perceived as funny.

(Continued on page 76)

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Malcolm Kushner. San Francisco-based humor consultant, says the acronyms and computer mystique of the high-tech fields provide ample opportunities for humor.

(Continued from page 72)

trust, the most innocent remark might provoke fierce resentment; with trust, the most risque quip may not only be accepted, but actually welcomed.

In companies that are rapidly expanding, managers will have to be especially cautious. Generally, new employees do not know each other and will not feel the same degree of comfort that may otherwise make aggressive humor seem funny. Where minorities and women are concerned, the ramifications can be especially serious. If an ethnic or sexist joke is told without trust or familiarity between two people, the joke is likely to blow up in the teller's face.

Even if trust exists, sensitivity to personal circumstances is important. "When I was going through my divorce, I found nothing funny in it at all," says Jack Hoffman, human-resources director at Subaru of America, Pennsauken, NJ. "It was too painful, and I needed to get through the pain before I could laugh at it." It was through the pain of his divorce that Hoffman came to appreciate something very basic about humor: its variability. When a person is suffering-whether from the pain of a divorce or from perceived discrimination—jokes aimed at that hurt are not likely to be appreciated. In fact, they're liable to cause deep resentment. And yet, when the pain ebbs and the wound heals, the same joke may seem hilarious.

The fact that the same jokes prompt

widely differing responses, depending on the time and place in which they're told, suggests a fundamental question: What is the essence of humor? Theories abound, but perhaps the most provocative was presented some 18 years ago in Desmond Morris' book, The Naked Ape (McGraw-Hill, 1967). Observing the way laughter evolves in infants, Morris argued that humor is our fears rendered absurd.

"As an infant becomes imprinted on [attached to] the mother," Morris wrote, "the infant may find itself placed in a strange conflict. If the mother does something that startles it, she gives it two sets of opposing signals. One set says 'I am your mother—your personal protector; there is nothing to fear,' and the other set says, 'Look out, there's something frightening here.' The outcome of this is that the infant gives a response that is half a crying reaction and half a parental-recognition gurgle. The magic combination produces a laugh. So the laugh says, 'I rec-

(Continued on page 80)

A HUMOROUS CURE

K eeping your humor under adverse conditions is more than just a matter of perspective. It's also a matter of good health.

Since the 19th century, humor has been credited with any number of health benefits, including the stabilization of blood pressure, the "massaging" of vital organs, the oxygenation of blood, the stimulation of the circulation, and the facilitation of digestion. In more recent times, laughter has been touted as a possible cure for life-threatening disease-a claim that made Norman Cousins, for one, quite famous. In 1964, the former editor of the Saturday Review contracted a serious degenerative disease of the connective tissue in his spine and joints. The pain was intense, and the prognosis was poor.

Rather than accept a grim fate, Cousins checked out of the hospital and into a hotel room, where he put himself on a steady diet of humor books and "Candid Camera" TV shows. By laughing it up, Cousins reports, his condition improved dramatically over the next few weeks. Upon examination, his doctors discovered that the connective tissue in his joints was regenerating. Since then, Cousin's condition has reversed itself.

"The person with a sense of humor is not just more relaxed in the face of potentially stressful situations, but is more flexible in his approach to any situation," writes philosophy professor John Moreall in his book, Taking Humor Seriously (State University of New York Press, 1983). "Even when there is not a lot going on in his environment, his imagination and innovativeness will keep him out of a rut, will prevent boredom and depression. He will, in short, have greater internal resources for being happy than the person who lacks a sense of humor; and this is likely to manifest itself in greater physical well-being."

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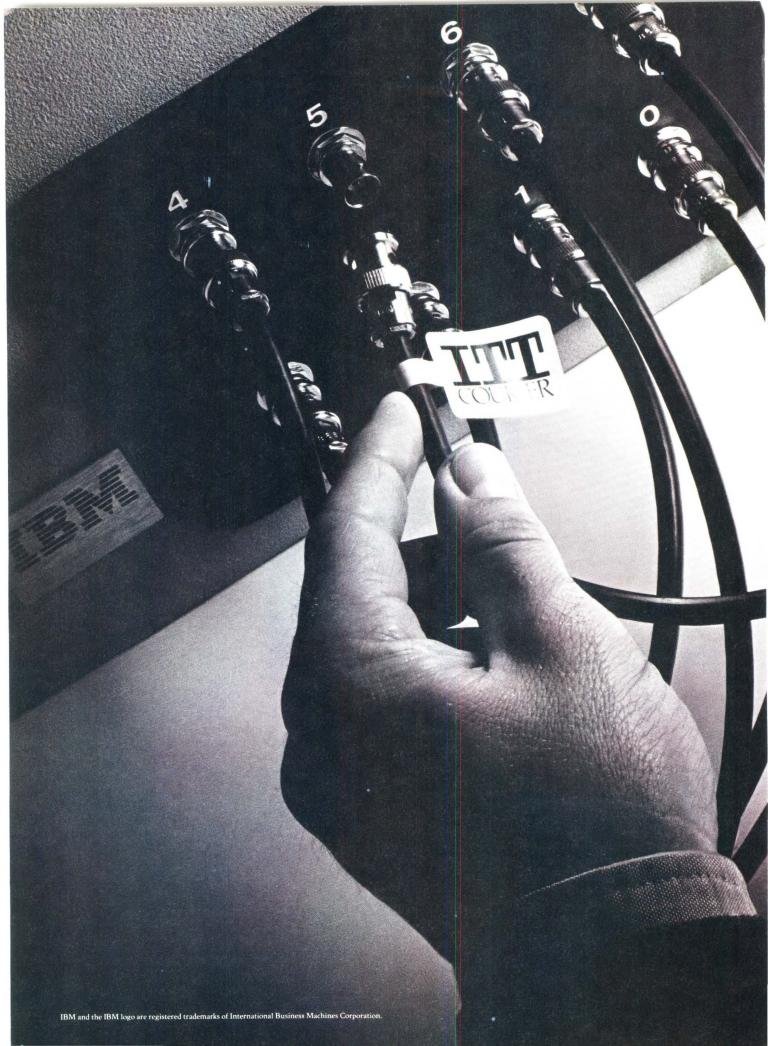
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OFFICE HUMOR

(Continued from page 76)

ognize that the danger is not real."

Morris' theory offers two answers to the question of when and why someone will not laugh at your jokes. Either the stimulus you present is not strong enough to elicit the required relief, Morris would say, or the stimulus is so strong that no relief is possible. From Morris' thesis, another distinction can be drawn—the difference between laughing at and laughing with someone else. In the latter case, there is the sharing of a common frame of mind; in the former, your laughter is saying that your target is not only "frighteningly odd," but also "not worth taking seriously.'

Your humorous targets may be any number of situations or people in the office: a quirk in a system, an eccentric colleague, or an erratic boss, to name a few. Janice Mace, a systems and programming manager for the city of Anaheim, CA, makes no bones about the fact that on one of her first jobs with another organization many years ago, she used to laugh a lot at her boss, who she believed was incompetent. It was all done behind his back, she assures. She needed to do it to maintain her morale, says Mace. She and a colleague started what came to be called "The Book," a collection of captions and cartoons meant to illustrate the absurdity of working for a boss who is unwilling or unable to manage.

Mace recalls an incident: "One day smoke started coming out of one of our printers. Instead of doing something about it, the boss looked at his watch and said that he had to go to lunch. Sometime later, The Book acquired a picture of a gorilla with a clock in the background that read 12 noon. The caption we wrote was: 'I don't care if the computer is on fire. It's 12 noon and I've got to go to lunch.' "

Such comic relief helped Mace to diffuse frustrations and stay with the job as long as she did, long enough to see the boss fired and herself put in his place. "The Book still exists," Mace adds. "My friend and I have shared custody of it. But I suppose if you were to look at it, you wouldn't understand why we think our book is so funny."

A doctor, an engineer, and a dp di-

rector are at a bar arguing over whose profession is the oldest. The doctor says: "Mine is the oldest profession," pointing out that God used Adam's rib to create Eve. The engineer says: "Mine is the oldest profession," pointing out that in the beginning God created heaven and earth from chaos. The dp director turns

to both of them with a proud smile and says: "Who do you think created all that chaos?"

Humor can divide and distance people from each other, but it can also bring them together. In fact, humor is known in the language of sociologists as a "social lubricant."



OFFICE HUMOR

"One user still giggles over the way I explained to him what a 'batch overrun' was when he needed critical yearend reports in a hurry," relates one
MIS/dp manager at a midwestern insurance carrier. "I told him that it was
like trying to fit 10 gallons of manure
into a five-gallon bucket."

Another dp manager, this one from a midwestern city government, talks about the time that his organization's mainframe could not be accessed via terminals because the communication lines got wet. For two days no work could be done. "I told the users that if they wanted to get any work done,

they would have to bring in their blow dryers. At least that gag stopped them from screaming at me for a few hours," he recalls.

No doubt about it, at a critical moment when tempers are hot and nerves are frayed, a well-timed quip or joke can make all the difference in the world. Of course, there are risks. The boss may think you are disrespectful. Worse, a user may believe you aren't taking his or her problems seriously. Of course, knowing your audience is everything.

Twice, Alan J. Cecil, a programming manager at Owensboro (KY) National Bank, has tried to be funny in the office. His first attempt worked well; the second, not so well. The first time it went like this: "Our bank president," says Cecil, "called me to his office and informed me that his accounting reports had been late for a week. He was sick and tired of it and demanded to know why. I replied: 'Well at least we're consistent.' He chuckled, then calmly asked me to please get things straightened out."

The other attempt was not so successful. "My boss ran a job wrong," Cecil says, "so I started to tease him about it. I said: 'Gee, isn't it terrible that we can't get good help anymore.' He must have been in a bad mood because he proceeded to chew me out for my lack of respect for superiors. He told me to wear black to my annual review the next day."

The moral of these two stories: If you have to make fun of somebody to elicit a laugh, it's much safer to make fun of yourself.

One of the strangest tales of a backfired joke is told by D.L. Domanick, associate director of information systems at the United Way Services in Cleveland. When punch cards were in wide use, an operator had asked Domanick what he should do with a freshly generated stack. "Percolate them," Domanick told him. Actually, in connection with computer punch cards, there is no such expression as percolate. Domanick was trying to be funny. However, later that day, when he asked that same operator whether he had run the cards through the computer, the opera-

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(Continued on page 144)



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IBM'S GRAND DESIGN

Ten years after its debut, IBM's SNA has become the foundation of ever-wider information grids.

by Robert A. Moskowitz

Picture the perfect system for connecting high-speed mainframes to one another and to a variety of terminals located nationwide or even worldwide. Communications between terminals, mainframes, and applications are smooth, fast, and seamless. The network accommodates all hardware, regardless of manufacturer.

Of course, the perfect network does not yet exist. But if and when the perfect data-communications network does evolve, chances are it will be based on System Network Architecture (SNA), IBM's grand design for data networks. When it was first introduced by IBM about 10 years ago, SNA was little more than a set of rules for fairly simple communications between host mainframes and dumb terminals. But IBM has steadily embellished the SNA framework with sophisticated features, making SNA the architecture of choice for wide-area networks.

In its effort to make SNA the *only* network architecture users will ever need, Big Blue has adopted a cooperative stance toward competing hardware vendors, encouraging them to adopt SNA standards. Fearful of falling off IBM's bandwagon, competitors are making sure their hardware is compatible with SNA. As a result, users of non-SNA







networks—such as networks that use binary synchronous (bisync) communications—risk being stuck with obsolete networks.

SNA did not rise to prominence overnight. When SNA was introduced, network users were slow to implement it because doing so meant making extensive changes to existing hardware. Users also balked because implementing SNA required extra processing power, forcing them to use larger processors than they might have otherwise needed. But as IBM mainframes designed for SNA networking made their way into dp departments, SNA gained increasing acceptance. According to an IBM spokesperson, more than 60 percent of all large computer userscovering more than 20,000 mainframes—use SNA.

SNA's popularity has also grown because of steady improvements IBM has made to it. SNA networks can now include large numbers of host mainframes. Terminals can communicate with any application running on any host in the network. Separate SNA networks can be linked to provide for a practically unlimited number of sessions between any terminal, host, and application on any of the cross-linked networks. SNA equipment can even communicate through other networks, including most public-switched lines and any communications systems using the popular X.25 protocols.

At the core of many of the recent improvements in SNA is an architectural segment called Logical Unit 6.2 (LU 6.2). In essence, LU 6.2 allows intelligent terminals or personal computers to be hooked into an SNA network. SNA products that IBM has released since 1982, including updates of Customer Information Control System (CICS) software, System/36 and System/38 minicomputers, Displaywriter word processors, and 5520 office-automation systems, have included LU 6.2.

Douglas K. Julien, a project manager who implements SNA applications for Boeing Computer Services in Seattle, calls LU 6.2 one of the most significant improvements in SNA. "With LU

IBM's GRAND DESIGN

6.2, SNA shifts from simply providing interactive data streams to allowing the interchange of data streams," Julien says. "For end users who want to transfer files or work with distributed databases using personal computers, data interchange is the only way to go." Julien adds that data interchange lets communications standards be implemented in hardware rather than software, a change that he says makes network operation cleaner and faster.

Under LU 6.2, anytime one computer determines that it doesn't have the program or the information requested, it automatically looks through a set of tables to find out if another mainframe in the network does have the data. "If you are on a terminal working with a mainframe in Houston," explains Cory Van Wolvelaere, manager with Arthur Andersen & Co., the big Chicago-based accounting firm, "and you want to find information based on customer numbers stored on a mainframe in Chicago, the Houston computer can automatically access the Chicago computer to get the information, process it, and ship it back to you."

Although LU 6.2 is probably the most important enhancement IBM has made to SNA, it is not the only one. Several other recent improvements lay the foundation for making SNA a more practical architecture for office-automation systems, in which IBM is taking a strong interest.

"IBM is counting on SNA to be the network standard for a long time."

Two recent SNA enhancements. Document Interchange Architecture (DIA) and the Document Content Architecture (DCA), allow users to specify how documents are to be passed along the network. Before the advent of DIA and DCA, SNA simply didn't provide easy ways to route documents according to standard protocols or to exchange documents between certain equipment. DIA now provides for special codes appended to a document that contain routing instructions to the network. DCA gives the rules for encoding and encrypting data within a document so it can be deciphered and displayed properly by any SNA equipment receiving it.

"DIA and DCA allow you to transfer documents intact, complete with tab characters, indentation, and anything else that has to do with formatting," explains John Cavalli, vice president for information systems services with Fireman's Fund American Life Insurance Co., San Rafael, CA. "They make office automation a lot more valuable to a large organization," he adds.

The release of SNA Distribution Services (or SNADS) in 1983 marked another important improvement to SNA. SNADS, which is now available for DISOSS and 5520 office systems, adds a store-and-forward feature to the network, removing the constraint that SNA sessions take place in real time. Users can send a single message onto the network and have it routed to one recipient or to a pre-established distribution list. The network nodes locate the desired destinations and route the messages to them. Destinations can be physical, such as a terminal, or logical, such as the name of a user.

Another area in which SNA has advanced is network management. In recent years, SNA has expanded to include packages that install new terminals and collect data on locations, uptime, error rates, inquiries, and processing rates more effectively and simply. Everything is tabulated and spewed out to the network manager.

SNA packages can now inventory all the components in a system. If problems occur, other packages can try to deduce what is wrong with the network, then offer suggestions to network managers. Arthur Andersen's Van Wolvelaere predicts there will be packages that automatically try corrective steps.

One of the biggest problems associated with merging SNA networks has been the installation and re-installation of the network. Every time improvements are made to SNA, SNA networks have to be reconfigured. Network users have complained that installation procedures have been designed by systems programmers for systems programmers to use. But IBM has been steadily revising the procedures to make them simpler. For example, software is now available to help users start up a basic network. The network operator responds to several prompts, and the software installs everything in a simple configuration that serves immediate needs. Later. users can fine-tune the network.

"Making changes is arduous, but it's getting easier," says Jacob Gross, vice president of information services at Chemical Bank in New York. "We

(Continued on page 88)



Jacob Gross of Chemical Bank says recent updates of SNA have been easier to implement.

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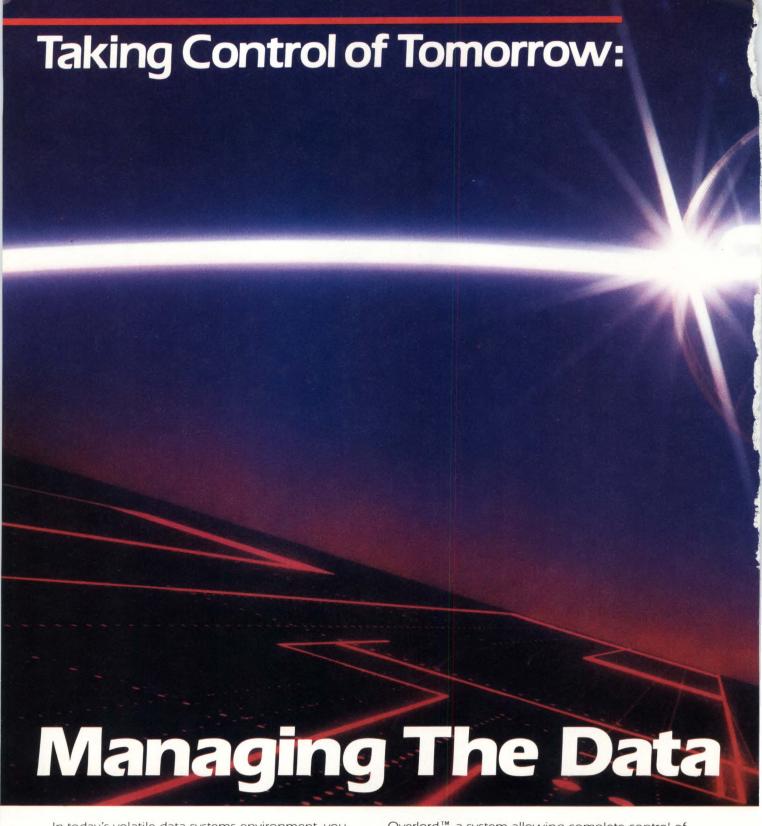
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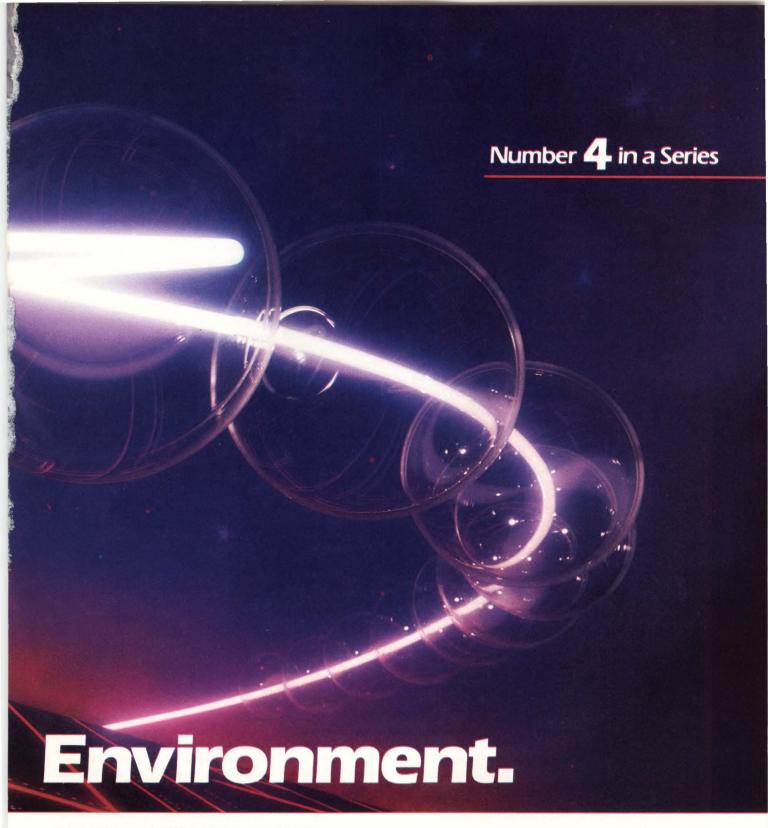
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Taking Control of Tomorrow

IBM's GRAND DESIGN

(Continued from page 84)

have a fairly large staff that just reconfigures the system, and we've tried to limit reconfigurations to once every two months. Lately, new releases have required us to specify less information, which gives us more of an opportunity to make changes without shutting down the entire network."

The improvements IBM has made and continues to make to SNA make one thing very clear: IBM is counting on SNA to be the network standard for a long time. "SNA is the foundation for wherever IBM is heading in communications networks," says John Cavalli of Fireman's Fund. "If you want to go where IBM is heading, then you want to be on SNA."

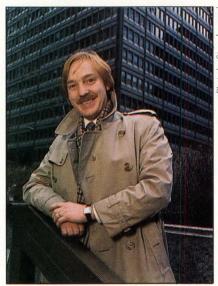
IBM realizes that if it wants to establish SNA as an industry standard, it can't afford to exclude other vendors' equipment from SNA. As a result, IBM has taken a cooperative stance toward competing vendors. For example, Big Blue recently released its 3710 Network Controller, a protocol converter that connects non-SNA equipment to an SNA network.

At the same time, other vendors realize the consequences of being locked out of SNA and are providing and upgrading their own gateways into the architecture. Wang Laboratories Inc. (Lowell, MA), Digital Equipment Corp. (Maynard, MA), and Data General Corp. (Westboro, MA) are reportedly adding LU 6.2 specifications to their equipment to improve communications with SNA products.

"Until recently, few systems could connect with SNA," notes Douglas Julien of Boeing. "But now other vendors are opening up to SNA. In a sense, the world is coming to IBM instead of IBM going to the world."

"I see a big change in IBM's stance regarding other vendors when it comes to SNA," says Jacob Gross of Chemical. "First of all, there is definitely more openness toward having other vendors communicate with SNA, particularly in the office-automation area. The other major change of focus is the strong thrust in the X.25 area. IBM is much more willing to tie into the public networks."

Gross sees IBM's cooperative ap-



"If you don't switch to SNA, you run the risk of falling out of the mainstream of IBM's development," warns Cory Van Wolvelaere of Arthur Andersen & Co.

proach as part of Big Blue's effort to take control of office-automation systems. "Until the last few years, IBM has been primarily a data-processing company, thinking in terms of selling more computers and terminals and maintaining the end-to-end business," he contends. "Now it wants to move more into office automation, an area in which it lost its leadership. IBM is fighting very hard to regain the initiative."

As SNA becomes more and more prevalent, competing network designs are languishing. For instance, although bisync networks are still widely in use and perform well when they are kept small and simple, development of bisync technology has stagnated. There is still no single set of standards for linking bisync equipment. As a result, users can run into the problem of having a bisync terminal that can't communicate with a bisync processor. A bisync network also requires a good deal more management attention than an SNA network does.

But perhaps the biggest reason for bisync's growing obsolescence is that IBM itself has stopped developing bisync products and is simply marking time, maintaining existing gear and selling products designed a decade or more ago. Advanced features are developed and released almost exclusively for SNA. Non-SNA users who see

more and more of the data-processing world hooking into SNA have to live with the nagging question: "Is today the right time to begin migrating to SNA?"

The best time to migrate to SNA is not easy to determine, especially for users of bisync networks. Bisync is still popular, still fairly well supported, and still effective for certain networks. According to most observers and consultants, there is no great reason to rush into SNA if a bisync system is still useful.

"The time to move from bisync to SNA depends on factors within each organization," says Arthur Andersen's Van Wolvelaere. According to Van Wolvelaere, these factors may include the need to upgrade to a new processor, the need for more throughput with the current equipment, and the desire to cut communications costs by cutting down on duplicate lines.

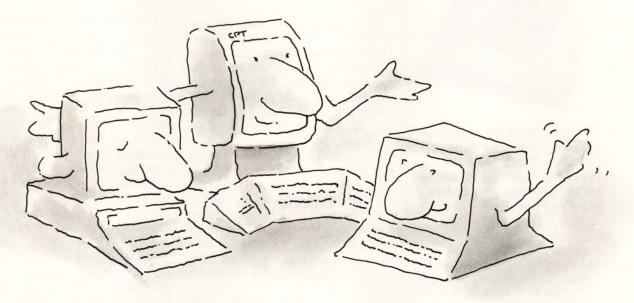
Even IBM concedes that it isn't necessary to switch to SNA immediately. "If a bisync network is stable, it may not be necessary to move to SNA right away," says Robert J. Sundstrom, manager of communication-system architecture for IBM in Research Triangle Park, Raleigh, NC. "It shouldn't become any more difficult to make the change if you delay a little while. In fact, it may even become easier as more and better protocol converters are released."

But most experts agree that, eventually, all large users will have to migrate to SNA. "There is no window of opportunity slamming closed for people who are thinking of converting from bisync to SNA," says Jacob Gross of Chemical, "but the reasons for converting are getting stronger. IBM isn't supporting anything new in bisync. Meanwhile, SNA networks are getting more powerful."

Users who continue to delay switching to SNA may also be setting themselves up for problems later on, according to Van Wolvelaere. "If you don't switch to SNA, you run the risk of falling out of the mainstream of IBM's development," he warns. Van Wolvelaere also notes that users who do switch to SNA need to keep up with network enhancements. "Once or twice a year,

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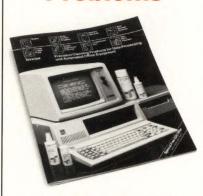
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IBM's DESIGN

"SNA did not rise to prominence overnight."

IBM makes a change in some aspect of SNA system software," he says. "The further you fall behind from the most up-to-date version, the more difficult it is to make the jump to the present level."

What improvements does IBM have in store for SNA in the near future? One avenue being investigated, according to IBM's Sundstrom, is voice/data integration. Sundstrom says voice/data integration is possible in SNA because neither the architecture nor the network is sensitive to the contents of the data stream.

However, other experts point out that a gap exists between the theoretical capabilities of SNA and the practical functions available in the market-place. For now, voice/data integration is somewhere over the horizon. In the near future, they say, IBM will most likely continue to assemble the building blocks for the one-system networking world it envisions.

Chemical's Gross predicts IBM's next step will be to expand LU 6.2. Currently, only a few intelligent terminals can access more than one application at a time. These terminals trick the SNA network by appearing to be four separate terminals. Although the trickery works, it causes a host of maintenance problems, primarily because users need a separate name for each logical terminal.

"A few years ago, no one thought of multiple-application access because just being able to access different systems from one terminal was something new," Gross notes. "But multiple-system access came in around 1978, and access to multiple applications is now a fairly common need."

Two of the most publicized of IBM's prospects are its PC Network and its local-area network (LAN). Much speculation has attended the features of these systems, which may allow efficient any-to-any communications within a building. PC Network was announced

last August, and is now available. IBM described its LAN in a May 1984 "statement of direction" that spoke of release in two to three years.

Users have been grumbling about IBM's delays in releasing the LAN and PC Network. But 'Arthur Andersen's Van Wolvelaere says it's not unusual for IBM to drag its feet in new markets. "They let upstarts open new markets," he asserts. "IBM waits, tries to be second, and then tries to take over the market."

IBM's Sundstrom suggests that users think of the LAN as an extension of SNA. "Neither the LAN nor the PC Network is mutually exclusive from SNA," he insists. "The two are intended to meet other needs that are better served by smaller, simpler networks than by SNA."

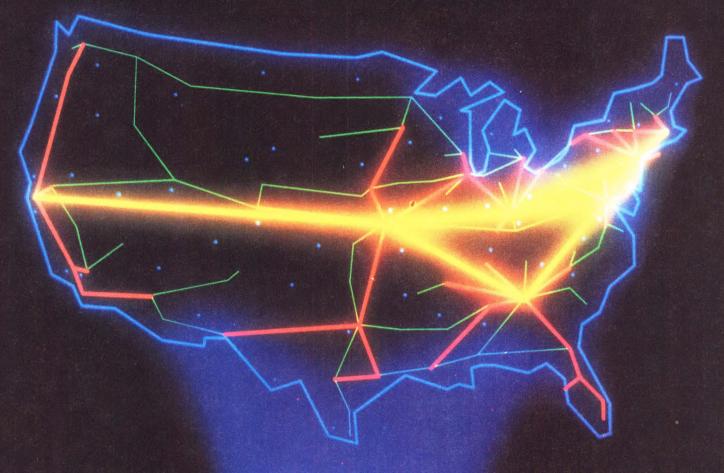
SNA already can be implemented with a variety of links, including Synchronous Data Link Control (SDLC) and X.25. The new LAN will be comparable to SNA's physical and data-link control layers and will support all the upper layers of an SNA network, as well as the PC Network.

Sundstrom advises users to think of the LAN as just another way to move things from box to box. According to Sundstrom, SNA equipment will be able to use the LAN for links within a building or a complex just as easily as it can already use other links for longer distance communications. "As these networks grow," he predicts, "there will be ways for your personal computers and programs under SNA to migrate onto the LAN. You won't outgrow the LAN, you'll just put in multiple LANs and connect them with your SNA backbone."

SNA is far from being the perfect network architecture, but it is improving. With each new product announcement, IBM strengthens SNA's position as the standard network design. As SNA gains in popularity, users of non-SNA networks are finding support for their systems weakening. If the experts are right, the status of non-SNA networks will continue to decline.

Robert A. Moskowitz is a free-lance writer and management consultant based in Woodland Hills, CA.

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AUTOMATED TOOLS ARE BACKLOG BREAKERS

Part III: Programmers welcome programming-productivity tools to cut through logjams of applications.

by Rick Cook

he incongruity of programming-productivity tools is that they serve skilled craftspersons. Programming has many of the characteristics of a 19th-century preindustrial trade. It's a labor-intensive job done by professionals who work primarily on a custom basis; and most programmers take great pride in work well done. A word like "productivity" rings harshly against the delicate balance of skill and experience programmers need to produce quality products.

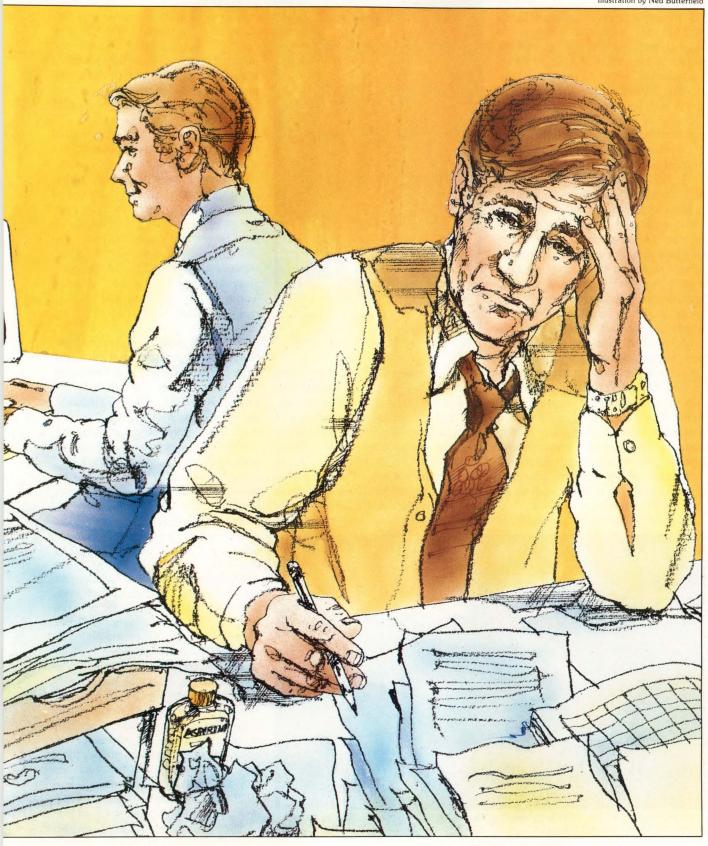
Yet interest in productivity tools in MIS/dp shops trying to get backlogs under control is high. Late last summer, Raymond Fields, executive vice president of Leading Software Technologies, Cleveland, got an object lesson in just how much interest there is in in-

creasing programmers' productivity.

Leading Software Technologies had been developing an applications generator called The Intelligent Assistant (TIA), which automates detailed systems designs, program designs, documentation, and code generation. Last August, six months before TIA was due to go on the market, a national computer newspaper ran an article on the system. "We got over 7,000 phone calls in two weeks," Fields says. "Callers interrupted other callers by telling the operators it was an emergency. Two months later, an international publication reran the story. We got swamped again."

The reason: Applications backlogs are getting longer, and programming aids can help reverse the trend. Ac-





PROGRAMMING PRODUCTIVITY

cording to a recent survey by Applied Computer Research (ACR), Phoenix, AZ, the applications backlog in MIS/dp facilities has increased considerably since 1981. In ACR's 1981 survey, nearly 50 percent of MIS/dp shops reported a backlog of 12 months or less. In ACR's 1984 survey, the number of shops with less than a year's backlog dropped to about 20 percent; and the number of shops reporting a backlog of 36 months or longer grew to nearly 33 percent.

As backlogs grow, more and more MIS/dp managers are taking steps to automate programming, or at least some aspects of the programming sequence. However, no one agrees on the best way to automate programming—or even if it can be totally automated. As a result, there is a whole spectrum of tools designed to improve programmer productivity, many of which use mutually incompatible approaches. The most sophisticated and complex sort of tools are applicationsdevelopment systems or program generators. These tools, which usually contain fourth-generation languages, attempt to eliminate programming as a handcraft by automatically creating code in response to non-procedural queries (in the case of fourth-generation languages) or by following specifications set down by systems analysts (in the case of program generators).

At the other end of the spectrum are



Jim Rains, director of systems and programming at Dayton Hudson Department Stores, Minneapolis, believes program generators are just as efficient as traditional methods

tools that speed up the programming process. They include utilities like test-data generators and flexible screen editors that fit into the work routines of programmers. The aim of these tools is to make programming more efficient rather than to revolutionize it. In between are an enormous number of products ranging from code generators that only produce part of an application and systems that support libraries of re-

usable software modules or code, to products that help to streamline, structure, document, or test programs produced by traditional methods. The number of products that fall under the heading of "programming-productivity tools" is huge. According to one estimate, there are more than 100 program generators available just for IBM mainframes.

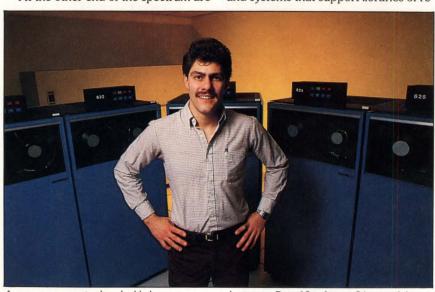
Yet, the same 1984 ACR survey that showed huge backlogs in MIS/dp shops also showed that applications-development systems, including program generators, ranked 10th out of the 14 backlog-trimming methods mentioned by respondents. "Professionals tend to become comfortable with the way they program," says Phil Howard, the president of ACR. "A program generator is something new to learn. You need a lot of management push to make new technology like this take hold."

Another problem—possibly the toughest—is deciding what the yard-stick for productivity gains should be. The traditional method is to measure programmers and productivity tools by the number of lines of code they produce. But, as some managers point out, this makes as much sense as rating carpenters by the number of nails they drive. So, recently, other software-measurement systems have been getting more attention.

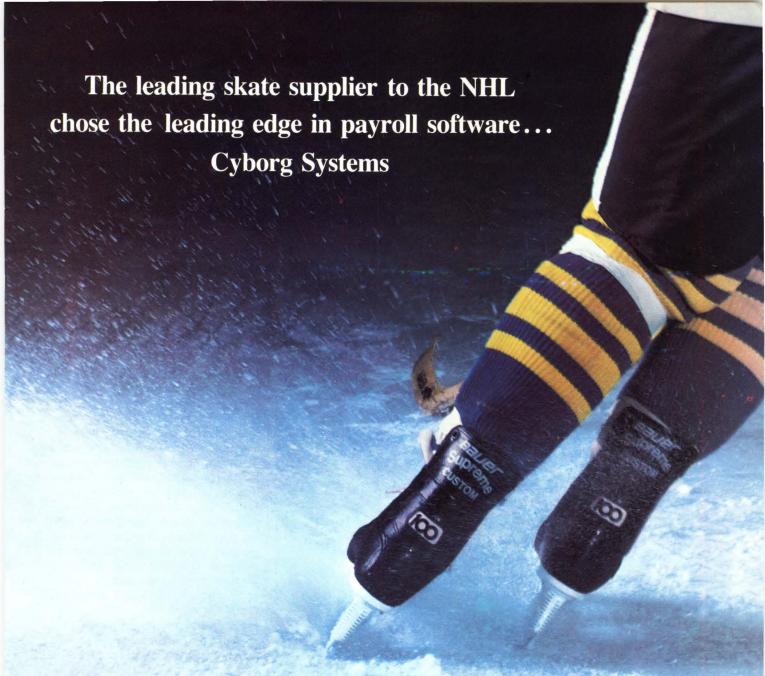
The most widely used measurement system is the "function-point" scale devised by Allen Albrecht of IBM. It's based on the weighted sum of five major external attributes—inputs, outputs, inquiries, data files, and interfaces—called function points. The function-point total is a composite index of the amount of total programming effort a project is likely to need.

The function-point score can even be used to roughly assess the size of a program, because languages differ in their ratios of lines of code to function points. Assembler language, which parallels machine functions, not surprisingly requires about 320 statements per function point. Cobol, a higher-level language, uses about 105 statements, and DMS/VS only needs about 25 statements per function point.

Finding a yardstick for measuring



A program generator has doubled programmer productivity at Data 10 in Irvine, CA, says John Young, systems-programming manager.



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CIRCLE 45

PROGRAMMING PRODUCTIVITY

programming productivity is the first step. Next comes coding, which is the most visible part of program production and maintenance, even though it represents only a fraction of the total effort.

According to T. Capers Jones, former manager of programming-tech-

problems that you may be blaming on

software "glitches" or other reasons.

Computers are designed to operate

reliably only with clean power lines and that simple "surge protector" you

now may be using just can't do the

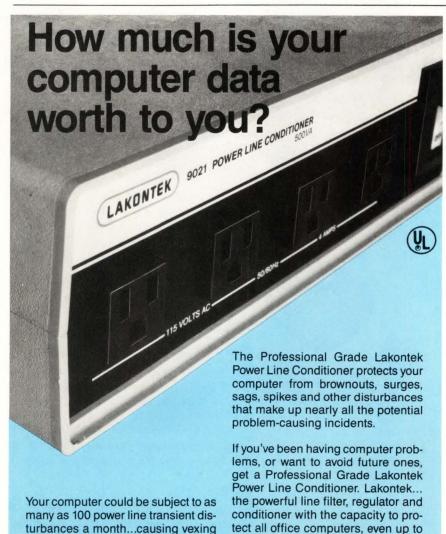
nology analysis for ITT's huge programming staff, coding is only about 15 percent of the total effort to write and maintain programs. Finding and removing programming errors amounts to between 35 percent and 40 percent of a program's cost; maintenance consumes a large chunk of what is left.

Another approach to productivity assessment puts between 50 percent and 80 percent of the effort on a typical program in the maintenance category because some errors aren't found until the program is in use, and are therefore counted as maintenance.

Program maintainability is a large part of productivity and a force behind the increasing use of new methods of producing code. The most commonly used new method is structured progranning, which creates programs that are more readable and maintainable, albeit at the expense of some machine efficiency. In effect, structured programming trades time in the design phase of a project for time in the debugging and maintenance phases. The aim of structured programming is to segment a program into modules according to the major functions of each. The inputs and outputs of each module are rigidly defined, and the interfaces between modules are carefully specified. A large structured-programming project will advance slowly to the coding stage because a great number of modules and their interfaces must be designed. But once these structured segments fit perfectly together, it's easier to produce correct code and maintain the program.

However, structured programming presents MIS/dp managers with a couple of problems. First, the emphasis on design means that it will take longer before there is anything on the computer to show anxious users. Users who have waited a year or two for an application are not going to be thrilled at the prospect of waiting even longer because MIS/dp has adopted a new methodology.

The second problem with structured-programming tools is that many programmers don't want to change their work habits. Programmers often complain that structured code is less machine-efficient than traditional methods of programming. Some MIS/dp managers would agree, although for a different reason. With many unstructured programs, and hardware near capacity, managers are reluctant to implement a change that will increase the backlog and require upgrading machine facilities. But, forward-thinking



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PROGRAMMING PRODUCTIVITY

MIS/dp managers argue that the increased ease of maintenance and reduced debugging time more than make up for the difference in machine usage.

"Is structured programming as efficient as the old way?" rhetorically asks Judy Goranson, a consultant for the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co., Boston, which has used structured programming since the mid-1970s. "No. Nothing is. But the whole idea of structured programming is that a programmer's time costs more than a little extra machine time." Estimates of the efficiency differences between structured and nonstructured programming vary, but many experts rate structured Cobol programs at about 10 percent less efficient than nonstructured programs.

Naturally, some programmers approach programming-productivity tools with a jaundiced eye. The programmers who resist them are also likely to be the most experienced ones in the MIS/dp shop. Some managers are reluctant to force the issue. As a result,

"Program generators are the most complex sort of tools."

when you talk about structured programming, you hear variations on:
"Our shop is committed to structured programming—except for Fred and Nancy over there."

Some managers deploy conversion tools to help ease old-timers into structured programming, says Bill Morgan, vice president of Group Operations Inc., and the author of Superstructure, a generator that converts unstructured Cobol into structured code. "No one admits it when they buy Superstructure, but I'm sure some users buy it to ease the transition," he says. By feeding unstructured language through a structurer, it can be turned into a structured program without forcing the

methodology on reluctant programmers.

When it comes to repairing the programs of the past, structured-programming tools have few detractors. All those hundreds of thousands of lines of code that have accumulated over the years, been added to, modified, and passed from generation to generation of programmers are major contributors to applications backlogs. "We don't suggest the use of Superstructure if the programmer who is responsible for the module has been working on it for three or four years and is thoroughly familiar with it," says Judy Goranson, whose shop uses Superstructure to update old code. "We use it mainly on a system that has to be changed." At John Hancock, Superstructure is used by programmers who are assigned to unfamiliar modules because it allows a programmer to trace the module's logic.

Another benefit of structured programming is that it can produce reusable modules. Programming libraries,

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PROGRAMMING PRODUCTIVITY

tools that keep reusable program segments on file to be strung together to produce most or all of a program at need, have become popular programming aids. Packages such as Panvalet from Pansophic and Librarian from Applied Data Research help MIS/dp shops organize reusable modules that can be inserted into many applications.

The theoretical advantages of libraries are considerable. Because the modules are already parts of working programs, they should be well-tested and relatively free of bugs. Unlike some other techniques, module libraries promise major productivity improvements without turning MIS/dp on its ear and forcing programmers to learn radically different ways of doing their jobs.

To make the library concept work, however, modules have to work in many different programs. According to T. Capers Jones, that means programmers must do a thorough job of structuring modules and their interfaces. As

a practical matter, attempting to adapt existing modules to the library concept doesn't work well.

Nonetheless, Jones predicts that in 15 years' time, about half the code produced by MIS/dp shops will come from reusable sources. Even now, Jones says, some large corporations using the code-library concept are getting productivity rates in the neighborhood of 24,000 to 28,000 lines of code per year, with half of that coming from libraries.

The programming library is close in concept to some of the facilities for software development provided by the Unix operating system. Programmers who have worked with Unix praise its facilities for writing and debugging code, no matter which language is used. Although the language most commonly associated with Unix is C, Unix software-development tools are available in other languages, too, including Fortran and Cobol. Unix contains a powerful set of utilities and an excellent command processor. The sys-

tem has highly regarded documentation facilities and a Source Code Control System designed to keep track of changes in a program. Unix for IBM mainframes and plug compatibles under IBM's VM operating system is now available from Amdahl, Sunnyvale, CA, and called Universal Timesharing System.

Unix is no panacea, however. Unix has been criticized as being slow and somewhat fragile. Also, installing a new operating system is not likely to be taken lightly by even the most ambitious MIS/dp managers. Program generators are also built around the idea of reusing code. Generators are essentially automated libraries that can combine code modules on command to produce applications and parts of applications. Generators of one sort or another have been around for a long time. A reportwriting program is in a sense a program generator, and some of the more complex ones have been used to do jobs that their designers probably never dreamed of. (Continued on page 102)

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PROGRAMMING PRODUCTIVITY

(Continued from page 100)

However, just because generators and other automating tools are a relatively old idea doesn't mean that they get a lot of respect. Quite to the contrary, because many of the early products were crude, managers' familiarity with them tends to breed, if not contempt, some skepticism.

The biggest complaint about generators is their inefficiency. "It's kind of foolish for professionals to think they can program the whole world with a program generator," says John Young, systems-programming manager for Data 10, a service bureau in Irvine, CA, that is a beta-test site for a program generator that hasn't yet been released. "Program generators have to be very general, so speed is difficult to achieve." In spite of the efficiency problems, Young says program generators have their place in data processing. "They're great for prototyping. You can get a model application up and running and in the user's hands in a short time. In modeling, the efficiencies aren't that important."

In particular, programming for online systems benefits from generators. "When you're trying to start a project on a fairly large online system, just bringing up parts of it to programming takes a while," explains Young. "All the basic information has to be laid down before you can start to write an online system. A program generator is well suited to that use. Once you've got everything laid out, you can go back and rewrite the application."

However, creators and some users of program generators claim there is lit-

tle or no difference in speed between a generated program and a written one. "The applications are very efficient," says Jim Rains, director of systems and programming for Dayton Hudson Department Stores, Minneapolis, which uses Pansophic's Telon program generator. "We haven't found any more overhead or performance degradation in Telon applications than in traditional applications."

Programming and documentation aids can also improve programming productivity. Unlike program generators, these tools are seldom resisted by data-processing personnel. Programming and documentation aids try to either save the programmer time or make the programming process more efficient, and they adapt easily to the programmer's way of working. Many of these products don't promise large gains in productivity, but they can make a programmer's life easier.

One tool that Data 10 uses to do a better job is Pie/Sessions from Technology Software Concepts of Tustin, CA, which allows programmers to run many TSO (IBM's Time Sharing Option) sessions on a single terminal and quickly switch back and forth between them. "It eliminates a lot of the 'garbage' time," says John Young. "If you have a debugging session already set up and waiting, it makes a programming job about 50 percent easier. You can be on TSO on one session, review a compilation on another session, and actually test it online on another. It has raised our programmer productivity 100 percent."

Documentation is a chore that most

programmers dislike. That makes documentation an excellent candidate for automation, and there are several systems on the market. They range from boilerplate editors, which let a programmer quickly assemble most of a document from a library of stock paragraphs, to documentation generators, which accept the program as input and generate most or all of the documentation. Many program generators have some form of automatic-documentation generator as part of the package.

Ultimately, programming as we know it may disappear entirely. One of the main goals of the Japanese Fifth Generation computer project is to produce a computer that can be given instructions in a natural language to produce programs. There is a good deal of skepticism about the ability of the Japanese to meet the ambitious goals they have set for the project, and the concept of the self-programming computer may well outlive the Fifth Generation project. In this country, Lisp, a high-level language, is being touted as the key to natural-language programming.

But programming is more than a method of feeding coded instructions into a computer. It's a formal way of organizing thoughts and focusing on goals. The need for programming languages to instruct computers may disappear, but the need for something like them as a method of defining problems and goals is unlikely to ever go away.

Rick Cook is a free-lance writer based in Phoenix, AZ.

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(Continued on page 136)

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DP SECURITY: A DELICATE BALANCE

Controlling access to dp facilities requires a balancing act between protecting vital resources and enhancing employee productivity. You can't just lock the doors.

by James Miskiewicz

ccess control, the linchpin of data-center security, is far more complex than throwing up a chain-link fence, locking the doors, and calling in corporate security.

Securing a data center is a delicate balancing act between providing protection and enhancing productivity. Measures adopted to keep intruders out shouldn't impede employees as they go about their jobs; security systems must be sophisticated enough to catch insiders who become interlopers without imposing draconian restrictions. After all, burdensome security provisions tend to be ignored or circumvented by busy employees.

The high value of information and

computer equipment, the threat of computer crime and sabotage, and the spread of devices to combat them is creating a growing need for MIS/dp executives who understand the fundamentals of security and play active roles in the development and enforcement of a security program. These executives help deploy two basic kinds of access-control systems: those that detect intrusion and alert the responsible managers, and those that stop an intruder from gaining access to the data center or prevent employees from entering off-limits areas.

In major corporations the approaches may differ, but the thrust is the same. Limit the number of employees





ACCESS CONTROL

with access to the data center and the risk of loss or damage will be greatly reduced. For example, programmers working at terminals don't have to go inside the data center; they can work miles away, out of harm's way. If an employee must deliver a report or tape to the data center, he or she can deliver it to a double-doored locker or drop slot without entering the data center. At the Basking Ridge, NJ, data center of Purolater Courier, only a few top managers have keys to the computer room, which is always locked. The mainframes are controlled from a room one floor below the computer room, and access to the control room is restricted to operators.

Security consultants generally advise using redundant security systems. The most frequently promoted concept is layered security systems. Working from outside to inside, the most sensitive areas, such as the machine room or tape library, are accorded the tightest security.

"I tend to use the word 'holistic,' " says Richard Bessenhoffer of Total Assets Protection, an Arlington, TX, consultancy. "A security system can't counter a single problem; it's got to be all-encompassing." According to Bessenhoffer, the layers of security might be categorized most easily into four perimeters, each employing one or more security devices. These perimeters include the area immediately surrounding the building (assuming that yours is a stand-alone center); the perimeter of the building itself, including all possible access points; the entrance to the data center; and finally, areas within the center that are most sensitive and in need of the greatest control.

Systems installed at the outer perimeter generally fall into the surveillance category. Increasingly, data centers are employing some form of motion detection, either infrared or microwave, to alert security to an intrusion at the outer perimeter. Both systems work

"point-to-point." A transmitter beams invisible infrared light or an energy field along each side of the perimeter to detectors at the other end. An alarm is set off by any break or disruption in the beam by a "human-sized" object; birds or small animals are detected by the beam but won't trigger the alarm.

Microwave systems, such as GTE's MPS 400, list at \$1,530 per unit (one receiver and transmitter), while infrared systems tend to be less expensive. The Admemco 1290 costs about \$500 per unit. However, the major cost of these systems is installation. According to Bill Boyd, technical-services manager for GTE Security Products Organization, Mountain View, CA, the cost of installing a motion-detection system can be as much as three times the purchase price of the unit itself.

Both systems have strengths and weaknesses. The microwave system transmits a much wider energy beam and can protect much larger areas than the infrared system; the narrow infrared beam, which is transmitted to a photoelectric cell, is less prone to false alarms. In addition, microwaves can be transmitted 600 feet or farther, while the infrared beam is only effective up to 500 feet.

Motion-detection devices also fit well into what is becoming an increasingly held belief among security experts that data centers and their outer security perimeters should remain as unobtrusive as possible. Thus, one of the oldest forms of access control, the chain-link fence, is fading quickly from most datacenter security provisions. The U.S. Department of Justice's report "Computer Security Techniques" contends that "an obvious barrier may attract undesirable attention" and that computer facilities should "look unimpressive and ordinary relative to nearby buildings." The report is available by calling the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Statistics in Washington, at (202) 724-7774.

"Eliminate the normal flow of traffic as much as possible from access points leading to the data center." "Data centers should look unobtrusive, so as not to attract undesirable attention."

The central data center for Martin Marietta Data Systems in Orlando, FL, uses a motion-detection device for perimeter security. As a defense contractor and dp-services supplier, Martin Marietta requires strict security precautions for its data center.

The level at which pure access control begins is at the entrances to the building or the floor on which the data center is housed. Identify all access points leading to the floor or building and eliminate as many as possible from the normal flow of traffic.

"If you allow employees and visitors to enter the building through many entrances, you're asking for trouble," says Earl Gay of the New York-based security consultancy Brooks-Gay Associates. "Ideally, you'll be able to restrict movement to one or two access points and then control who gets through and how."

The "and how" is as important a feature of the access-control program as any particular security device. Establish access control at the front entrance, loading zones, and such secondary access points as emergency exits. Establish procedures regarding the use of each entry point. Required emergency exits, for example, which lead out of the data-center floor should remain unopenable from the outside. In addition, many security consultants advise establishing rules preventing employees from using emergency routes to move to and from the data center, and tying restricted exits into the central alarm system.

Similarly, the front or main entrance of the data center should include a reception post, the sole function of which should be to identify employees and visitors and log their arrivals and departures. In instances where the actual entrance to the data-center complex is separate from the main entrance, a

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CIRCLE 54



ACCESS CONTROL

second reception post should be established. Although it is common for many reception desks to be equipped with closed-circuit television monitors, Bessenhoffer asserts that these monitors can distract guards from their primary responsibility.

"Once you start placing other responsibilities on the guard, access control begins to break down," says Bessenhoffer. "Plus, it just doesn't make good business sense to install \$100.000 worth of TV cameras and monitors when they're only being watched half the time." Rather than install TV monitors at your reception Bessenhoffer suggests that they be placed in a central security officeunder the gaze of trained security personnel given the sole responsibility for their monitoring.

So-called back-door access points,

such as loading docks and freight elevators, must also be secured. However, because these areas require efficient movement of materials in and out of the building, access-control measures must not impede legitimate movement.

"The loading area is a threat not so much because someone is going to walk off with your mainframe, but because someone wanting to steal a disk or sign on to a terminal is just as likely to use the back door," says Benjamin Klein, director of user services for the City University of New York's computer center.

Klein asserts that the need for efficient movement through loading areas usually comes at the expense of security. The solution at the CUNY computer center was to route all deliveries through the reception area used by data-center personnel. Unfortunately,

not all centers are designed to allow this. If the loading dock is behind the data center, security consultants advise the use of some dual-checking system to allow equipment and materials to move in and out of the building.

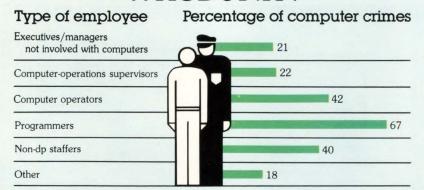
At the very least, experts advise, delivery personnel should be denied access beyond the loading dock. Therefore, it makes sense to build a storage room for needed media and other materials near the loading dock. Materials might also be left at the dock, to be moved by data-center personnel only. Some corporations, such as Martin Marietta Data, deploy an "air lock." A delivery truck is admitted to an enclosed area where the truck, its cargo, and occupants are closely examined prior to admittance to the loading dock. The vehicle is also checked after the transaction is complete. The system restricts access but provides for the efficient movement of equipment and materials in a secure manner, says Charles M. Elliott, director of quality assurance and security.

Inside the data center, the security perimeters should follow the form of individual rooms and workstation clusters. Security experts recommend laying out work areas to provide security for sensitive offices. Says Earl Gay, "You shouldn't have to stroll past the tape library every time you want to go to the washroom."

The workhorse of interior access control is the locking device. Years ago, these devices were no more than \$500 electronic locks with numeric keypads activated by a multi-digit code. In recent years, however, magnetic- and infrared-card readers have all but replaced the older locks. These systems are more expensive, ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per door, plus installation costs, which can run as high as 30 percent of the system's purchase price. Yet they have become the industry standard for two essential reasons. First, the "combinations" for digital locks can easily fall into the wrong hands, but the combinations on cards are hidden. Second, most systems provide central programming and auditing through hookups to stand-alone computer systems.

"One of the basic concepts about ac-

WHODUNIT?



Source: Task Force on Computer Crime/American Bar Association

In recent months, the bulk of attention paid to computer crime has been on so-called "hackers." These electronic thieves—working from remote terminals—do present a serious threat to data centers, but one recent survey conducted by the American Bar Association suggests that an even greater threat to security comes from much closer to home.

When asked to identify known perpetrators of crimes against them, 125 of 160 respondents (77 percent) said criminals came from within their own organizations. The most frequently cited groups were computer operators and programmers.

"Hackers have received all the publicity, but the greatest threat by far still comes from individuals who work in the data center," says Richard Bessenhoffer, vice president of Total Assets Protection, an Arlington, TX, consultancy.

The survey questionnaire was distributed to Fortune 500 industrials and to federal, state, and local government agencies. The 179 respondents fielded questions ranging from estimates on total annual losses due to computer crime in the United States, to views on the need for a federal statute on the punishment of computer criminals; 79 percent favored such a law.

⊕ PILLER

UNIBLOCK

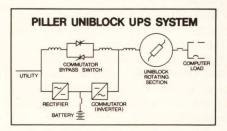
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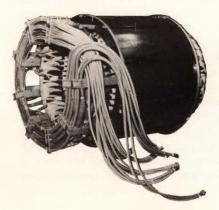


The Piller UNIBLOCK is the first UPS system that offers dual power paths, each capable of supplying full rated power to the computer. That means built-in redundancy in a single module. (So a single UNIBLOCK UPS System provides the same protection as two static UPS systems!)

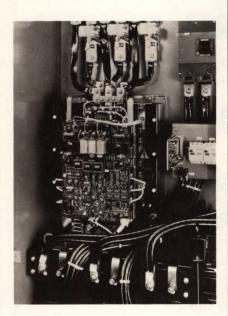


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ACCESS CONTROL

cess control is that not everyone in the organization should have access to every part of the data center. Upper management may have unlimited access, but as you move down the organizational chart, access should be more selective, defined by individual workstations if possible," says CUNY's

Klein. CUNY's computer center separates low-security offices from more sensitive areas, such as terminal rooms and the computer room.

One clear example of this type of compartmentalization is the data center for the Fisher-Camuto Co., a fastgrowing women's-footwear manufacturer and retailer in Stamford, CT. According to Ken Scharf, MIS/dp vice president, entry to the data center is restricted by a magnetic card reader from Card Key Systems (Chatsworth, CA). Within the center, the card-reader system's programming establishes security levels that restrict employee movements according to individual needs to enter certain areas.

Scharf explains that although administrative offices are open to employees with appropriate identification cards, programming areas are restricted at night to programmers on the night shift. Access to the computer room itself is restricted at all times to operators. The computer room is glass-enclosed, but employees may communicate with each other using an intercom built into the center's telephone system. An operator may leave the computer room to deliver a job, but programmers and managers cannot go in.

The software available for most card-activated systems provides flexibility by matching an individual's access code against a database. Systems can control as many as 40 access points and track as many as several hundred thousand employees' access codes. They can also be programmed to limit access only to certain doors and only during times when the employee is authorized to be present in the data center. These systems generally keep records of who was present when, in the event that some crime or sabotage within the data center is detected.

But card readers are not foolproof. Magnetic cards can be duplicated. And while easier to use than the digital lock, the need to either inject a card or flash one past a reader is regarded by many employees as an inconvenience. When that occurs, employees may be tempted to circumvent the security measures simply to make their lives easier. One MIS/dp manager, who prefers not to be named, says he found that in certain high-traffic areas employees simply propped a chair against the door, defeating the access-control system.

Ultrasophisticated detectors such as voice-activated, fingerprint, or hand-writing-analysis systems still have a long way to go before becoming cost-

(Continued on page 114)

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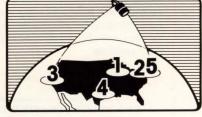
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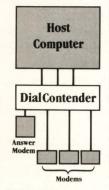
CIRCLE 58

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CIRCLE 59

ACCESS CONTROL

(Continued from page 110)

effective for all but the tightest security facilities. Also the technology to make these systems cost-effective has not yet been developed. Voice-analysis systems, for example, currently require the installation of a soundproof booth and special voice-transmission lines at every door.

However, significant developments have been made in systems that require a minimum of physical effort on the part of the user. The so-called "handless" systems, according to security consultants, are the first to address the problem of making the access-control system easy to use.

One such device available is the Proximity System developed by the Schlage Electronics Corp., a big lock vendor based in San Francisco. The system, which costs approximately \$1,500 per door, plus installation, combines all the central programming capabilities of the typical card-activated system with an ultrasensitive reader that requires an employee only to hold the card two to three inches from the sensing device. Although not a purely "handless" system, the Proximity System doesn't require the user to insert an access card, which can remain in a wallet or clipped onto the user in the form of a security badge.

In addition, the system's sensing device can be embedded within a wall, leaving no evidence of its presence. Not only does that make the system more aesthetically pleasing, says the manufacturer, but it also adds an extra measure of security because an intruder might not be able to find the sensor, assuming he or she has stolen some employee's card.

Another "no-hands" device is the Mastiff Security System, from Atlanta-based Mastiff Systems U.S. Inc., which combines good access control with convenience for the user. Mastiff, which is an acronym for Modular Automated System to Identify Friend from Foe, uses a radio transmitting device and receiver to activate the locking system. A specially coded frequency is transmitted by a 3.2-ounce "token" worn by personnel during working hours. The device has a range of four feet and provides an audit trail. If the wearer of a

"Access-control measures must not impede legitimate movement."

card is out of range of the receiver, an alarm will sound if the door remains open for more than nine seconds.

But because of the system's special installation requirements, such as the need for raised floors around the door to house the system's radio-receiving antenna, Mastiff concedes that its product may still be limited to certain applications rather than as the primary automated-locking system. The system costs from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per door, which makes it a significantly larger investment than card-reader systems made by Continental Instruments, Card Key, and Rusco. However, the manufacturer asserts that the Mastiff system can be cost-effective in data centers with high-security needs and heavy user traffic.

Trusted employees circumventing access-control measures, either to commit a crime or simply to avoid an inconvenience, are another type of problem. There's no technology that will solve that problem. Also, MIS/dp management, rather than the security staff, is best equipped to cope. Security directors will more often than not contend that their special training and expertise make them the obvious choice for the planning and management of security programs throughout the organization.

"Under most corporate structures, the corporate security department is responsible for protecting the assets of the organization. Information is every bit as much an asset as people and physical property, but because it is best understood by MIS/dp management, a dedicated MIS/dp approach to the security of information is advisable," says Martin Marietta Data's Charles Elliott.

The proponents for MIS/dp control of security point out that the unique nature of computer operations makes it difficult for non-dp professionals to understand the security needs of the data

(Continued on page 140)



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MAY THE POWER BE WITH YOU

Part II: When power problems plague microcomputer systems, they can cost time and effort—and for high-level users, those are expensive commodities.

by David Morrison

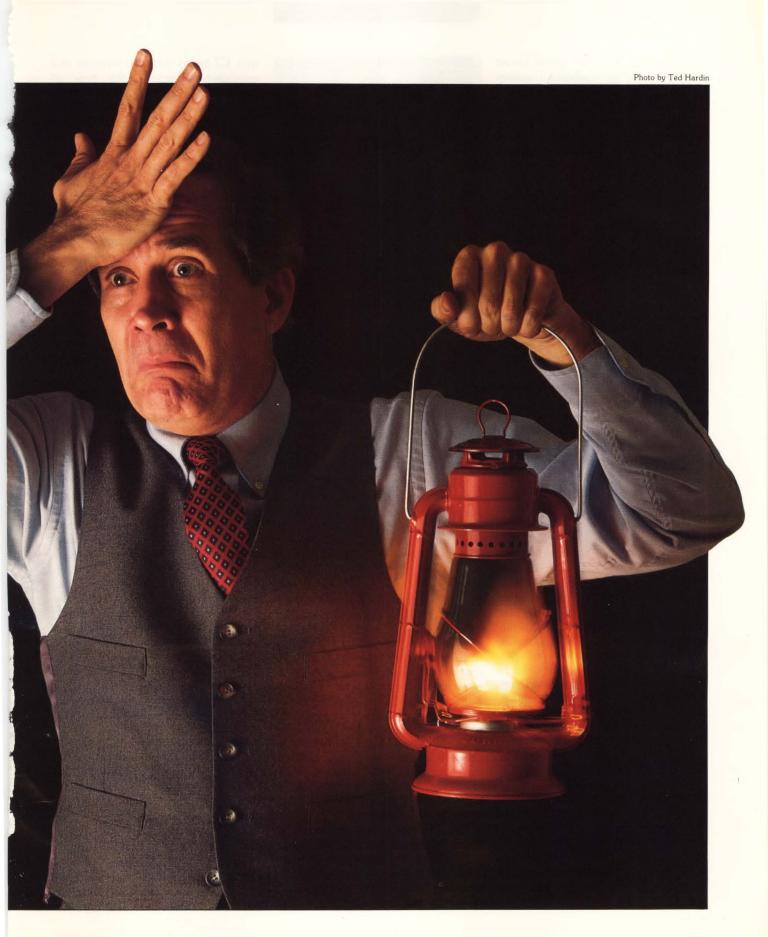
or years, MGA Computer Services, a small data-processing outfit high atop a mountain in Resaca, GA, has put its trust in the Almighty to protect its personal computers against power mishaps. And for years, MGA has avoided power problems. But that may be due to more than luck; MGA is an arm of the Monastery of the Glorious Ascension. Those of us with merely mortal connections may need more than faith to protect against spreadsheet-killing surges and worse.

Power-line pollution problems are so unpredictable, they are almost impossible to diagnose. An unexplained disturbance on a computer screen may be correctable with a keystroke, but it may also portend more serious trouble. Left unattended, a seemingly benign symptom can escalate into a morass of

problems that force an organization to spend a disproportionate amount of money to solve.

A series of delays and much expense were Jim Keffer's experience at Denton, TX-based Tri Steel Structures when a power failure caused the read/ write head on the hard-disk drive of his Intertec Personal Computer to crash. According to Keffer, who, at the time, was president of the steel-housing manufacturer, it cost \$450 to repair the equipment. "But for the two weeks it took for repairs and the six weeks it took to reconstruct the data, I didn't know anything about my accounts receivable or accounts payable," he says. "For two months I didn't know my bank balance. It's possible that the \$450 worth of damage actually cost us \$10,000." Keffer, now president of Para Systems, a Richardson, TX-based



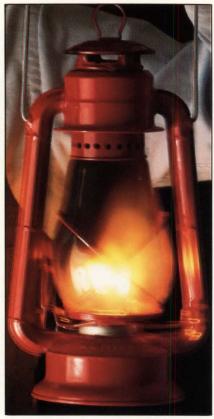


manufacturer of uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), believes power-disturbance problems can't be solved by one simple solution.

Part of the reason that there is no hard-and-fast rule is because power problems vary. Among the deviations from clean electrical power-power that flows evenly at between 105 volts and 130 volts-that can damage equipment and data are black- and brownouts, electromagnetic interference (EMI) or radio-frequency interference (RFI), and voltage transients, such as surges, sags, and spikes. Although these disturbances won't occur everyday, says Michael Webster, an architectural engineer and office-environment specialist for Steelcase Inc., "Users should consider the loss a single malfunction could cause, then decide whether they can afford the risk." So commonplace have microcomputer power problems become in the offices of its customers, according to Webster, that the Grand Rapids, MI-based officefurniture manufacturer is now offering a power-line conditioner as part of its modular office-system electrical panel.

The first step managers need to take when they suspect power problems is to determine the exact nature of the pollution. Power-line analyzers and monitors, which can be rented or purchased, will yield the specific information required for an accurate diagnosis. Some provide printouts, which can be extremely helpful if problems are chronic rather than sporadic. Some factors to consider are when sags, spikes, or surges occur or if there are patterns of voltage change. Says John F. Kalbach, an Altadina, CA-based consultant, "If managers do initial analyses, they won't waste money on devices they don't need or that aren't appropriate for their power problems.'

Kalbach and many other consultants point out that a detailed plan will help managers avoid over- as well as underprotecting their organizations' microcomputers. According to Henry Petersohn, a Potomac, MD-based consultant, a detailed power-protection plan could be the most important document managers will ever have to write about the equipment for which they are responsible.



Such a plan should focus on the environment in which an organization's computer equipment is situated. Ingredients that contribute to power risk are the age of the structure housing the equipment, the condition of the structure's wiring, the neighbors in the building with whom power lines are shared (and the equipment they operate), the condition of the power sent from public utilities, and the history of regional brownouts and blackouts. In some locations, one of the most important environmental elements to consider is weather. It's not uncommon, says John Kalbach, for a thunderstorm in Miami to cause problems for a city-operated network in Jacksonville, about 350 miles north. And if an organization's offices are located near Orlando, where there is an average of 100 severe thunderstorms per year, it should take weather into account for all electricalequipment purchases.

Once managers can delineate the environmental conditions that might prove harmful to their micros, they can begin to study their equipment's potential for failure under these conditions. According to Steven A. Ciarcia, a Ver-

non, CT-based electrical engineer and computer consultant, the type of personal-computer equipment an organization has determines how sensitive it will be to power-line pollution. "As the operating speed of digital equipment increases, its tolerance of power-line pollution lessens," Ciarcia says. "Highspeed microprocessors and memory components are more susceptible to fast voltage transients. Disk drives and video-display terminals are more affected by lasting surges and sags."

If, as Ciarcia suggests, certain power-pollution risks are endemic to particular types of equipment, why aren't more manufacturers building protective devices into their equipment or improving those that are already built in? By claiming they cannot provide built-in devices that will accommodate the wide variety of power problems users experience, microcomputer-equipment manufacturers are keeping the costs of production down.

There is another reason. According to David Simpson, president of Electronic Protection Devices Inc. in Waltham, MA, "Users have come to believe that power-protection devices are accessories and peripherals they need to buy. As a result, there is less incentive for manufacturers to build in safeguards." Before managers purchase power-protection devices, Simpson adds, it's important that they know exactly what kind of device has already been built into their equipment so they don't end up with costly replications.

Once managers have a clear sense of how well their micros can endure power problems, they can determine what additional protective devices are necessary. Simply protecting micros against surges and spikes could cost as little as \$10 per computer for elementary surge suppressors or noise-filtering devices. Line conditioners, which smoothe out power, might range from \$100 to several thousand dollars. And UPS units, which keep microcomputers alive and well during power outages, range from several hundred to several thousand dollars, depending on the duration of protection required.

Managers can ask themselves some general questions both to help them decide which type of device is right for their equipment and to clarify what it is they wish to protect. For example, is protecting equipment from damage due to voltage transients or long-term power failures as important as ensuring against data loss? What is the value of the data stored? Do production deadlines frequently coincide with peak-load demands on public utilities that could shut down operations? What would be the cost of downtime and loss of data in terms of users' morale? What would it cost to repair or replace damaged equipment and circuitry?

"Maybe you can get a hard disk fixed a lot cheaper than it costs to buy a UPS," says Dave Harper, a senior associate at the (Mechanicsburg, PA) office of CACI Inc., the Arlington, VA-based manufacturer of barcode inventory-management systems and software. "But what price can be placed on lost data? How is the morale of employees who have put a lot of effort into their work affected when they have to start over? And what value do managers place on how foolish they feel because they were told to protect their systems and didn't?"

Although there is no fail-safe method for protecting microcomputers from dirty power, there are several schools of thought: Protect each unit separately; protect a multi-user system or file server; or mix different levels of protection for various components of the network. For stand-alone micros that are used by only one employee for personal-productivity tasks, surge suppressors would probably suffice. Multiuser-micros, which are in effect departmental minicomputers, need more protection than stand-alones because more users depend on them to do their jobs. For these machines, UPSs would probably suit the bill for orderly shutdowns. When stand-alone micros are tied to a local-area network, they still require surge suppressors, but the file server, which stores much of the data, would require a UPS. According to Henry Petersohn, there is an advantage to mixing levels of protection. "With that method, not every machine in the network has to have the same high level of protection," he says.

UPS units for personal computers range from about \$200 to about

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The Cause Power line surges can have man-made or natural causes. Some of the man-made phenomena are predictable, others are not. However, almost all natural causes are unpredictable.

*Allen & Segall/IBM, 1974

Examples of both include:

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\$15,000. Both online and standby units are for short-term use only. Even with battery enhancements, they provide just enough time to store data and shut down equipment in an orderly fashion. On the high end, online units, which pass power through from the electrical supply, keep systems operational for

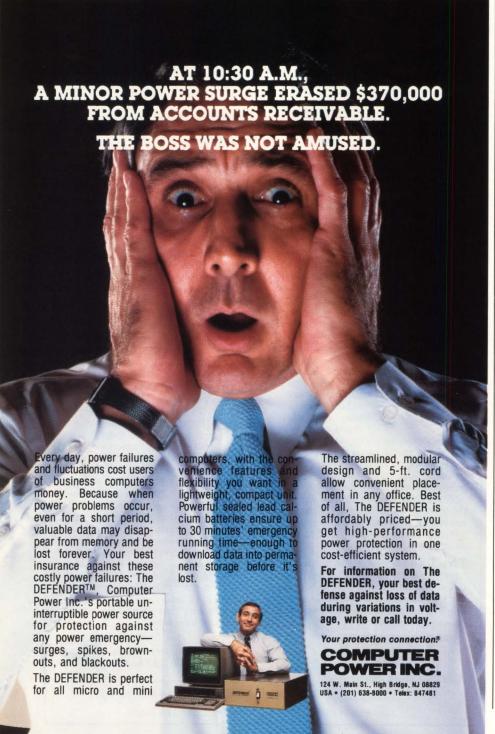
considerable periods. EPS' Grizzly units, for example, which range in price from \$2,400 to \$5,000, deliver a steady 120-volt current for 12 to 15 minutes after power fails. Computer Power Inc. offers 120 minutes of 120-volt power with battery backups in packages that start at about \$1,700.

Standby units, which do not go into operation until after the power supply fails, are less expensive, but some do not always kick in fast enough to protect data. GPS Power Systems' 2kilovolt-ampere standby Memorygard II UPS is designed for multi-user microand minicomputers. The standby unit has a four-millisecond switch-in time and voltage regulation, and supplies eight minutes of battery backup. The price starts at \$1,995, which is less than half the cost of GPS' 2-kVA online unit. This device supplies approximately 18 minutes of operating time without add-on battery packs.

EPS' 200-watt standby Grizzly, with surge protection built in, sells for \$895 and kicks in at less than eight milliseconds. Cuesta Systems Inc. offers a 200-watt unit for \$495 that has a slightly slower response time—eight milliseconds typically, but a maximum of 10 milliseconds. GPS' 200-watt unit sells for about \$595. The vendor claims this unit has the fastest response time of all—less than two milliseconds.

Just as important as fast response time, says Jim Keffer, is the level at which standby UPSs transfer the computer load back to the power line. Most standby units tend to cut in at the 102volt to 108-volt range and transfer back in the 106-volt to 110-volt range. Both of the average transfer points are fairly close to the bottom range for clean power and the point at which the power supply might level off during a brownout. If voltage should by coincidence level out at the point at which the standby UPS engages or disengages, Keffer says, "the machine will either engage or disengage. It usually winds up switching on and off and eventually the switch will burn out." If that happens, the UPS will not function, leaving computer equipment and data open to considerable risk. The cut-in, cut-out range, Keffer says, should be sufficiently broad to assist the UPS in making the decision. With online UPS units, switch burnout is not a factor.

George Hurst, manager of the defraction-grating operation for precision instruments at Perkin-Elmer Corp. in Irvine, CA, says his employer depends on a constant flow of clean power to keep its Hewlett-Packard



CIRCLE 62







A. Once you're in the dark? B. During a total memory loss?

C. After the smoke clears?

When is the right time to buy a UPS?

D. None of the above.

Don't wait for a power outage to blackout your

vital system data-or high frequency noise to scramble your memory—or high line voltage or a sudden spike to blow your fuses or melt your wires!

The time to buy an uninterruptible power supply is now, before power problems cause inefficient, even catastrophic damage to your microprocessor-based installation. And the high-quality source for UPSs is General Power Systems, manufacturer of the industry's most complete line of

uninterruptible power supplies.
GPS has the exact UPS you need to protect your data, your system and your production. On-line units range from 500VA to 50KVA and standby models from 100VA to 2KVA. Many features like battery backup, usually sold as extras, are standard on GPS models. Plus a wide range of options allows you to specify a virtually custom unit at an off-the-shelf price. In addition, GPS will tailor designs for OEM applications.

State-of-the-art operating characteristics of GPS systems give you the most for your money.

All-transistor technology, pioneered by GPS, means optimum reliability, control and ease of operation. Our on-line models are noted for their unusually fast transient response and excellent efficiency while standby units have set the industry standard with fast

2 millisecond transition time. Equally important, UPSs from General Power Systems are manufactured to unmatched quality standards. In fact, all our UPSs for commercial users are designed, produced, tested and inspected to the same stringent standards as

our parent company's line of defense products.
Your intelligent system is only as reliable as the power you put into it. Don't wait for a catastrophe. This is the time to call or write for full information.

General Power Systems, 1400 N. Baxter St., Anaheim, CA 92806-1201, (714) 956-9321, (800)854-3469, in California (800) 824-8912, TELEX 182283.



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9825A, 9826, and 9836 microcomputers functioning accurately and efficiently. Perkin-Elmer uses microcomputers to control the scribing of optical measuring surfaces with a diamond-pointed tool at calibrations of up to 3,000 grooves per millimeter. Even a brief power failure, he says, would cost

thousands of dollars.

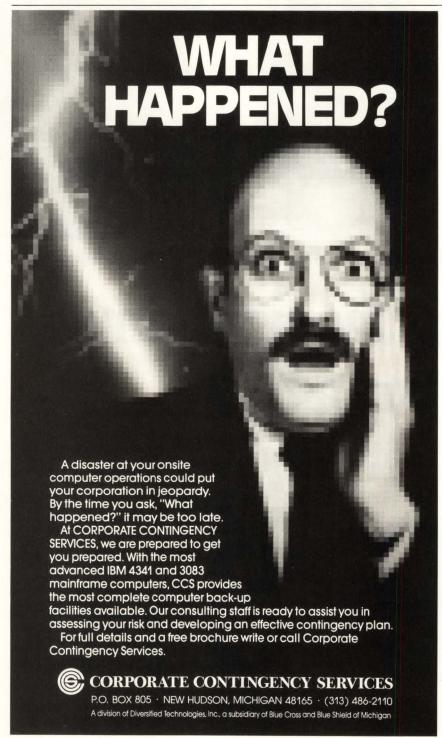
Having concluded that power failure was a chronic problem in southern California, Hurst says he considered installing a very expensive diesel generator to back up the Irvine operation. But a thorough study of power problems in the area disclosed that most of the out-

ages lasted only a half hour, a time short enough for a UPS to handle. As a result, Hurst says, he decided to install GPS' 2-kVA online Memorygard II UPS at a cost of \$5,000 to protect the HP micros from failure.

General Foods in White Plains, NY, also takes precautions with the IBM Personal Computers it uses in its operations around the country, says Gary A. Schnorr, manager of office automation and microsystems. "Anywhere that we cannot control the power supply, such as in a rented space, we install a protective device." Whenever possible, says Schnorr, he equips each machine with a dedicated power line and surge suppressor. If the micros experience spikes and surges caused by a neighcorporation's boring equipment. Schnorr installs a Topaz standby UPS. "All we need is a protective device that will let us continue operations long enough to shut down without any loss of data. But even a UPS is not a failsafe device. It doesn't replace good backup procedures," Schnorr says.

Other managers agree that UPSs do not offer complete protection against system damage. Says Ricci Anderson, vice president for technical strategies at Chase Manhattan Bank in New York, "I wouldn't completely depend on a UPS. It's no substitute for backing up data." At Chase Manhattan, which has approximately one personal computer for every 10 office employees, the inhouse computer store stocks both UPSs and surge suppressors.

Unlike Perkin-Elmer, General Foods, and Chase Manhattan, the law firm of Goldberg, Evans & Katzman (Harrisburg, PA) decided to forgo powerprotection devices for its Texas Instruments-based network, which is used for billing, accounting, word processing, and data communications. According to Thomas A. Stumpf, the administrator of the 14-partner firm, CSC Systems and Services, a Minneapolisbased consultancy and Herre Brothers, a local engineering firm, concluded that the potential for power-related problems had already been eliminated for several reasons: renovations that had been made to the building that houses the equipment; the built-in protection of the TMS 9900 processor, its two termi-



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A UNIT OF GENERAL SIGNAL

SOLA

nals and a separate TI dual-disk-drive personal computer; and dedicated circuits that had been installed for the system. Also, power failures in central Pennsylvania are rare occurrences, and a major component of the system is a Winchester WD-800 subsystem, which provides close to 50 megabytes of tape backup for data.

Is Goldberg, Evans & Katzman playing with fire? Some industry experts might think so. With no equivocation, John Graham, president of Computer Services Corp., a Birmingham, ALbased supplier of Wang and IBM PCs, says, "Users should protect each machine." David Simpson, at Electronic Protection Devices, says: "A dedicated power line may not do the entire job. I would still protect each machine." According to Michael Webster at Steelcase, "A dedicated power circuit is merely a wire. Wires do nothing to clean up power; they only distribute it. A dedicated circuit will distribute dirty power just like any other circuit." And, says Peter G. Diamond, marketing di-

"Users should consider the loss a single malfunction could cause, then decide whether they can afford the risk."

Webster. Steelcase

rector at Current Technology Inc., "We recommend that users protect all their micros from power-pollution problems." The Richardson, TX-based manufacturer sells the PC-10 powerconditioning unit for personal computers (\$369), as well as the MP Power Siftor (\$6,425), which protects the entire circuit-breaker panel from spikes, surges, and line interference, regardless of load.

For users who do not want an expensive system, there are surge suppressors that protect individual pieces of equipment from large jolts of electricity. As effective as surge suppressors are in dissipating short-term voltage transients, they themselves have short lives. Unless these devices can be monitored to see if they still work after handling high voltage, they can cause as many problems as they are supposed to cure.

That was the case in Pennsylvania last August when the personal computers at the Erie County Bar Association experienced a severe spike during a thunderstorm. Although the Altos Personal Computer on which the organization runs its lawyer-referral service was protected by a surge suppressor and the lights never even flickered, there was extensive damage to the computer and modem. All the data on the floppy disks and hard disk in use at the time were lost

According to Sandra Brydon, executive director of the association, in addition to the \$600 it cost to repair the equipment, for the next six weeks the

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CIRCLE 66

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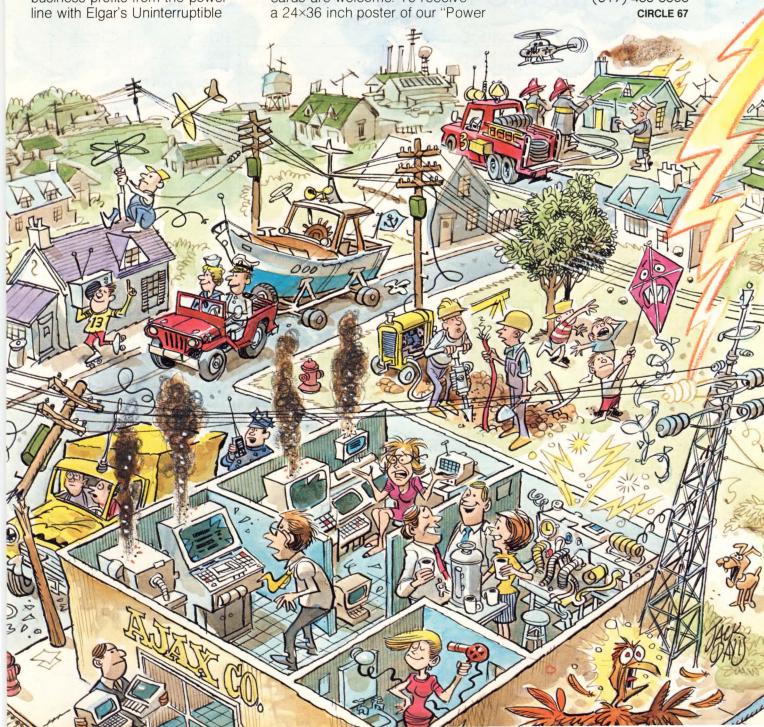
Disaster" scene, enclose \$2.00 for handling and write Elgar, Department P, at the address below.

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lawyer-referral service became a timeconsuming, by-hand operation. Although the rebuilt computer is hooked up to the same surge suppressor that protected it before the August storm, Brydon says the organization still does not know how much protection the device can offer.

Why did the bar association's surge suppressor fail? One possibility is that it

sacrificed itself during the storm or in a previous storm. Another possibility is that the spike came in through the telephone lines, which are unprotected. In either case, the experience of the Erie County Bar Association suggests that under the best circumstances, when precautions have been taken and managers begin to feel more confident that their systems are not vulnerable to de-

struction, Murphy's Law remains operative. It's the element of doubt that makes power-protection devices necessary in the first place, and it's this same degree of uncertainty that should caution managers to not so readily surrender their disbelief.

David Morrison is a free-lance writer based in Mechanicsburg, PA.

MICRO POWER PROTECTION

Vandor	Online UPSs	Drice	Circle
Vendor	Product	Price	Circle
Ansco (213) 532-7780	PC400 (400 w) PC650 (650 w)	\$895 \$1,545	492
ATR Electronics (612) 222-3791	One-UPS Personal Computer (250 w and 500 w)	\$1,275 and \$1,475	493
Best Power Tech. (608) 565-7200	Micro-Ferrups (250 VA and 5 kVA)	\$945 and \$1,345	494
Computer Power (201) 735-8000	Computersave (500 VA to 1,000 VA) Series 36 (500 VA to 1,500 VA)	\$1,650 to \$1,975 \$1,690 to \$3,500	495
Dynatech Computer Power (408) 438-5760	Power House 250 (250 w) Power House 500 (500 w)	\$495 \$749	496
EFI (801) 486-5871	UPS-2010 (250 w)	\$695	497
Electro-Pac (312) 543-6200	Life-line (200 VA, 600 VA, 1,000 VA)	\$1,500	498
Elgar (619) 450-0085	UPS 102-1B (1,000 VA)	\$3,500 and up	499
EPD (617) 279-0424	Grizzly (200 VA to 1,000 VA)	\$895 to \$5,200	500
General Power Syst. (714) 956-9321	GPS Online (500 w to 35 kVA) Memorygard II (100 VA to 2 kVA)	\$1,650 to \$39,200 \$495 to \$1,995	501
Jefferson Electric (312) 626-7700	Energy Guard (200 VA to 750 VA)	\$900 to \$1,600	502
Panamax (415) 472-5547	Power Max (250 w and 400 w)	\$559 and \$695	503
Ratelco (206) 624-7770	UPS	\$500	504
RH Electronics (805) 688-2047	Guardian Angel (200 w) Power Angel (800 w)	\$495 \$1,295	505
RTE Deltec (619) 291-4211	Micro UPS Series 3000 (500 VA; Online—60 Hz)	\$1,300	506
Semiconductor Circuits (603) 893-2330	UPS	\$432	507
Sola Electric (312) 439-2800	Mini-UPS (400 VA, 750 VA)	\$1,500 to \$1,700	508
Solidstate Controls (614) 846-7500	Powerbase 1000 (750 VA to 10 kVA)	\$1,500 to \$15,000	509
Sun Research (603) 859-7110	May-Day Series (150 to 1,000 VA)	\$325 to \$3,195	510
Superior Electric (203) 582-9561	Stabiline UPS	\$940 to \$1,175	511
Tab Products (415) 852-2500	UPS Model 77-25 (2.5 kVA)	\$3,795 to \$3,995	512

w = watts; VA = volt-ampere; kVA = kilovolt-ampere; KW = kilowatt

MICRO POWER PROTECTION				
Vendor	Online UPSs Product	Price	Circle	
Terado (612) 646-2868	UPS	\$262 to \$1,900	513	
Topaz (619) 279-0831	Series 82,000 (500 VA to 1.5 kVA) Micro UPS (400 VA to 1,000 VA)	\$3,755 to \$10,425 \$760 to \$1,085	514	
Triad Power Syst. (214) 341-8700	Tri-UPS (5 KW to 500 KW; 300 VA to 800 VA)	\$895	515	
UP Syst. (213) 634-0621	Micro UPS (500 w to 2,000 w)	\$1,750 to \$3,767	516	
Wilmore Electronics (919) 732-9351	UPS	\$400	517	
Vendor	Standby UPSs Product	Price	Circle	
Brooks Mktg.	Brooks UPS System (250 w, 500 w)	\$495 to \$775	518	
(215) 244-0264 Computer Power	Defender (400 VA to 1,200 VA)	\$690 to \$1,195	519	
(201) 735-8000 Elgar (619) 450-0085	SPR 350 (350 VA) SPS 400 (400 VA) SPS 800 (800 VA)	\$595 \$795 \$995	520	
EPD (617) 279-0424	Grizzly (200 w to 1,000 w)	\$895 to \$5,200	521	
General Power Syst. (714) 956-9321	Memorygard II (100 ws to 2 kVA)	\$495 to \$2,000	522	
Indus-Tool (312) 642-6871	BC (200 w to 1,000 w) SB (200 w to 1,000 w)	\$359 to \$1,179 \$230 to \$1,000	523	
Inmac (408) 727-1970	Datasaver (200 w and 120 w)	\$495 and \$450	524	
Innovations In Control (408) 298-7218	UPS (200 w) RPS (500 w)	\$375 \$600	525	
Kalgo Electronics (215) 837-0700	Line-Saver—LS 240 and LS 480 (240 w or 480 w)	\$495 to \$795	526	
Panamax (415) 472-5547	Power Max (250 w and 400 w)	\$559 and \$695	527	
Para Syst. (214) 869-1688	Minuteman (250 w, 500 w)	\$435 and \$699	528	
Powermark (619) 565-8363	Automatic Power System	\$500 to \$800	529	
PTI Industries (408) 429-6881	Data Shield (200 w to 800 w)	\$359 to \$899	530	
Sola Electric (312) 439-2800	SPS (400 VA to 800 VA)	\$700 to \$900	531	
Vendor	Line conditioners Product	Price	Circle	
Ansco (213) 532-7780	Desktop console (125 volts, 15 amps) Surge and noise outlet strips (120 volts, 15 amps) Clamp down line conditioner (120 volts, 15 amps)	\$149 \$80 and \$120 \$43	532	
ATR Electronics (612) 222-3791	One-UPS Conditioner	\$250	533	
Compumart (901) 685-5021	Model LS-600 Model LC-1200 Model LC-1800	\$100 \$180 \$240	534	
w = watts; VA = volt-ampere;	kVA = kilovolt-ampere; $KW = kilowatt$			

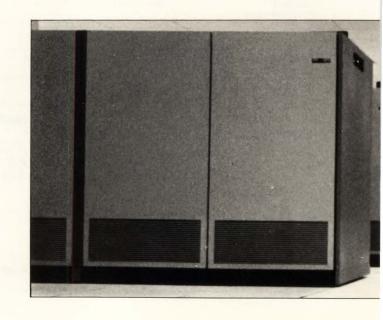
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MICRO POWER PROTECTION

Vendor	Product	Price	Circle	
Computer Accessories (619) 695-3773	Power Director; Model P22 (4 outlets; 600 volts) Model P2 (5 outlets; 600 volts) Model P12 (6 outlets, digital clock; 600 volts)	\$99 \$139 \$199	535	
Computer Power (201) 735-8000	LCR (single-phase—250 VA to 25 kVA; three-phase—3 kVA to 75 kVA)	\$310 to \$8,100	536	
Current Tech./Amtek (214) 238-5300	Power Siftor (1.8 kVA to 12 kVA) PSH (7.2 kVA to 18 kVA)	\$825 to \$3,669 \$2,705 to \$3,915	537	
Dynatech Computer Power (408) 438-5760			538	
EFI (801) 486-5871	EDP 2000 (15 amps)	\$169	539	
Electronic Specialists (617) 655-1532	Kleen-Line Conditioner (250 w to 2,000 w)	\$290 to \$1,000	540	
Elgar (619) 450-0085	PLC series (125 to 1,500 VA)	\$225 to \$750	541	
Exlin (619) 571-3134	Computer Power Conditioner (200 VA to 2,000 VA) Isolators	\$325 to \$2,500 \$90 to \$275	542	
Indus-Tool (312) 642-6871	Line Conditioner Stabilizer (600 VA to 1,800 VA)	\$119 to \$299	543	
Inmac (408) 727-1970	Power Line Conditioner (500 w)	\$425	544	
ITT (419) 468-8100	Custom Power Supply	\$50	545	
Jefferson Electric (312) 626-7700	Mini-Guard (300 VA to 2,000 kVA) Volt-Guard (300 VA to 11 kVA)	\$80 to \$6,000 \$60 to \$3,000	546	
Micron Industries (312) 345-0788	Power Conditioners	\$100 and up	547	
MPL Power Syst. PLC (804) 262-6068	CVT Line (200 VA to 2.5 kVA)	\$150 to \$850	548	
Oneac (312) 295-2800	Micro-Mate (200 VA to 750 VA)		549	
Panamax (415) 472-5547	namax Max (all models 120 volt; one to six receptacles)		550	
Pilgrim Electric (516) 420-8989	Conditioner Power Outlet Strip	\$30 to \$181	551	
Para Syst. (214) 869-1688	Clean Power 1200 (200 volts)	\$50	552	
Power Distribution (804) 320-2320	Computer Shield III (.25 kVA to 15 kVA)	\$580 to \$6,100	553	
Power Integrity (919) 379-9773	AC Models (single and 3-phase; 120 to 480 volts) \$32 to \$39 DC Models (5 to 48 volts) \$21 to \$23		554	
Power-Matic (619) 292-4422			555	
Pulizzi Engineering (714) 540-4229	LPC 115-4 (120 volts, 12 amps, 60 Hz) TPC 115-8A (120 volts, 12 amps, 60 Hz) TPC 115-8B (240 volts, 12 amps, 50 Hz) TPC 115 A (120 volts, 12 amps, 60 Hz) PC 115 B (240 volts, 12 amps, 50 Hz) Z-line	\$120 \$163 \$256 \$327 \$449 \$150 to \$550	556	
RTE Deltec (619) 291-4211	Personal Conditioners (150 VA and 400 VA) GFC Series (500 VA)	\$195 and \$395 \$495	557	

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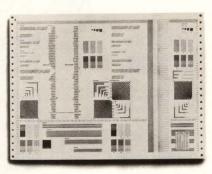
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in a variety of on-line, off-line, or on-line/ off-line configurations compatible with a broad selection of CPUs. Off-line models offer user-oriented menu-driven software, hard copy log, 6250 BPI tape drives with ping-ponging capability and more. On-line models offer full IBM 3800 compatibility, in addition to the advantages of DatagraphiX's advanced engineering.

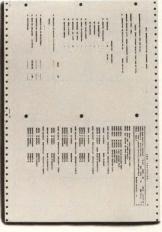
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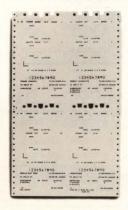














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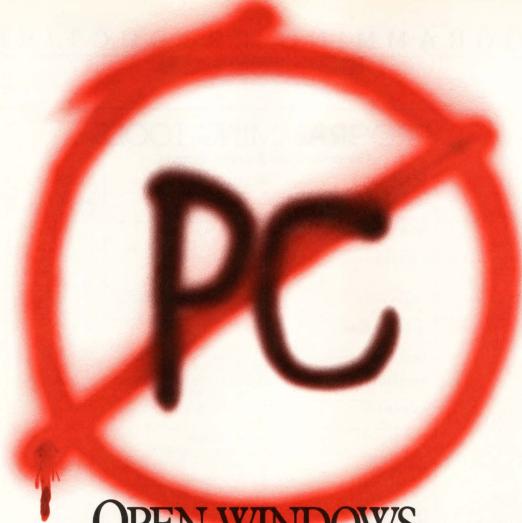
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Vendor	Product Line conditioners	Price	Circle
Scientific Atlanta (404) 939-6340	Power Controller PC-115-60 Power Controller PC-230-60 Power Outlet Strips	\$285 \$599 \$30 to \$52	558
Shape Magnetronics (312) 620-8394	Line-Tamer (single-phase)	\$99	559
Sola Electric (312) 439-2800	Mini-Computer Regulators (70 to 3000 VA)	\$150 to \$1,400	560
Solidstate Controls (614) 846-7500	Powerguard (1 kVA to 10 kVA) Silencer Isolation Transformer (1 kVA to 10 kVA)	\$500 to \$4,000 \$300	561
Sun Research (603) 859-7110	VR Unit (300 to 1,000 VA)	\$225 to \$800	562
Topaz (619) 279-0831	Series 77,000, 75,000, and 73,000 (1 to 2 kVA) Power Conditioner (500 VA to 2 kVA)	\$915 to \$1,025 \$470 to \$1,010	563
Transtector Syst. (208) 772-8515	SL (120 volts, 15 amps) ACP 100 BL (120 volts, 15 amps)	\$109 \$185	564
	Power-distribution units		
Vendor	Product	Price	Circle
ATR Electronics (612) 222-3791	One-UPS Distribution Unit	\$575	565
Compumart (901) 685-5021	Isobar	\$55 to \$98	566
EFI (801) 486-5871	MPI-153 MPI-253 MPI-453	\$79 \$99 \$139	567
Electronic Specialists (617) 655-1532	Power-Line Interrupters	\$175 to \$300	568
Elgar (619) 450-0085	PCM 1200	\$199	569
Marelco Power Syst. (313) 356-5004	Stedi-Volt	\$200	570
Marway Products (714) 973-1800	MPD 110 MPD 115-230	\$149 \$375	571
Pilgrim Electric (516) 420-8989	Voltector	\$137 to \$305	572
Ratelco (206) 624-7770	Distribution System	\$500	573
	Power-line monitors		
Vendor	Product	Price	Circle
Basic Measuring Instruments (415) 570-5355 GS-10 power monitor filter GS-1 power monitor GS-2X power monitor GS-3 power monitor Model 4800 graphic environmental monitor		\$300 \$345 \$1,375 \$2,630 \$7,200 to \$9,500	574
Dranetz Engineering Labs. (201) 287-3680	Powerline Disturbance Analyzer Universal Disturbance Analyzer Remote Monitor Units	\$1,950 to \$12,000 Same Same	575
Dynatech Computer Power (206) 624-7770	RLM Line Monitor (120 volts) PLM 1 Power Line Monitor (120 volts)	\$200 \$495	576
Liebert Instrument Grp. (916) 381-2730	Model 3600A	\$4,500 to \$6,000	577

Vendor	Power-line monitors Product	Price	Circle
Power-Science (619) 292-4322	Power Disturbance Analyzer	\$3,500	578
TII Industries (516) 789-5020	GPM P 120 60	\$975	579
Vendor	Surge suppressors Product	Price	Circle
Ansco (213) 532-7780	Desk-top console (125 volts, 15 amps) Surge and noise outlet strips (120 volts, 15 amps) Clamp down line conditioner (120 volts, 15 amps)	\$149 \$80 and \$120 \$43	580
ATR Electronics (612) 222-3791	Sekhiri Filters and Transient Suppressors	\$125	581
Brooks Mktg. (215) 244-0264	Surge Stopper	\$12 to \$85	582
Challenger Circle F (609) 392-3141	Surge Challengers	\$10 to \$40	583
Compumart (901) 685-5021	Computect Model 6 Computect Model 6+	\$40 \$50	584
Computer Accessories (619) 695-3773	Powerline Four (4 outlets) Powerline Six (6 outlets)	\$50 \$80	585
Computer Mate 214) 669-9370	EPD	\$40 to \$150	586
Computer Power 201) 735-8000	Powerstrip	\$80	587
Current Tech./Amtek 214) 238-5300	Power Siftor	\$300	588
Dynatech Computer Power 408) 438-5760	Surge Sentry H1 F (single-outlet) HF (2-outlet) MSF (6-outlet) System Controller (5-outlet) Surge Dropout Protector BSF Clip-Strip Line (6-outlet)	\$70 \$80 \$100 \$180 \$130 \$112	589
EFI 801) 486-5871	Plug-in strips (6 outlets; up to 15 amps): EFI-153 EFI-253XT EFI-453 Turbo ST	\$79 \$99 \$139	590
Electrolert 513) 667-2461	Power Surge Protectors	\$30 to \$120	591
Electronic Specialists 617) 655-1532	Kleen-Line Suppressors Kleen-Line Power Interrupters Kleen-Line Security System for phone/modem/data lines	\$27 to \$150 \$200 to \$350 \$65 to \$160	592
Elgar 619) 450-0085	PCM 1200	\$199	593
EPD 617) 279-0424	Lemon Lime Peach Orange	\$50 \$70 \$60 \$100	594
General Semiconductor Industries 602) 968-3101	Model 587 Series (5 to 20 amps) Model 126-K6	\$46 to \$83 \$90 to \$99	595
ndus-Tool 312) 642-6871	Isobar	\$55 to \$99	596
nland 313) 583-7150	In-line Surge	\$26	597

APRIL 23, 1985

Vendor	Surge suppressors	Price	Circle
Inmac	Surge Protector	\$69 to \$149	598
(408) 727-1970 Kalgo Electronics	Spike-Spikers	\$35 to \$117	599
(215) 837-0700			
Kensington Microware (212) 475-5200	System Saver PC Saver Micro Saver Master Piece	\$90 \$50 \$70 \$140	600
MCG Electronics (516) 586-5125	Data-Line Protector	\$68 to \$600	601
Micron Industries (312) 345-0788	Suppressors	\$100 and up	602
Networx (212) 821-7555	Networks	\$30 to \$99	603
Panamax (415) 472-5547	Data Max (for phone lines)	\$49	604
Para Syst. (214) 869-1688	Clean Power 1200	\$50	605
Perma Power Electronics (312) 763-0763	Perma Power Surge Suppressors Multiple Outlet Strips	\$75 \$17 to \$30	606
PMC Industries (619) 695-3520	Surge and Noise Buster Line	\$40 to \$249	607
Power Integrity (919) 379-9773	ZTAT (120 VA; (single phase) Shunt Suppressors (480/277-volt; 3-phase; 50 to 400 Hz)	\$109 \$146 to \$285	608
PTI Industries (408) 429-6881	Data Shield Model 110 AMS Data Shield Model 100 Data Shield Model 85 Data Shield Model 75	\$120 \$99 \$89 \$59	609
Pulizzi Engineering (714) 540-4229	LPC 115-4 (4 receptacles; 12 amps, 120 volts, 60 Hz)	\$120	610
SL Industries (609) 456-5400	Data Gard—surge and noise suppressor Line Gard—surge suppressor Data Gard/SST—surge and noise suppressor sequential switching timer	\$40 to \$100 \$20 \$160	485
Surgeonics Ltd. (914) 241-3203	Power Sentry 2 Power Sentry 4 TL-700 TL-710	\$30 \$60 \$200 \$800	611
Sutton Designs (607) 277-4301	ZX5000 Series	\$69 to \$160	612
Topaz (619) 279-0831	Series 10, Series 20, Series 30 (125 VA to 2.4 kVA)	\$235 to \$955	613
Transtector Syst. (208) 772-8515	CPS 150 ACP 100 BW	\$830 \$145	614
Ultima Electronics (516) 752-0144	Surgefree Surgefree Module SS-1060	\$13 (single socket) \$100 (10 sockets) \$4.50	615
Vendor	Battery-powered emergency backup system Product	ms Price	Circle
Tripp-Lite	Battery Backup Unit (1,000 w)	\$1,179	616



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PROGRAMMING PRODUCTIVITY

(Continued from page 102)

	Generators/ 0	levelopment systems		
Vendor	Package	Requirements	Price	Circle
Cincom Syst. (513) 662-2300	Mantis	3270-type terminals	\$30,000 to \$60,000	406
Cognos (617) 535-7350	Quick	HP 3000	\$14,000 to \$35,000	407
Commercial Syst. Lab (205) 821-1133	C/Script II	Data General with DBAM Data General with RDOS	\$20,000/AOS \$24,000/AOS/VS \$11,000	408
Computer Assoc. Int'l. (516) 333-6700	CA-Flexiscreen	Same systems under DOS, VSE, or OS/MVS	\$17,500/DOS \$23,000/OS	409
Computer Representative (408) 980-9898	Application Builder	HP 3000	\$9,950	410
Cortex (617) 894-7000	Application Factory Application Trio	DEC VAX-11/750, /780, /730, /725, Micro VAX DEC PDP-11 /70, /44, /23, /24, /34, Micro 11, VAX	\$10,000 to \$25,000 \$34,500 to \$89,500	411
Cullinet Syst. (617) 329-7700	ADS/On Line	IBM 360, 370, 30XX, 43XX, and PCMs	\$40,000	412
Geisco (301) 340-4000	Mark III	Honeywell DPS/8 family—timesharing service	Based on usage	413
Generation Sciences (516) 496-3060	Gamma	Any system with ANSI Cobol support with keyed access	\$80,000 to \$150,000	414
Henco Software (617) 890-8670	Info	Several minis and micros, including IBM PC XT; DEC VAX	\$1,200 to \$30,000	415
Informatics General (818) 887-9040	Mark V Mark IV	IBM 43XX, 30XX, and PCMs Same systems	\$100,000 \$40,000	416
Information & Syst. Research (412) 262-5507	Rims/MPG Plus Rims/Graf graphics-application generator	DEC PDP-11 and VAX DEC PDP-11 and VAX	\$5,750 to \$22,500 \$1,250 to \$2,500	417
Intelligent Information Syst. (212) 962-0662	IIS/Destiny	DEC VAX-11/750 and up DEC VAX-11/730 and below	\$49,500 \$39,500	418
JEM Assoc. (703) 471-9550	PDE	IBM Series/1	\$750	419
Al Lee & Assoc. (214) 446-9015	Magec	IBM mainframes with CICS, West I, or Datacom	\$28,000 to \$72,000	420
Lifeboat Syst. Designer Team (212) 831-3100	Formula II (8-bit) and Formulexor (16-bit)	Several micros based on Z-80; IBM PC; and 8086- and 8088-based micros under MS-DOS	\$695 \$695	423
Master Software (617) 924-0052	Program Master	IBM systems and PCMs under OS/MVS or OS/VM	\$95,000 to \$145,000	424
Mathematica (609) 799-2600	Ramis II/PC Ram Link	IBM mainframes and PCMs under OS, VS, MVS, VM/CMS, DOS/VS, and DOS/VSE IBM PC XT/370 IBM PC, PC XT, and mainframes	\$24,000 to \$124,000 \$1,385 \$12,000 to \$16,000 (100 PCs to 1 mainframe)	425
Mgt. and Computer Svcs. (215) 648-0730	Promacs/CICS	IBM 360, 370, 43XX, 30XX	\$18,000/DOS \$24,000/OS	426
Micro Focus (415) 856-4161	Personal Cobol Professional Cobol	IBM PC IBM PC	\$399 \$3,000	427
Multiplications (617) 547-8050	Accolade	IBM 370, 43XX, 30XX	\$28,000/DOS \$39,000/OS	428
Mitchell Mgt. Syst. (617) 366-0800	AP Tools	DEC VAX under VMS	\$20,000 to \$50,000	465

(Continued on page 138)

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Pansophic Syst. (312) 986-6000	Telon	IBM 370, 30XX, 43XX under MVS or VS1	\$115,000 IMS/DC \$80,000 CICS	463
Phoenix Computer (213) 416-9040	Condor	IBM mainframes	\$22,000	429
Progeni Syst. (818) 956-0251	Progeni application-generator system	Burroughs B1000 and up Other Burroughs computers	\$15,000 to \$40,000 \$30,000 to \$60,000	430
Pro-IV (617) 486-9621	Pro-IV	DEC PDP-11 DEC Pro-350	\$20,000 \$350	431
Sage Syst. (301) 231-8686	APS	IBM 30XX, 43XX, and PCMs	\$200,000	432
Software AG (703) 860-5050	Natural/VSAM Natural	IBM mainframes IBM mainframes with Adabas	\$30,000/DOS \$35,000/VS1 \$40,000/MVS \$40,000/DOS \$50,000/OS/VS1, VM/CMS \$60,000/MVS	433
Software Express (713) 974-2298	Appgen	Systems under Unix, Xenix, or Pick operating systems	\$6,000	434
STSC (301) 984-5000	APL Plus	Several mainframes and micros	\$595 to \$25,000	435
Syncsort 201) 568-9700	Sydoc Cobol Documentation generator	IBM mainframes and PCMS under MVS, VS1, VS2	\$22,000/ 5 yr. lease	486
Teledyne Brown Engineering (205) 532-1661	TAGS: Storage & Retrieval Configuration Mgt. Diagnostic Analyzer Simulation Compiler	Apollo engineering workstations	\$20,000/license \$10,000/license \$25,000/license \$50,000/license	464
The Office Manager (206) 246-7022	Speed I Speed II	Wang 2200 series Wang VS	\$12,500 to \$50,000 \$12,500 to \$50,000	436
		itors and formatters		. ~ .
Vendor Applied Software	Package FSE+	Requirements IBM systems under MVS with TSO	Price \$2,500/year	Circle
(305) 626-4818	rot t	IBM systems under MV3 with 130	\$2,500/year	437
BSC Computer Syst. (404) 977-0842	Flexsys 4 QL1	IBM Series/1 IBM PC, PC XT, PC AT	\$10,000 \$6,000	438
GT Software (404) 446-7999	BMS/GT	IBM mainframes and PCMs under DOS/VS(E), VS/1, or MVS with CICS	\$5,500 to \$8,900	439
Mgt. and Computer Svcs. (215) 648-0730	Paintmacs	IBM 360, 370, 43XX, 30XX	\$5,000/DOS \$6,000/OS	440
Phaser Syst. (415) 434-3990	SPF Editor Micro SPF	IBM PC, PC XT IBM PC, PC XT, PC AT, 3270 PC; Wang PC; TI PC	\$100 \$450	441
Software Plus (214) 783-1019	Fastmap	IBMs mainframes and PCMs under OS or DOS	\$4,900	442
		ramming aids		
Vendor David R. Black & Assoc.	Package Cobol Program Generator	Requirements Sperry, Prime, Honeywell, Data	Price \$30,000	Circle 443

PROGRAMMING TOOLS Programming aids					
Vendor	Package	Requirements	Price	Circle	
Business Controls (201) 340-9893	SB-5 Automated Cobol-program developer	DEC PDP-11, VAX-11, and Systems/10 and/20	\$12,000 to \$32,000	444	
Clarity Concept Syst. (212) 254-3358	Enforcer I standards monitor for Cobol coding	All hardware running ANSI Cobol	\$9,600/year	445	
CMS Software (209) 226-0674	Innopak preprocessor to create macros	Datapoint minis	\$4,000/DOS \$5,000/RMS	446	
Comp-Aid (512) 629-3157	Renumf 1.4 Fortran programming aid	IBM 370 and higher under OS; HP 3000 under MPE	\$2,500	447	
Computing Productivity (802) 496-4320	IP3 Cobol code generator	IBM 43XX, 30XX	\$80,000	448	
Data Administration (714) 966-8711	Data Expediter data naming tool Data Mapper database- design tool	IBM mainframes under OS or MVS IBM mainframes	\$11,500 \$7,500	449	
Database Syst. (602) 265-5968	Transact transaction-processing system—includes programming aids Entry data-entry	Prime Series 50, DEC VAX Prime Series 50, DEC VAX	\$12,500 \$12,500	450	
DPI Software (913) 541-1502	development tool DGA file-access system—programming aid with screen-printing text editor	IBM 370, 43XX, 30XX, and PCMs with TSO, CICS, or VTAM	\$12,500	451	
Group Operations (202) 887-5420	Editor II Cobol generator	IBM 360, 370	\$15,000	452	
H & M Syst. Software (201) 845-3357	Mfast CICS map generator	IBM 360, 370	\$6,500/DOS \$8,000/OS	453	
Industrial Mgt. Syst. (614) 594-3523	Menumaster front-end menu generator	HP 3000	\$1,200	660	
Interactive Tech. (503) 644-0111	Pro-RDM Pascal-routine library	DEC PDP-11 DEC Professional 350 DEC VAX	\$2,495 \$995 \$4,795	454	
Micro Focus (415) 856-4161	Animator programmer diagramming aid	IBM PC	\$795	455	
Netron (416) 636-8333	CAP CAP 100	Wang VS Wang VS; IBM systems under CICS; IBM PC, Wang PC	\$16,000 to \$80,000 \$24,000 to \$120,000	421	
On-line Business Syst. (415) 391-9555	Wylbur program- development tool	IBM 370, 43XX, 30XX, and PCMs	\$25,000 to \$55,000	456	
Phoenix Syst. (412) 471-8380	System-80 Cobol-program generator	Several micros running RM-Cobol; several minis and mainframes	\$750 to \$15,000	457	
SDA Federal Syst. (301) 345-6060	CL/1 Cobol generator	IBM 360, 370, 30XX, 43XX, Honeywell 6000/6600; Sperry 1100	\$35,000 to \$55,000	458	
Signal Tech. (805) 683-3771	Smartstar data-management aid	DEC VAX under VMS	\$9,800 to \$19,800	459	
Software Applications (212) 986-2515	Codabol	IBM 360, 370, and PCMs under OS	\$5,000	460	
Systems Formation (602) 966-4358	Forge Cobol-code generator	Prime Series 50; DEC VAX under VMS	\$18,500	461	
Syst. Support Software (513) 435-9514	Quikwrite (includes Quikjob III)	IBM under DOS and OS	\$252/mo. (OS) \$225/mo. (DOS)	462	
Wollongong Grp. (415) 962-7100	Eunice co-resident Unix; includes development aids	DEC VAX under VMS	\$16,000 to \$31,000	661	

APRIL 23, 1985

ACCESS CONTROL

(Continued from page 114)

center. The corporate security director may well understand, for example, how to protect inventory sitting in a warehouse or equipment in an office, but the idea of storing assets on a disk or a tape is outside his or her experience.

"The problem is that security professionals don't know enough about MIS/dp to help a whole heck of a lot," says CUNY's Benjamin Klein. As former director of a major financial-services institution's dp department, Klein has been dismayed at the inexperience of many security experts in protecting com-

puter-related assets. Their focus tends to be on hardware, rather than data, which might represent far greater assets, he says.

However, consultants caution MIS/dp executives from becoming overly guarded in their responsibility for datacenter security. In fact, most security consultants prefer to see the establishment of closer working ties between the dp and security personnel rather than a move by MIS/dp toward self-sufficiency in security. One of the most frequently cited solutions to the dilemma is to educate security personnel in fundamental computer operations.

"Right now, there is very little in the way of education for corporate security personnel except trial and error," says Robert Courtney, an independent security consultant and chairman of the Data Processing Advisory Council to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Courtney urges clients to establish classes for security personnel in the fundamentals of MIS/dp as part of comprehensive security programs. "You can't protect something if you don't understand what you're protecting, let alone what you're protecting, "he says.

Jan Larsen, corporate-security director for Pfizer Inc., New York, and a chief architect of the pharmaceutical maker's data-center security program, says it is important to continuously air various and at times widely differing views on data-center security. "I found that when you put together enough experts, you get very different views on what's important to secure and what's not," says Larsen. "But it's only within that debate that the security director can begin to get a total picture of the corporation's data-center security needs."

Thus, the final component of a good physical security system is not hardware, but the ability of those responsible for the data center to test the effectiveness of the security measures they have developed and to make improvements. To do otherwise would be to break the first rule of security: Never assume you are secure enough.

James Miskiewicz is a free-lance writer based in Flushing, NY.

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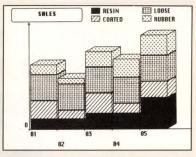
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OFFICE HUMOR

(Continued from page 81)

tor exclaimed: "Run them through, I thought you wanted me to shred them!"

Says Domanick, "At first my boss didn't believe us when we told him. He said: 'Sure, sure, now where are the cards?' After a while, we convinced him, and he got angry. Then for some unknown reason he started to laugh. Lucky for us he had a sense of humor!"

Dear Ann Landers: I have two brothers. One is a programmer and the other was just sentenced to the electric chair for murder. My mother died in an insane asylum when I was three years old. My two sisters are prostitutes; my father sells narcotics to high-school students. Recently, I met a girl and I want to marry her. My problem is: If I marry this girl, should I tell her one of my brothers is a programmer?

"When it comes to humor, business executives have one big advantage," says San Francisco-based humor consultant Malcolm Kushner. "No one expects them to be funny. Because of this perception, employees will more likely appreciate their attempts." Kushner should know. As one who is called upon to spice up dull speeches, Kushner's livelihood depends on his ability to generate laughs for his clients. Kushner also conducts workshops for executives on how to use humor to gain attention, defuse tension, and establish a rapport. "The high-tech business is one of my specialties," Kushner boasts, "because the information that has to be communciated is so inherently dry."

Although the information may be dry, it's certainly not arid; the terrain is still rich enough to cultivate a joke or two. Think, for example, of all the acronyms that go with the territory. You might say to a user: "You know what a RAM is, right? Revolting Attitude on Monday." You can also play off the whole mystique of the computer. "This new system will do everything," you might say. "It will reduce our inventory,

"When it comes to humor, business executives have one big advantage. No one expects them to be funny."

Kushner, consultant

enhance our productivity, improve our business decisions. Why, it will even do the dishes if we want it to." Such lines won't get you on *The Tonight Show*, Kushner acknowledges, but that's not the point. It's the gesture that counts.

Both Kushner and David Baum warn against the use of canned jokes, especially when they are inappropriate to the situation or the audience. Jokes used in this way can become crutches, and may actually erect a barrier between you and your audience. The most effective office humor is spontaneous, suggested by what is happening at the time. By its very nature, this humor encourages employees to join in the fun rather than sit on the sidelines.

"I was hired to work with an executive of a Fortune 500 corporation,' Baum relates. "He was a vice president, just two levels down from the president of the company. He was a lovely guy, but he was very serious at work, which intimidated his subordinates. I was to help him develop his sense of humor. So I said: 'When you get off the elevator in the morning, don't go straight to your office. Take 10 minutes to visit employees. Bring them coffee.' I instructed him to say at least three funny things to his secretary each week. After two months, this guy's image totally changed. Staff morale was improved, he was perceived as more accessible, and employees came to him with problems before those problems turned into disasters."

Ultimately, taking advantage of the humor edge requires little more than being human and letting your congeniality show through. Risk is involved, to be sure, but humor executed with sensitivity is a risk worth taking.

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STRICTLY SOFTWARE

(Continued from page 52)

quickly to users who need them and to save computer resources. One report-writing package that puts a premium on speed is Freestyle, from On-Line Soft ware International. Freestyle includes Executrieve/CICS, an online query system, and Omnilink, a program that allows users to download information located with Executrieve into personal-computer applications. Freestyle, which now works with VSAM, ISAM, and BDAM files, may soon be able to draw reports from information stored in some DBMSs, claims a spokesperson for the vendor.

Freestyle includes a data dictionary in which data items, files, data views, and authorized-access profiles for each user are defined. The package's speed comes from On-Line's proprietary content-address method, a technique for indexing items in a file through a mathematical representation of their content and location. Users retrieve information from files according to combinations of criteria—the more criteria added, the faster the search.

Citicorp Credit Services in Melville, NY, uses Freestyle to give its business analysts and clerical workers up-to-date information on Citicorp's credit-card users. The data are stored in more than 100 different VSAM files. Joseph Krystoforski, assistant vice president for systems development at Citicorp Credit Services, says Freestyle has saved programmer time and computer resources while giving users logical data views independent of the filing arrangements.

Krystoforski figures that without Freestyle, he would need to commit an additional full-time programmer to generate user-requested reports. "Freestyle's speed is fantastic," he says, adding that a typical VSAM file search that used to take two or three seconds-or longer if the computer were busy now takes less than a second. The difference may not be crucial to users, Krystoforski says, but it cuts centralprocessor usage by 50 percent to 60 percent. The organization also cuts mainframe use by having users run queries online and then download the information to their personal computers via Omnilink to process the reports.

Report writers are not the ultimate

answer to the problem of getting useful information out of computers. Relational DBMSs promise users much more flexibility for searching large quantities of diverse information and building reports from it. But report writers can be a strong interim solution to the report-writing dilemma for organizations that aren't yet ready to commit to relational DBMSs. Indeed, report writers may help make migrating to the relational technology easier by guiding organizations to dissect files kept in older structures not only for report writing, but also for reformatting.

SEAS CHECKS PRODUCTIVITY

Quantitative Software Management Inc. (McLean, VA), specialists in software-development measurement, recently announced a service for analyzing the productivity of software developers.

The Software Engineering Assessment Service (SEAS) uses interviews and written surveys of a development team's members, analyses of productivity data, and comparisons with industry averages to determine the team's effectiveness. Usually, the assessment compares several of an organization's projects to determine both the most productive practices and problem areas.

SEAS analyses take two to four months and cost from \$10,000 for a development group with 15 to 30 members to \$55,000 for an organization with 400 or more employees. Call (703) 790-0055 for more information.

COMPUTER CONDO

Tired of shoveling through a blizzard of managerial details every morning to get your data center to work? Fed up with constantly weeding out technological pests to get your information services to grow? Martin Marietta Data Systems would like to interest you in a Florida condominium. The Greenbelt, MD-based information-technology arm of aerospace giant Martin Marietta

Corp. (Bethesda, MD) recently began offering IBM 43XX-sized shares of own large data center, located in Orlando, FL.

Under the plan, called Orlando 4000, a customer licenses a portion of Martin Marietta's data-center resources, including processing, communications, and technical support. At first glance, it may appear that Orlando 4000 is a typical timesharing system. However, according to a Martin Marietta spokesperson, the main difference between Martin Marietta's plan and traditional timesharing plans is in the service's scope. The condominium approach provides a complete data center, controlled at the client organization's corporate level and designed to meet its entire processing needs, he says.

Customers can run any software they like—right now, the condo offers the MVS operating system, and plans call for the addition of a second operating system, VM—and may maintain their own applications-development team. Timesharing, on the other hand, traditionally offers only specific applications to individual departments or operating units.

Another difference between the condominium approach and traditional timesharing is in the pricing structure. Charges for timesharing programs are usually based on usage. Departmental users who heavily use timesharing systems have often surprised their parent organizations by running up large bills. However, Orlando 4000's monthly charge is relatively fixed. The charge depends mostly on a flat rate determined by the client's resource configuration—which can be changed monthly—and varies only slightly due to items billed according to use.

A corporate user running the equivalent of an IBM 4331 with six disk drive would pay about \$23,000 per month, the Martin Marietta spokesperson says. Martin Marietta will also provide detailed utilization information to allow clients to fine-tune their configurations. Clients will also be provided with usage information so that costs can be charged back to user departments. For more information about Orlando 4000, contact Martin Marietta Data Systems at (301) 982-6500.

SMART SHREDDERS

Security Engineered Machinery's Model 1200 and Model 1600 shredders have electronic controls that prevent jamming by reversing shredders before a jam occurs; the unit then

shuts off until the condition is corrected. Price: \$1,750 for Model 1200 and \$2,000 for Model 1600. Model 1200 has a 12-inch feed opening and allows up to 24 sheets per feed. Model 1600 has a 16-inch feed opening and handles a maximum of 14 sheets per feed.

Security Engineered Machinery, 5 Walkup Dr., Westboro, MA, 01581. (617) 366-1488. Circle 200

SECURITY CABINETS

Security and organizing cabinets lock up all components of a microcomputer system, except the printer. Price: \$145 to \$195. Cabinets are available for a wide variety of microcomputers, including the IBM PC, Macintosh, and Apple IIe, as well as Tandy micros.

Omni Tech Corp., 1455 N. Barker Rd., Brookfield, WI 53005.

(414) 784-4178. Circle 201

PRIVACY SOFTWARE

P/C Privacy: Personal/Confidential is now available with a Data Encryption Standard (DES). P/C Privacy's DES runs on the IBM PC, PC XT, and PC AT and costs \$195.

MCTel Inc., 3 Bala Plaza East, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. (215) 668-0983. **Circle 202**

DDED

SHREDDER STAND

The Model SST-3 paper-shredder stand is 29 inches high, with a top shelf 17 inches wide and 20 inches deep. Price: \$85. The stand has two shelves, 2-inch casters, and a wire frame that holds plastic paper-catching bags.

Bretford Manufacturing Inc., 9715 Soreng Ave., Schiller Park, IL 60176. (312) 678-2545. Circle 203

Tool for IBM S/38: Service/38, a documentation and object-management tool for the IBM S/38, offers commands that are organized into four modules: report document, text writer, object management, and object analysis. The package, from Soft Wear Management, Riverside, CA, costs \$1,275.

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PRODUCTS/SECURITY

HP 3000 SECURITY

The Console Engine, a microcomputer interface, guards against unauthorized remote-console access to HP 3000 minicomputers. Price: \$2,150. The system requires a password from anyone dialing into a remote-console port on an HP 3000. It can also be set to require validation from another Console Engine at the caller's end.

Telamon Inc., 1615 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612.

(415) 835-5603.

Circle 205

INSULATED FILE.

The Fire Guard Model 350/125 insulated file protects paper records and computer media. Price: \$1,210 to \$2,690. Paper records are protected by 350-degree rated drawers, and computer media are protected by 125-degree rated drawers. Six models are available with two, three, or four drawers.

Schwab Safe Co. Inc., 3000 Main St., Lafavette, IN 47903-5088.

(317) 447-9470.

Circle 206

PC **PROTECTION**

A new version of the Security protection package for micros provides for file encryption, and password and user-code protection for all programs. Price: \$50. It runs on PC-DOS and MS-DOS computers.

The Answer in Computers, 6035 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92115.

(619) 287-0795.

Circle 207

MULTI-LEVEL SECURITY

Silent Partner offers accounting, financial, and inventory-related applications for IBM and compatible mainframes. Prices start at \$4,200. The applications can be bought modularly or fully integrated. The system offers multiplelevel security, interactive updates, and an online help facility.

Silent Partner Systems Corp., 330-1441 Creekside Dr., Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6J 4S7.

(604) 736-3551.

Circle 208

Computer books: The Graphic Macintosh Book (\$11.95) and The Graphic PC-DOS Book (\$9.95), published by CBS Computer Books (New York), use graphic illustrations to explain the Apple Macintosh microcomputer and the PC-DOS operating system.

Circle 209



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Tracer is a Clanguage source-analysis debugging tool that runs in three modes: source analysis, run-time analusis, and interactive mode. It's available for Data General and DEC computers. Prices range from \$5,000 to \$26,000, depending on the configuration of the system and the crosscompilers selected. A one-time license fee costs \$3,950. Revision 2.25 of DG'C' is an enhanced version of the C compiler for Data General computers. Additions include a Motorola 68000 cross-compiler, 32-bit AOS/VS I/O packet support, and debugging features.

Information Processing Techniques Corp., 1096 East Meadow Circle, Palo Alto, CA 94304-4284. (415) 494-7500. Circle 222

PACKAGE FOR UNIX

The MShell package is a user-assistance system for Unix III, Unix V, and Xenix for the IBM PC and PC AT. Price: \$125. It allows users to design custom-menu interfaces and control access to applications in a multi-user environment. Users can access only those applications or system options pre-designated in security-access profiles.

Business Management Systems Inc., 9526-A Lee Hwy., Fairfax, VA 22031.

(703) 591-0911.

Circle 223

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Four-Phase Systems Inc., 10700 N. De Anza Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014.

(408) 255-0900.

Circle 224

PLANNING SYSTEM

IFPS 10.0 is an enhanced version of the Interactive Financial Planning System for mainframes and minis. Base price: \$69,000. The decision-support software now has a custom report writer, interrogation features, and a command language for automating applications. IFPS 10.0 is available on over 30 systems, including IBM, DEC, Hewlett-Packard, Prime, Honeywell, and Burroughs.

Execucom Systems Corp., 3410 Far West Blvd., Austin, TX 78731.

(512) 346-4980.

Circle 225

COMPILER FOR UNIX

The Amsterdam Compiler Kit for Bell Labs' Unix operating system is a package of C and Pascal compilers for Unix 68000, 8086, VAX, and PDP-11 machines. The kit compiles C and Pascal programs, and produces code for these host machines. Price: \$9,950. Complete sources of all programs (source C compiler or Unix license required from AT&T) plus instructions on necessary modifications to add a new program language or a new target machine are included.

Unipress Software Inc., 2025 Lincoln Hwy., Suite 312, Edison, NJ 08817. (201) 985-8000. Circle 226

PRODUCTS/SOFTWARE

INFO-SYSTEM MODELING

Define It and Create It, interactive graphics software tools for IBM 4341 mainframes, help system developers to create information systems and provide the ability to create and update all models and diagrams. Price: \$80,000 for Define It: \$30,000 for Create It. Define It stores diagrams describing the business and its information uses and needs. It automatically performs model verification and completeness and consistency checking, and provides cross-reference and error reports. Create It develops procedure models from data models, generates program code for program structures, and produces complete programs and their documentation.

Technology Information Products Corp., 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803. (617) 273-5818.

Circle 227

PL/1 code, and a modeling and testing facility that provides interactive testing and debugging.

Pansophic Systems Inc., 709 Enterprise Dr., Oak Brook, IL 60521. (312) 986-6000. Circle 228

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Release 1.3 of Telon, an applicationdevelopment productivity system for IBM's IMS/VS-DC and CICS, offers a batch-report facility that generates either Cobol or PL/1 source programs. Price: \$80,000 to \$115,000. Telon is comprised of three components: a design facility that provides interactive screen designs, an application-system generator that uses design-level source statements from the design facility to generate structured Cobol or

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CICS/Replay provides automated regression testing of applications and upgrades to IBM's CICS. Price: \$4,000 to \$5,000. The package operates under CICS release 1.5 or later running under DOS/VSE, VS1, or MVS operating systems.

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Muller-Mugno Corp., 42 Broadway, New York, NY 10004.

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Circle 215

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An international network enables businesses to act as their own communications carriers. A configuration with 1-Mbyte memory, 100 Mbytes of disk space, eight communications lines, and ports for eight printers and terminals costs \$78,000. System 2 transmits messages to British Telecom

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Western Union, One Lake St., Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458. (201) 825-5000. Circle 217

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Harris Corp., Telecommunications Networks Div., P.O. Box 1040, Melbourne, FL 32901.

(305) 724-3232.

Circle 221

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Database access for Macintosh:

The Straight Talk communications program enables Macintosh users to access information from more than 28 databases on the Dow Jones News/Retrieval service. Published by Dow Jones Software, Princeton, NJ, Straight Talk is priced at \$79.

Circle 231

Configuring output systems: A free copy of "Building Output Systems," which describes 13 user environments and appropriate output-system configurations, is available through Versatec, a Santa Clara, CA-based subsidiary of Xerox Corp. *Circle 232*

Low-cost software: PC-Desk, software for the IBM PC and compatibles from Software Studios (Annandale, VA), features a calendar/reminder, calculator, address file, automatic phone dialer, and telephone directory. PC-Desk is available for a \$25 registration fee and can be copied and distributed freely. *Circle 233*

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Dennison Monarch Systems Inc., P.O. Box 4081, New Windsor, NY 12550.

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YOUR CAREER

by Mary Miles, New England Editor



Henry Rogers believes empathy and charm boost your chances of success.

CHARM YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS

ow much do the attributes of charm and grace have to do with success? A lot, according to Henry C. Rogers. Rogers, of the public-relations firm Rogers & Cowan, Los Angeles, knows about success. He represents Robert Redford, Shirley MacLaine, and Paul Newman, as well as corporate clients, like Texas Instruments and Ford Motor Co.

Throughout his long career, Rogers' formula for success has been to develop a sensitivity to the needs of others. His book, Rogers' Rules for Success (St. Martin's/Marek, 1984), contains what he calls "tips that will take you to the top," but the underlying message is: Always put yourself in the other person's shoes.

For Rogers, the professional who makes it to the top is usually "a gracious, thoughtful individual who . . . is sensitive to the humanity in him- or herself and others." Hard work, says Rogers, is only a minor ingredient of success; the major ingredients are drive,

will, energy, and self-control. But these important qualities must be accompanied by an understanding of "psychorelations," which Rogers describes as the way we sell ourselves to others.

Rogers spoke with Computer Decisions about psychorelations: the carefully honed art of being sensitive, charming—and successful.

Computer Decisions: You've said psychorelations is a combination of the words "psychology" and "people relations," and defined the concept as a tool to sell oneself to others. How important is it for us to "sell ourselves?" Rogers: To be successful, we must relate to others, impress them, and get them to like and respect us. Why? Because being a success isn't solely dependent on an individual's accomplishments. You may be doing a remarkable job, but if your boss is unaware of it or doesn't like vou, vour career won't advance. It's terribly important to sell yourself. Psychorelations can be the determining factor between achieving a

small victory or great success. *CD*: By being kind, charming, empathetic, and sensitive—the basics of psychorelations—is it possible to lose yourself and become a hypocrite? Can you use psychorelations and remain sincere?

Rogers: Sometimes you're not 100 percent sincere because you're playing a game. If we discuss success in terms of playing and winning the game, we get a different perspective. A political campaign would be the closest comparison. The politician who kisses babies in supermarkets may not like doing it, but it's necessary to win votes. Success is a campaign in which you work to get people to like you, respect you, and relate to you. If you can't accomplish that, how can you achieve anything else? But when I talk about selling yourself, I'm not advocating becoming subservient or obsequious.

To "win votes" you must exert your charm so people will like you. It's not so difficult, yet many people go through

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YOUR CAREER

life without making any attempt to relate to others. They think only about themselves and their own reactions. Professionals should ask themselves, 'What kind of an impression am I making? Is it a favorable one? Am I making any impression at all?' So many professionals don't go this extra mile. They don't see the advantages of finding out what others need or think. To be successful, you must be sensitive to what's around you; you must know what people want, what they think of you, and how they react to you.

CD: What do successful practitioners of psychorelatons do when they're forced

to play the bad guy?

Rogers: You often have to do things that make you uncomfortable. Sometimes you'll have to tell people things they don't want to hear. But you don't have to slap them in the face with the cold facts or relay bad news in such a way that you lose an ally. To get through an awkward situtation, you many have to do a bit of acting. In fact, during the struggle for success, you will constantly be acting.

You must deal with messy situations sensitively so that you achieve the best results for yourself. You can play the bad guy without inspiring hate. Again, this requires that you pay attention to the reactions and needs of others.

CD: How should we deal with our own personal shortcomings and failures? Rogers: I'm very honest with myself when I've handled a situation badly. I analyze the mistakes I've made and try not to repeat them. I may make other errors, but not the same one. The knowledge that you've made a mistake and will again shouldn't inhibit you or cause you to take less action or avoid confrontations.

CD: In your book, you say that a person on the way up shouldn't always play "office games," but should sometimes deliberately break the rules.

Rogers: You can break the rules occasionally. As Michael Korda says in his book Success (Random House, 1977),

"The fastest way to succeed is to look as though you are playing by the rules but are quietly playing by your own." If you can circumvent policy to your own advantage while at the same time benefiting your organization, you can advance your career. But to do this successfully you must use intelligence and sensitivity.

Some offices have rigid caste systems in which employees must report to a specific superior. If you're in such an office and a situation arises that compels you to go over your superior's head, you must do so tactfully. To accomplish this, you need to know how your superior will react.

CD: Does that mean that if you handle yourself correctly, your superior will perceive your actions as being constructive to both the company's interests and his or her own?

Rogers: Right. You can't break the rules crudely or callously. For example, if you are blatant about going over your boss' head, your peers will think it's acceptable to do the same. And alienating your boss won't help advance your career. Remember, you're in a campaign to get people to like you so you can achieve what you want.

CD: In other words, if you break the rules, do so with charm, sensitivity, and forethought. This maneuvering sounds like hard, stressful work.

Rogers: Most people who decide to pursue success don't fully anticipate what they're taking on. They're unaware that the more successful they become, the greater the pressures and responsibilities will be and the more stressful situations they will encounter. CD: How do you suggest dealing with a stressful situation?

Rogers: Escaping stress with a double vodka on the rocks is a big temptation, but it's just a Band-Aid. It doesn't solve the problem, and the stress will still be there. By temporarily removing yourself from a stressful situation, such as reading a book, taking a walk, or listening to music, you can avoid letting

stress get the better of you. Concentrate on what really matters. Ask yourself, "How does this problem relate to my entire life? How important is it? What's it going to do for me and to me?"

CD: One of the stresses of being a successful leader is taking responsibility for both your own and your subordinates' mistakes. You've said that those skilled in the art of psychorelations can often make the best of a bad situation, even to the extent of turning a problem into a personal opportunity.

Rogers: When a situation festers and causes chaos, productivity stops while everyone looks around for a scapegoat. Sometimes you can strengthen your own position by taking responsibility and making yourself that scapegoat. You can become a hero by taking the blame whether or not you're the culprit. This will immediately set you apart from everyone else-and if you want to be successful, you have to stand out. But you can't just take the blame; you have to offer solutions. This commands greater respect than remaining one of the masses, cowering in the corner and avoiding responsibility.

CD: But you may not find the right solution, be thought of as a blunderer, and lose your credibility. Don't you have to be careful not to endanger your own chances of success?

Rogers: Never forget that to be successful is to be careful. Any act of initiative should be part of a greater plan. You must think—you can't just go blindly off without a plan and still make it to the top. To get ahead you must carefully plan each step of the way. Luck is only a door-opener. It's what you do with your luck that matters.

CD: You've said that successful people often go the extra mile for others. You also claim that by using psychorelations you will achieve your goals because your co-workers and subordinates will want you to succeed.

Rogers: Basically, all rules for success are offshoots of the philosophy of putting yourself in someone else's shoes. There's a biblical line: "As ye sow, so shall ye reap." It's true—if you give, you'll eventually get something back. There is always a payback, and you can make it positive. That's what psychorelations is all about.

"Success is a campaign in which you work to get people to like and respect you."

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