UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Computer Centre

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Date   : Week ended 13 May 1971

Authorization : Director of the Computer Centre

1. OPERATIONS

1.1 PDP-10 System

Friday	7 May	Disk maintenance, 1100-1155. New version Batch to incorporate Plotter loaded, 1205-1206. Batch processing offline, software investigation of accounting files, 1845-2110.
Tuesday	11 May	Batch processing offline due to disk swap read error, 1215-1243.
Wednesday	12 May	System development, 2130-2400.
Thursday	13 May	Accounting system adjustments, 1000-1100. Batch offline to allow accounting tests, 1300-1344. Memory parity error, maintenance 1345-1520. Memory parity error, maintenance 1653-1800. System failure, recovered 2015-2037.

Schedule forthcoming week: Maintenance 0700-0930
                                 Operations 1000-2245

The machine will be required for Systems Development work for two evenings this coming week. Users should check with the System Status Service as to which evenings are involved.

1.2 GE-225 System

Schedule for forthcoming week: Maintenance 0700-0900
                                  Operations 0900-2400

2. RELEASE OF NEW FACILITIES

A new operating system will be implemented on Wednesday 19 May. This will release a new command called the LIMIT command and will incorporate a few minor changes to the system.

2.1 LIMIT

The general format for this command is:

```
              JOB
    LIMIT (PHASE) {COST=}cost
              TASK
```

LIMIT can be abbreviated to LIM; JOB, PHASE and TASK to J, PH and T respectively; and COST can be abbreviated to C. The default option is TASK.

This command has been implemented to give users greater flexibility in controlling their expenditure within a job.

(a) Changing the job cost limit

The JOB option allows the cost limit for the complete job to be reset to the cost specified in the LIMIT command.

(b) Setting sub-limits within a job

The PHASE option sets a limit for a phase of the job, where a phase consists of a task or a number of tasks. The TASK option sets a limit for an individual task, where a task consists of the processing initiated by a single command. Each new phase or task limit will reset the previous limit.

example:

.LIMIT (PHASE) C=4.<cr>

.LIM (PH) 2.ØØ <cr>   ; resets previous limit whether
                              a task or phase limit.

(c) Clearing sub-limits

The cost limit set for a phase or a task can be cleared by another phase or task limit command with a cost of zero.

example:

.LIMIT (T) 5Ø <cr>

.LIM Ø <cr>   ; clears task or phase limit
                              depending on which is
                              presently applicable.

2.2 Error Messages

The following error messages have been added to the system.

(i) PHASE COST LIMIT EXCEEDED

    The current task is stopped and no further tasks will be successful until the limit is cleared.

(ii) TASK COST LIMIT EXCEEDED

    The task is stopped and the limit cleared.

The following system error messages have been altered.

(i) COST LIMIT EXCEEDED   PLEASE LOGOUT

    now reads as JOB COST LIMIT EXCEEDED. There is no need to logout now since the LIMIT command can specify a new limit for the job.

(ii) FILE LIMIT EXCEEDED

    now reads as JOB FILE LIMIT EXCEEDED.

2.3 Errors in Command Decoder

The following errors have been corrected in this version of the operating system.

(i) Automatic compilation sometimes failed to select the most recent file for execution.

(ii) A garbled error message was given if an illegal processor-program name was found.

3. FORTRAN IV ERROR

The error reported in the Bulletin, vol. 4 p. 31 on restoration of variables in a calling sequence appears to occur with DOUBLE PRECISION variables as well as COMPLEX variables. The solution is to put both DOUBLE PRECISION and COMPLEX variables at the beginning of any calling sequence.

4. BATCH ERROR

Since question marks have special significance to Batch, users are advised to use this character with caution in their programs. Some users have reported NO EXECUTION messages with error-free programs. This can usually be traced back to the use of '?' in their programs.

5. PLOTTER THROUGH BATCH

It has been found when using the plotter subroutines through Batch that the subroutine AXIS does not work correctly. This error is being investigated and will be corrected as soon as possible. AXIS works correctly through remote terminals.