The Prentice Bulletin

Improved Laser Printing Facilities

The PCC has enhanced its printing services, offering new hardware and improved access to its PostScript printers. Personal Computer users can now use these printers remotely without a PCC account, and the self-service printing area has also been improved by allowing the LaserWriter to be shared among users.

There are now three PostScript laser printers for public access. A high speed Digital LPS40 (rated at 40 pages per minute), and two Apple printers: a Laser-Writer Plus in the self-service area, and a LaserWriter II NTX on UQVAX. The LPS40 is cheapest, ideal for long runs, and can print on A3 paper. The Laser-Writer NTX provides somewhat higher quality and has some extra fonts on its own hard disk (Souvenir, Helvetica Light/Black, and Lubalin). Transparencies and labels are available on request on both the LPS40 and the LaserWriter NTX. These printers accept PostScript sources and text files. The software also converts certain other formats (for example TeX DVI, HPGL, Sixel and RUN-OFF).

In the self-service area, where users have access to two Macintoshes and an IBM PC/XT, a network queuing system has been added. This allows up to three people using these machines to share the LaserWriter without interruptions.

Remote users can print from PCs connected to the network, via terminal lines or modem. There is now a no-password account in UQVAX that lets you use our printers and plotters. You simply log in as PRINTER (no password is necessary although you will have to give a name), upload the file with Kermit and print it. You simply pay at the Help!Desk when you collect your output.

The laser printers can be accessed from UQVAX, BROLGA and UQVM.

This page was printed on a PostScript laser. There are practically no limits to what you can do if you have the right tools.

Fonts: The LaserWriters have the standard complement of Helvetica, Helvetica Narrow, Avant Garde, Palatino, Times Roman, Bookman, Century Schoolbook, Zapf Chancery, Zapf Dingbats (✦✳◼✳✍ ✺◗▼▲) and Symbol (Σψμβολ). The La-serWriter II NTX has, in addition, **Helvetica Black,** Helvetica Light, Souvenir and Lubalin. The Digital LPS40, lacks Palatino, Bookman and Avant Garde from the standard set, but adds Souvenir and Lubalin.

For more information:
Help!Desk, Phone 377-3025
HELP PSPRINT on UQVAX
INFO PSPRINT on UQVM

Printer	Speed	Access	$/page
Apple LaserWriter II NTX	8 ppm	UQVAX, UQVM, Brolga	21¢
Digital LPS40	40 ppm	UQVAX, UQVM, Brolga	19¢
Apple LaserWriter Plus	8ppm	Local (Macintosh & IBM PC/XT)	30¢

Is your computer "stoned"?

Several sites on this campus recently suffered outbreaks of the Marijuana Virus.

This virus sits undetected on your PC for some time, possibly months. Then one day, as you turn on your PC, it shows the message, *Your PC is now Stoned! Legalize Marijuana*

Luckily, that's all that this virus seems to do. It doesn't appear to corrupt data, unless it runs out of disk space (there is a bug in this virus). To avoid this and other potential damage, sufferers should remove it from their computers.

It spreads by booting PCs with infected floppies. Hasn't somebody ever come up to you, poked a floppy in front of your face, and said, "Hey, look at this new game I've got!", and proceed to boot your computer with it? It's as easy as that to become infected. Booting your PC with a floppy infected by the Marijuana Virus will infect your hard disk. Any unprotected floppy put into your PC will then become infected.

How can you lessen the chance of getting this or any other virus? Firstly, don't boot your PC with "alien" floppies. Stick to your own. Secondly, keep your floppy disks write-protected, unless you need to write to them. Thirdly, regularly check your hard disk and floppies with a known virus detection agent, such as KILLER (from the PCC) or Virusafe (from the Australian Computer Resource Centre, phone (03) 521 2222). Virusafe also checks for nine other known "strains" and removes them from your system.

What if you ARE infected? Contact the PC Support Group at the PCC, Ph 377 4018. Bring in your floppies or PC, and they will remove any traces of the Marijuana Virus. The standard hourly fee applies for a "house call".

The computer virus is definitely not the mysterious little disease portrayed in some of the media. A virus is an unwanted and uninvited guest, deal with it by throwing it out.

Wake up to the Usenet News

A most significant revolution in communications is happening "out there". It's not Fax and it's not cellular phones, but computer conferencing. Conferencing is not so much a technology but a conceptual tool. It takes the concept of "meeting" and replaces it with a "permanent electronic public meeting".

The News has been described as a "newspaper that talks back".

Although computing is Usenet's *forte*, that is by no means all there is. There are a number of politically oriented conferences, recreation topics such as movies and exotic cookery, science (fusion and

The participants don't speak, but post articles to the conference (old-timers call it "the Net"). Articles may be questions, impassioned speeches, or comments on other postings. The meeting room's "walls" are covered with these "wall newspapers", annotated and sometimes criticised by passers-by. The meeting goes on day and night. When you join, the whole history of the meeting is before your eyes, and every day it unfolds, with or without your participation.

Conferences have become important tools in many organizations. One example is a year-long conference used to coordinate a complex United Nations development project in Brazil. A group of minds are exchanging ideas, organizing, obtaining resources, all thousands of miles apart, and yet together when necessary.

One of the most important conferencing networks, the Usenet News, is available through UQVAX. The cost of "reading News" is simply the computer CPU and storage charges you incur.

The Usenet News is a fantastic tool for those who use computers in their work. Every day thousands of computers around the world "wake up to the News", and your posting could be in every one of them! The audience, estimated

Be Everywhere

at over 400,000, are mainly people with interests in some area of scholarship or research.

Through the News you can obtain information on hundreds of general and specialised topics, either by reading what is already there, or by asking questions (and usually getting more than enough answers). You often have the opportunity of helping others in the same way.

voyager are quite active at the moment) and others that defy classification.

It is easy to join. Simply type `setup news<ret>` and then `news<ret>` in UQVAX. That is all.

For more information: HELP NEWS in UQVAX.

You can purchase the *PCC Usenet News Kit*, obtainable from the Help!Desk.

Clearinghouse
Educational Software

From Engineering to language instruction, from pig management to the history of the Crusades, the Clearinghouse is your gateway to cheap educational software that runs on VAX/VMS systems.

The Clearinghouse is a non-profit centre for distributing VMS educational software. The Australian agent for the Clearinghouse is the NSW Department of TAFE.

If you are an academic or are buying for a Department, you can obtain a 50% discount on the recommended price. The Clearinghouse offers a 30 day acceptance period in which you can change your mind and return the software.

If sufficient interest exists for a particular package, the PCC may purchase the product to run on the UQVAX host.

A small sample of available packages (there are more than 100 titles) follows:

Project Socrates Engineering Courseware $500 VAXstations (includes Structural Matrix Operations, Structural Matrix Analysis, Fracture Analysis, Finite Element Studies in 2D)

COWS (Selection and Replacement of Dairy Cattle)

POPULATE (Population Biology)

GREENHAUS (Greenhouse Effect simulation)

FARMER (Basic Mendelian Genetics)

LAMBCUT & BEEFCUT (Lamb & Beef Cutability)

ORGSPEC I & II (Organic Spectral Analysis, Infrared Analysis)

MOLECULAR STRUCTURE (Prediction Molecular Structure)

NSNUC (Nuclear Processes)

MEMOPS, FILEOPS & COMPOPS (Computer simulation)

ENGLISH FROM DENISON (Eight Pro-

grams Covering Mechanical Problems in Writing)

PLATO'S REPUBLIC (Tutorial on Plato's Theory of Unreality)

HUMAN MEMORY (Psychological Variables used in Memory Experiments)

CAE, CGE & DAL utilities & LDS (Digital Authoring Language Utilities for the Preparation of Courseware).

Many of these packages must run on graphics terminals (ReGIS, VT240, VT340 and their emulations). The PCC can advise on suitable software for Personal Computers.

For more information:

Peruse the Clearinghouse catalogue at the Help!Desk

Obtain a catalogue (and even pre-view packages) on the TAFENET BBS (Sydney 281-2158 at 2400 Baud)

Contact the PCC Program Librarian, Ph 377 4075 for more details