



DATA TALK

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1980's OKTOBERFEST

Sam Brown, NCC Director

Agency-wide managers and ADP systems people ushered in the new fiscal year and the 1980's Acquisition Program with a two-day conference in North Carolina on October 4 and 5.

EPA has now gained joint OMB/GSA general concurrence on the 1980's acquisition strategy. Attendees at the conference were introduced to the Agency plan, the related studies currently underway, associated timetables, and program responsibilities.

Four studies are now in progress collecting information for use in the acquisition program. They deal with:

- a. Security/Privacy/Freedom of Information
- b. Reliability, Performance, and Cost
- c. Agency-wide Documentation Assessment/Upgrade
- d. ADP Workload Characteristics

Each study is vital to the development of the acquisition and will require considerable involvement by each program area. Study teams will schedule field interviews and collect pertinent data on EPA's ADP systems, resource utilization, and general ADP requirements. The details of these activities will be forwarded to field personnel during the next several weeks.

Current schedules call for release of a draft RFP for industry comment late this year. After reviewing the input from interested vendors, the formal RFP should be released in April or May.

NCC REORGANIZATION

Mike Steinacher, Acting Branch Chief

September's EPA Data Talk addressed the effects of the recent MIDSD/NCC reorganization on the functions of the NCC's Data Center Branch. The Planning, Analysis, and Research Branch (PAR) of NCC has assumed a few new responsibilities as a result of recent happenings as well.

PAR is the focal point for Agency-wide consultation and research in Data Base Management technology, statistical/scientific software, large-scale applications development, ADP design and documentation standards, and plans for ADP services and facilities.

PAR develops ADP acquisition and technical evaluation strategy for hardware, software, and general ADP services, and serves as technical and administrative liaison to the various governmental oversight agencies.

The organization also conducts design reviews for developing ADP systems with Agency-wide impact, and periodically audits the performance of service contractors and hardware/software systems.

PAR directs the EPA National ADP Institute, which provides a broad range of ADP training throughout the Agency. It also serves as the project officer for DM&O activities in the immediate RTP area, and provides ADP review and approval for RTP technical procurements and renewals of existing ADP service contracts.

Mike Steinacher is Acting Branch Chief of Planning, Analysis, and Research. His staff members are Vic Cohen, Dr. Gene Lowrimore, Ivan Mann, Aline Rolaff, Joe Wilson, and Don Worley.

EPA's THIRD ANNUAL ADP CONFERENCE

Maureen Johnson, Computer Specialist

Make plans now to attend EPA's Annual ADP Conference being held November 7, 8, and 9 in North Carolina! The conference provides an excellent opportunity for people involved with ADP throughout the Agency to learn of current activities and future plans, and to discuss mutual concerns.

Featured speakers will be Dr. Richard L. Nolan of Nolan and Norton, Inc., Fred H. Dietrich of the Office of Manpower and Budget, Michael Jackson of Michael

Jackson Systems Limited, Dr. Brandt Allen from the University of Virginia, and Bernie Peters from the National Security Agency. An entire afternoon will be devoted to concurrent sessions on the NCC and WCC describing current activities, recognized problems and corrective actions, and future plans, with time for open discussions.

The conference agenda printed below is from the brochure mailed in mid-September. For further information, registration, or copies of this brochure, please call FTS 629-2116 or (919) 541-2116.

AGENDA

MONDAY — NOVEMBER 6

8:00 — 9:00 Early Registration
(evening)

TUESDAY — NOVEMBER 7

8:00 — 9:00 Registration — Coffee

9:00 — 9:15 Welcome — Willis Greenstreet
Director, MIDSD

9:15 — 10:30 Keynote Speaker — Dr. Richard L. Nolan
Nolan and Norton, Inc.
"Effective Management of Data
Processing in the Late 1970's and 1980's"

BREAK

11:00 — 12:00 Interagency Regulatory Liaison Group
(IRLG) — EPA, FDA, OSHA, CPSC
Morris Yaguda, Chief
Computer Systems Development and
Evaluation Branch, MIDSD
concurrent with

"Managing Software and People"
Bernie Peters
National Security Agency

LUNCH (not provided)

1:30 — 4:00 A-109 ADP Procurement Strategy
Fred H. Dietrich
Office of Management and Budget
and
Samuel C. Brown
Program Manager, 1980's
ADP Acquisition Program, MIDSD
concurrent with

Major EPA Systems Development
Activities
Donald Worley
Planning, Analysis, and Research
Branch, MIDSD

4:30 — 6:00 Birds of a Feather Sessions
(Topics To Be Announced)

6:30 — 8:30 Social

Tuesday — November 7 is Election Day
Get your Absentee Ballots Early

WEDNESDAY — NOVEMBER 8

8:30 — 9:00 Coffee

9:00 — 10:00 "Structured Programming"
Michael Jackson
Michael Jackson Systems, Ltd
London, England

BREAK

10:30 — 12:00 Michael Jackson (cont.)
concurrent with

Major EPA System Studies —
Morris Yaguda, Chief
Computer Systems Development and
Evaluation Branch, MIDSD

LUNCH (not provided)

1:30 — 4:00 National Computer Center Topics
Systems Development Corp /
Integrated Services, Inc. (SDC/ISI)
concurrent with

Washington Computer Center Topics
Computer Network Corp (COMNET)

4:30 — 6:00 Birds of a Feather Sessions
(Topics To Be Announced)

6:30 PIG PICKIN'

THURSDAY — November 9

8:30 — 9:00 Coffee

9:00 — 10:00 Development, Maintenance &
Operations Contract
Computer Sciences Corp (CSC)
concurrent with

Security in ADP
Dr. Brandt Allen,
University of Virginia

BREAK

11:00 — 12:00 National ADP Institute (NADPI)
Victor Cohen, MIDSD
concurrent with

International Data Corp (IDC)
ADP Research Analysts
"The 1980's"

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WCC

Curt Lackey, WCC Project Officer

✓ COMNET and IBM began a joint Storage Systems Study in September to examine storage systems (tape, DASD, mass storage). Together they will find more cost-effective alternatives and place more data under system control. This study, expected to last ten to twelve weeks, will recommend implementation of a new mass storage system.

✓ A Capacity Management Program is underway to better understand the EPA workload and the capacity of the WCC configuration. Ray Hardy, one of the newer system programmers at WCC, has co-authored a performance measurement package, SARA (Systems and Resource Accounting), which will be the major tool used in this program.

✓ Discussions have begun concerning a WCC Quality Assurance Program. This program will improve the follow-up to user problems and result in an overall improvement in services.

✓ An automated Assignment Control System (ACS) is being developed to improve the tracking of tasks status, information requests, and EPA technical directives. The new ACS will also include an expanded SUPR/USER capability for exception reporting.

EPA Data Talk is published monthly by the National Computer Center, Management Information and Data Systems Division, for EPA personnel and contractors interested in general ADP topics.

Comments and suggestions are solicited and should be addressed to:

William G. Allen
Editor, EPA Data Talk
National Computer Center
Research Triangle Park,
North Carolina 27711

To ensure that our distribution list is up-to-date, please indicate any required changes on the mailing label attached to this issue and mail it to the above address.

AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT STUDY

Ed Franklin, MIDSD

MIDSD will launch a major ADP Management Study this fall. The study, to be conducted by Nolan, Norton and Company, will assess EPA's current stage of ADP development, review the status of performance measures within ADP, make recommendations for improving this program, and design a plan for implementing the recommended improvements.

The study, directed by Dr. Nolan, will use proprietary methods which evolved from original research conducted at the Harvard Business School and applied in previous studies for the General Services Administration and the National Science Foundation.

The study will be initiated with an orientation workshop for EPA Headquarters and regional ADP personnel.

NCC HIGHLIGHTS

Tom Rogers, NCC Project Officer

✓ New rates for user chargeback for FY79 were announced the first week of September. Most items remained unchanged; however, the general processing charge increased.

✓ A full-time NCC security officer has been appointed to coordinate the multifaceted ADP security effort. A comprehensive disaster recovery plan is being developed and will be tested when complete.

✓ The extensive NCC hardware upgrade continues. The additional high-speed, high-density tape drives were installed, and a new operating system makes them the primary drives for the Center. One subsystem of old tape drives was removed to make room for the second large-capacity disk system now being installed. The first new disk system has been installed and is presently being tested.

..HELP..

Fred Kastner

Many sites are and have been experiencing problems with low-speed local-dial multiplexer lines installed for primary access to WCC and NCC. The WATS lines are only for backup purposes and for those users who do not have local multiplexers. COMNET and I are again making a dedicated, concentrated effort to resolve all networking problems, but we need your co-operation.

If you know of problems either with multiplexer access, WATS line access, or RJE access, please contact the COMNET technicians. If you do not get satisfactory solutions, then please contact me (919-541-2932 or FTS 629-2932) and/or Dave Jordan at COMNET (202-537-2588). I do realize how frustrating it is to experience problems and to report them. But it is even more frustrating and dif-

ficult for me to get resolutions when the problems are not reported.

Meanwhile, new dial-up lines and modems have been installed at NCC for RJE terminal access providing increased capability for dial-up, 4800 bps operation. New circuits have been installed to improve reliability for San Francisco, Dallas, and New Orleans. COMNET has AT&T working on the troublesome Denver-to-WCC circuit. AT&T admits to having problems, and they realize the problems are having a great impact on all the western cities in the network.

COMNET is planning to drop support of the half-duplex 1200 bps 202-type modems in the near future. If this will cause a problem for you, please let me and/or Dave Jordan know immediately. COMNET is continuing to develop and test the network software which allows dedicated line access to NCC for 1004 and NTR RJE terminals.

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