

University of St Andrews

COMPUTING LABORATORY

VAX SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS TIMETABLE
MANAGING MAIL FILES
CUTTING AND PASTING COLUMNS USING EVE
USING THE APPLE LASERWRITER FROM THE VAX
NEW BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MACINTOSH SYSTEM
HUMANITIES BULLETIN BOARD AT LEICESTER
SPSS-X USERNOTE
CONFERENCE ON COMPUTERS AND TEACHING IN HUMANITIES
AMSTRAD PC1512 MICROCOMPUTERS
SERVICEABILITY FIGURES

NEWSLETTER

March 1987



North Haugh, St Andrews KY16 9SX, Scotland. Telephone 76161

MANAGING MAIL FILES

Compressing your MAIL file (MAIL.MAI)

If you are in the habit of keeping valuable MAIL messages, your MAIL file (MAIL.MAI) can get quite sizeable, with unused disk space within the file. This space can be recovered by compressing the file using the command COMPRESS within MAIL. Note that the old uncompressed file will still exist and be called MAIL.OLD. This should be deleted after exit from MAIL, using the command DELETE MAIL.OLD;

Keeping your MAIL 'counter' correct

From time to time your MAIL system may get a little confused and think, incorrectly, that you have more (unread) messages than really exist. If the number of new (unread) MAIL messages displayed on your screen is inconsistent with the actual number of new messages, enter the command (within MAIL)

READ/NEW

when there is NO new MAIL. This will reset the 'counter' to zero.

Keeping MAIL files in a subdirectory

MAIL messages larger than 3 blocks of filespace (1536 bytes or characters) are not kept in the MAIL.MAI file, but are rather written to files of type MAI and of the form

MAIL\$oooooooooooooooooooo.MAI

These files remain as long as you retain the messages within your MAIL system. If you have such files it is often worth isolating all you MAIL files within their own subdirectory. The command (used within MAIL)

SET MAIL DIRECTORY [.MAIL]

will copy all your MAIL files into a subdirectory (called MAIL.DIR in your top-level directory). It will create this subdirectory if it does not already exist.

SHOW MAIL DIRECTORY

(if used within MAIL) will display the name of the directory containing all your MAIL files.

(access to building:
8am to 9.45pm Mon - Fri
9am to 4.45pm Sat)

System or network problems will be dealt with during the next period of operator/maintenance cover.

CUTTING AND PASTING COLUMNS USING EVE

The EVE editor can be extended using the VAXTPU programming language allowing you to add extra facilities as you need them. One such extension is described below.

This program allows an EVE user to cut and paste columns of text or numbers, for instance when arranging tables, extracting data for graphs or simply generating double columns of text.

If you wish to do this the program must be added to the EVE program:

Define a logical name TPUINI to point to the TPU program

```
$ define tpuini user2:[clsap.tpu]col.tpu
$ eve test.dat
```

where test.dat contains a column you wish to cut/paste

```
move the cursor to the start of your column - press select
move the cursor to the end of the column - press col_extract
```

```
move to where you wish to paste the column - press col_insert
```

The key definitions are as follows (KP = Keypad):

Command	VT200	VT100	BBC micro
select	<SELECT>	KP 7	f4
col_extract	KP 4	KP 4	f4
col_insert	KP 6	KP 6	<SHIFT>f5

If you are already using KP 4 and KP 6 in your own initialisation procedure and want to include col_extract and col_insert, you could include a procedure to load and compile the column operations: an example procedure HW_COLUMN_OPERATIONS is in USER2:[CLSAP.TPU]XX.TPU and has world read access.

If you prefer you can use col_extract and col_insert as <DO> commands without defining keys for them. The command must start with TPU and cannot be abbreviated:

```
<DO>
Command: tpu col_extract
Command: tpu col_insert
```

USING THE APPLE LASERWRITER FROM THE VAX

The Computing Laboratory is investigating software for using the Apple LaserWriter, attached to the Macintosh computer in the Computing User Area, as an output device for a number of applications running on the VAX systems. As a first step, the LaserWriter is going to be made available emulating a Diablo 630 daisywheel printer and using the LaserWriter Courier 12-point font. In this mode the LaserWriter will produce output at 10 characters per inch, comparable to an IBM

typewriter with a Courier 10 golf-ball. (The NEC Spinwriters are normally used with an Elite thimble at a printing density of 12 characters per inch.)

At the introduction of the service, output from the VAX will be printed by the operators during the following times:

```
7.30 am to 9.30 am
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm
6.30 pm to 7.30 pm
```

When the LaserWriter is being used for printing from the VAX it will not be available for printing from the Macintosh.

Documents to be printed on the LaserWriter should be sent to the queue LASER\$PRINT using the form-type A4FORM (type 2). Thus a file called TEST.MEM could be printed using the command:

```
PRINT/QUEUE=LASER$PRINT/FORM=A4FORM TEST.MEM
```

To simplify the use of this command, the symbol PRTLAS has been defined, so that the above command can be abbreviated to:

```
PRTLAS TEST.MEM
```

Output produced in this way will be retained in the VAX computer room by the operators for collection by the person generating it. Please note that all users require the permission of their departmental representative before using the Laserwriter since the Computing Laboratory has to recover the running costs of the LaserWriter by charging 7p per sheet of output produced. Bills are periodically sent to the departmental representative for the paper produced by a department's users, showing the use made by each user. A sheet showing who has current permission is posted outside the computer room door.

We expect most use of this new facility to be made for final copies of RUNOFF documents, as an alternative to the existing Spinwriter service. Consequently it is worth noting that to produce pages with approximately an inch margin all round (top, bottom, left and right) on an A4 sheet the following RUNOFF formatting commands could be used:

```
.ps 60,60
.lm 8
.rm 68
.no headers
```

Please note, however, that not all features of a Diablo daisywheel printer can be reproduced on the LaserWriter at present. In particular, the bolding of characters cannot be done. Underlining and overstriking characters works as it does on the Spinwriters.

For Simtex users, if a document is created in QUME format then superscripts and subscripts can be correctly reproduced on the the LaserWriter.

NEW BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MACINTOSH SYSTEM

There is an increasing demand from users with their own Macintosh computer to gain access to the Computing Laboratory's Apple LaserWriter solely to produce high quality output. As a result, we are introducing a service whereby at three times during the day, users with a printing requirement only can have priority on the Apple Macintosh workstation in the Computing User Area.

During the times:

7.30 am	to	9.30 am
2.00 pm	to	3.00 pm
6.30 pm	to	7.30 pm

the Macintosh will be reserved for access by the operators. Any user with a file that requires printing on the LaserWriter should give the disk and the names of the file(s) to print to the operators, who will print the file(s) for the user. For any particularly complicated printing operation, it may be that you would want to be present at the time of printing; this can be negotiated with the operators. The operators can be contacted on 8133 or 8131, or VAX MAIL can be sent to username SYSOP.

Please note that it is possible to download files from the VAX to the Macintosh using the MacTerminal software on the Macintosh. This is documented in the Macintosh User Manual but further assistance can be obtained from John Ball (ex 8139, CLSJB) or Malcolm Bain (ex 8203, CLSMB).

HUMANITIES BULLETIN BOARD AT LEICESTER

Users in Arts departments will be interested in HUMBUL, an electronics bulletin board service run from the Computer Centre at the University of Leicester and maintained at their office of Humanities Communication.

This has news of projects, courses, conferences, grants awarded, etc in the field of computing in the Arts. It is also possible to send messages to the editor of the service - for instance, about your own projects.

To access the HUMBUL service, you should type the local VMS command
PAD which will then give you the prompt V-PAD>

Then type CALL LE.HUMBUL and wait for the message from HUMBUL asking you to log on: if you are a new user, typing NEWUSER as your user name will take you into a registration procedure which will ask you for your name, etc. You can, of course, use your allocated user name for subsequent calls to HUMBUL.

When you log off from HUMBUL (using a 'quit' command), you can return from the V-PAD> prompt to VMS by using <CTRL-Z>.

If the call to HUMBUL does not go through properly, you can return to the V-PAD> prompt by using <CTRL-P>. After returning to this prompt, you should then type CLR to clear the call, and <CTRL-Z> to return to VMS.

SPSS-X USERNOTE

Usernote number 5 has been updated to reflect usage of SPSS-X. Copies are available, free, from the Computing Laboratory secretary.

CONFERENCE ON COMPUTERS AND TEACHING IN HUMANITIES

A conference is to be held at the University of Southampton on 10th to 11th April on the subject of Computers, Communication and the Undergraduate, aiming to bring together those who have already introduced computing into the humanities curriculum, or are considering doing so.

Further details are available from Peter Adamson (ex 8129, CLSPA), or direct from May Katzen, Office for Humanities Communication, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH. Tel (0533) 522598. Details are available also via the HUMBUL service mentioned elsewhere.

AMSTRAD PC1512 MICROCOMPUTERS

Two items about the Amstrad PC1512 have appeared recently in the computing press and may be of interest.

Concern has been expressed that the Amstrad does not have an earthed mains supply so that, in the event of a fault, the metal plate at the back of the monitor and metal elsewhere in the system could become live. Touching the metal or plugging in a peripheral which itself is earthed could give a user a shock. In this respect, the Amstrad is similar to several household electrical appliances and it has passed the appropriate British Electrotechnical Approvals Board. The best advice is to remember that the Amstrad is an electrical device and to approach it with due care.

The second item concerns a bug in the back-up program for the hard disk models where, it appears, the back-up program can mistakenly make use of bad sectors on the disk. For those with hard disk models, a modified version of the MS-DOS utilities and instructions for avoiding the problem should be available from their supplier. The Microcomputer Group has a copy of the 'corrected' software for anyone who has difficulty in obtaining it elsewhere.

SERVICEABILITY FIGURES

VAX 11/785 Systems during February 1987

	<u>SAVA</u> hrs:mins	<u>SAVB</u> hrs:mins
Period covered time	672:00	672:00
Scheduled Preventive Maintenance	2:50(1)	1:10
Scheduled Back-up Dumps	7:00	8:20(4)
Scheduled Systems Development	0:00	1:10
User Service	659:20	655:50

Time Lost

Unscheduled maintenance	0:00	0:25(6)
Hardware faults	0:10(3)	
Other lost time	2:40(2)	6:10(5)
System Recovery time	0:00	0:00

Notes:SAVA

(1) includes 1:40hrs to restore data to RP07 disc after scan and format.

(2) Power fluctuations.

(3) 5Mb of memory lost after PM; reboot necessary.

Reboots = 7; scheduled = 3, unscheduled = 4.

SAVB

(4) includes 2:00hrs re-run after disc "mount" failure.

(5) 0:35hrs power fluctuations, 4:35hrs lost during Benson plotter interface repairs and 1:00hrs due to 3 reboots required after plotter hung system.

(6) DECNET modem card replaced.

Reboots = 15; scheduled = 6, unscheduled = 9.