UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Computer Centre

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

date   : week ended 27 April 1972
authorization : Director of the Computer Centre

1.   OPERATIONS

1.1   PDP-10 System

Monday   24 April   disk parity errors, maintenance, system
                          offline 1625-1715
                          card reader maintenance, batch offline
                          2055-2105.

Wednesday   26 April   system unresponsive, monitor reloaded
                          2025-2036.

Thursday   27 April   card reader maintenance, batch offline
                          0935-1030
                          system failure, offline 1110-1117,
                          1450-1510
                          teletype controller unit failed, 1545
                          restart not successful, reloaded
                          monitor, 1650.

schedule for forthcoming week: maintenance 0700-0900
                                operations 0930-2300.

1.2   GE-225 System

schedule for forthcoming week: maintenance 0700-0830
                                operations 0900-2400.

2.   FORTRAN ERRORS

2.1   T Format Specification

(a) Any T format specification on output to a disk file is treated as if it is 1X.

(b) On output to the job output device T specifications are successful on forwards or backwards position but the next output field will be lost if a T specification requiring no position change is given.

(c) If the printer control character on the line is '+', '0', or '-', the T position will be incorrect.

A combination of the cases (b) and (c) results in unexpected effects on the output.

2.2   CALL RELEAS and BACKSPACE

The sequence

```
        READ (10)
        CALL RELEAS (10)
        READ (10)
        BACKSPACE (10)
```

will not result in the expected positioning of the scratch file.

CALL RELEAS does not clear the pointer used by BACKSPACE. IFILE, REWIND and ENDFILE do clear it, so should be used instead (or as well).

3.   NEW PDP-10 SOFTWARE RELEASES

3.1   Login

Login version 2C(25)-3 was released on 27 April 1972. This version corrects some errors, and notifies users if mail is waiting.

3.2   Ident and Quit

A new version of Ident and Quit, to be released on 2 May, improves reliability.

3.3   Loader

A new version of the Loader, version 55(71)-2, is available and will be implemented 4 May 1972. This version allows for loading relocatable files created by version 3 of the Cobol compiler and version 2 of the Algol compiler. It uses a new format for indexed library files (users will have to reindex any of their own indexed library files).

3.4   Symbol

Symbol version 1A(6)-3 will be implemented 4 May 1972. This version handles suppressed internals from MACRO.

3.5   Fudge2

Fudge2, version 14(22) will be implemented 4 May 1972. This uses a new format for indexed library files.

4.   BMD02R

A new version of BMD02R will be released 2 May 1972. The changes made are as follows:

(a)   G type output is used more extensively to eliminated 'OUTPUT FIELD WIDTH OVERFLOW' messsages.

(b)   Negative arguments are checked for, to eliminate the possibility of attempting to take the square root of a negative number.

(c)   The 'PROBLM' card format has been corrected so that the input filename is read from columns 75-79.

5.   RUNOFF MANUAL

The Runoff manual, MNT-14, is now available from the Computer Centre at a cost of $1.00.