



DATA TALK

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MVS CONVERSION AT WCC

Conversion to an MVS operating system is being made at the Washington Computer Center to improve stability and performance. The two interactive systems, TSO and WYLBUR, will replace COMNET's proprietary ALPHA system and are now available for user testing.

The User Conversion Guide has been distributed to all WCC users and a quick reference summary is also being prepared. A WYLBUR guide and reference card are under development. Training on MVS, WYLBUR, and TSO is available at EPA headquarters, regional offices, and labs. The special conversion team is answering "HOTLINE" calls, assisting in scheduling, and monitoring test activities.

However, the Data Center Branch's recent review of COMNET's schedules and current status has not resulted in an optimistic outlook. COMNET has been requested to re-evaluate the total effort and to propose new schedules with realistic dates that can be met. A one or two month slippage from the original schedule is anticipated before a full MVS production system is available.

NEW CONTRACT WITH AMS, INC.

Mike Carpentier

MIDSD is pleased to announce that American Management Systems, Inc., (AMS) is the new contractor for general applications system feasibility studies, evaluations, and designs.

The purpose of this task order contract is to provide a timely means of establishing contractual relations with a highly qualified vendor. Beginning May 1, 1979, procurement requests should specify contract number 68-01-5146 and

ADP TRAINING SURVEY

Vic Cohen

Someone said that the only way to measure change is to determine those things that remain the same. As program directions, agency policies, and personnel abilities change, we need to make appropriate adjustments to our ADP training program. We surveyed training requirements about three years ago. Now we need to know what of the overall ADP training requirement has remained the same and what has changed.

To do this, we at the National ADP Service Center have prepared a survey which we are asking each division to complete. The survey lists all the courses taught by WCC, NCC, and NADPI and those that have been proposed for the future. Space is also included for suggesting other courses. In addition to asking about what courses are needed, we are asking how many people each division is willing to commit to each of the courses. Although the survey package is lengthy, the survey itself is short. The majority of the package contains course descriptions, which can be used for present and future information.

If all goes well, Division Directors will receive the survey package about June 29. We will notify ADP Coordinators at least one week prior to mailing. We urge each division to respond to the survey accurately and promptly so that we can provide adequate planning for the 1980 training year and design our training program to meet specific organization goals.

the proposed contractor as American Management Systems, Inc.

Please contact Mike Carpentier, MIDSD Project Officer (FTS 755-0811) for further information about this contract.

NETWORK UPDATE

Fred Kastner

In recent weeks, COMNET has been concentrating their efforts on improving telecommunications quality and stability for several sites. In New York City, the local telephone company has agreed to make numerous changes to improve the local 300 bps rotor facility. In Chicago, CODEX diagnostic modems were used to identify several problems. The major ones were subsequently resolved by AT&T and the local telephone company. These same diagnostic modems were moved to Seattle and, although no major problems were found, Seattle has reported improved stability. The CODEX modems are presently being moved to Dallas to help identify problems reported by the Dallas users.

During the last few weeks, numerous NCC users have reported loss of data output through the WCC COMTEN. COMNET has reported that this major problem was solved on May 15. Any and all future data loss problems should be reported to COMNET immediately.

To eliminate contention for the local 300 bps Washington, D.C. rotor facility, COMNET is expanding that rotor from 80 to 94 lines. Also, to facilitate 300 bps and 1200 bps access, COMNET is scheduling a reconfiguration of WATS lines and an expansion of local Washington, D.C. 1200 bps facilities.

The BELL 212 modems in RTP (accessed via 541-2071) will soon be replaced with VADIC 3467 modems. These new modems will support users of VADIC modems, 1200 bps acoustic couplers, and Bell 212 modems. This will eliminate the need for 1200 bps users in RTP to dial WATS lines to access NCC or WCC.

The July/August deadline for EPA Data Talk is June 29, 1979. Contributions received after that date will be published at the discretion of the editor.

NOLAN PRESENTATIONS ON ADP MANAGEMENT STUDY

Morris Yaguda

Dr. Richard Nolan presented his findings and recommendations during two separate briefings for Deputy Assistant Administrators and ADP Coordinators on May 16, 1979.

Dr. Nolan pointed out the strengths and weaknesses of EPA's automated information processing. He said, "EPA is a Stage II ADP organization with increasing pressures for Stage IV and V capabilities." The areas needing significant attention are ADP personnel management, data resource management, and strategy formulation and planning.

A four-point strategy was recommended for EPA: (1) Plan the use of ADP in a way which ensures ADP support for EPA's priority objectives and coordinates cross-organization ADP requirements; (2) Manage EPA's data as a resource; (3) Build capabilities in the "enabling" technologies needed to support data resource management; (4) Align EPA's ADP organization to better support the priority needs of EPA.

The DAA-level briefing was chaired by Paul Elston, DAA for Resource Management. The briefing was video-taped and will be available for agency-wide distribution in the near future. For more information about the Nolan Study, contact Morris Yaguda or Ed Franklin at FTS 755-0811.

EPA Data Talk is published bimonthly 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:

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WCC HIGHLIGHTS

Curt Lackey

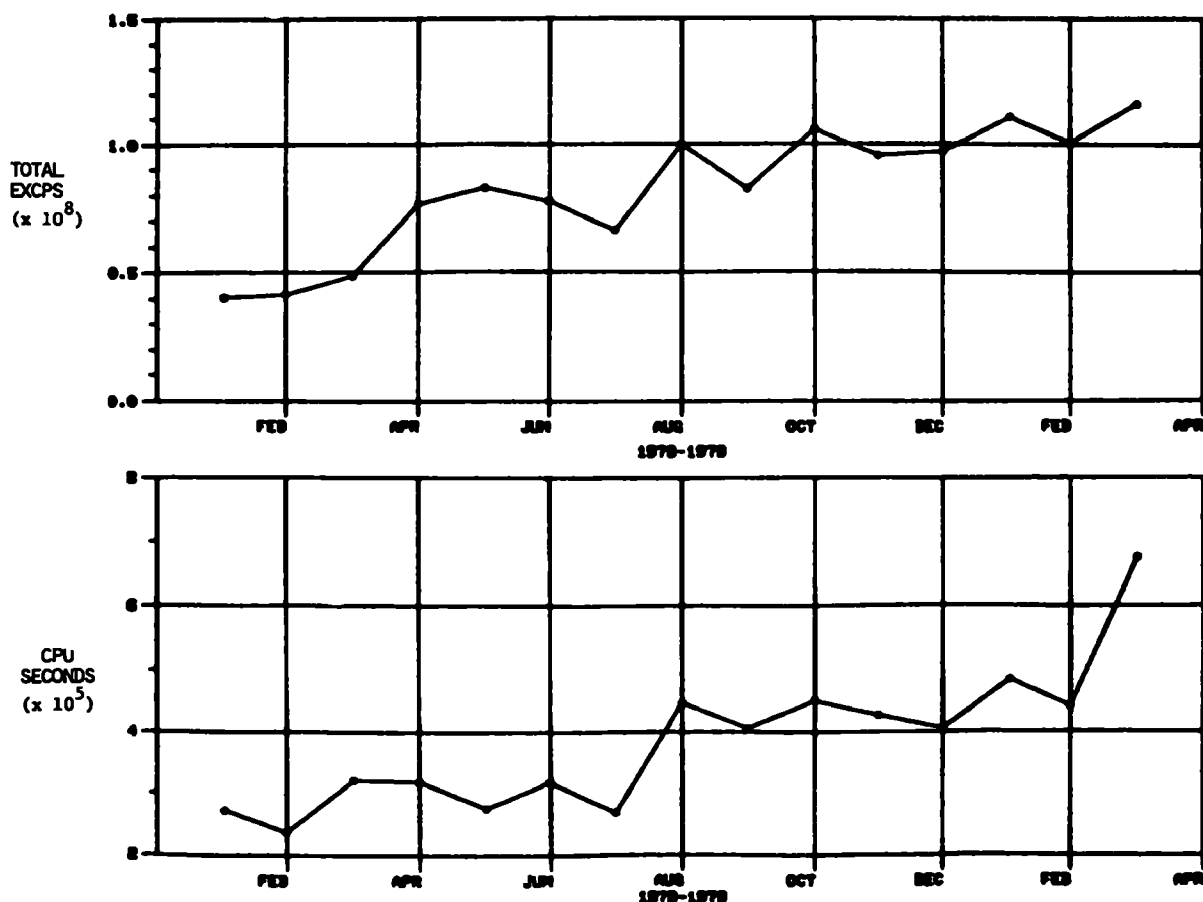
✓ The WCC workload is still growing. Batch jobs increased 14% between the first and second quarters of FY79. Also, the number of ALPHA sessions increased by 9%. Anticipating continued growth, the WCC plans to replace the IBM 370/168 with an IBM 270/3033 around October 1979. The increased power of the 3033 along with the presently installed 3032 should be sufficient to support the growing workload through the remainder of the current contract with COMNET. The graph below reflects two measures of workload growth, EXCPS and CPU seconds.

✓ The ASM2 DASD Space Management System marketed by Cambridge Systems Group, Inc., has been selected for implementation under MVS. ASM2 was chosen after a rigorous study of alternatives. It interfaces with WYLBUR and RACF and operates efficiently with TSO. Other features provided are archiving, compression of datasets, usage reporting, backups, and generation data group retention control. Further, ASM2 will interface with the WCC Tape Management System.

✓ EPA is receiving a monthly report from the Capacity Management Program identifying various areas for performance tuning. Users desiring a copy of the latest report should call WCC User Support.

✓ A Final Design Document for the WCC MVS System is nearing completion and should be ready by the time you read this issue of Data Talk. Copies of this document will be available from WCC User Support.

✓ WCC users may remember the problems of last summer which were aggravated by the extraordinarily heavy ZBB processing requirement. In order that history not repeat itself, MIDSD has asked COMNET to propose commercial processing support for both the R&D and Agency-wide ZBB systems. The R&D proposal was accepted on May 11, 1979. Should the proposal for Agency-wide ZBB support be accepted, WCC users will owe a debt of gratitude to R&D and Planning and Management's Budget Operations Division for their transfer to the COMNET commercial system. Peak ZBB processing combined with MVS testing, would have had a detrimental effect on throughput at the WCC.



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NCC HIGHLIGHTS

Tom Rogers

✓ During March and April, the NCC stability remained at an above average level with 39 total stops. This number is significant considering the hardware modifications made during this period. Entire subsystems of mass storage have been replaced. Historically, such changes have caused trauma to the stability of the SPERRY UNIVAC 1100.

✓ Although March is usually a month of high SUP consumption, last March significantly exceeded all monthly totals to date in terms of total work performed. The user billable SUP's for March totaled 1,463, a 23% increase over the previous high of 1,187 for July 1977. Also, this increase in quantity did not affect quality. More than 95% of all jobs met or exceeded their turnaround goals.

✓ Implementation of the new 8433 disks continues. Two subsystems of 8440 disks have already been replaced with 8433 disks. The third subsystem of 8433 disks is ready for implementation and will be put in production May 21, 1979. The last subsystem of 8440 disks will be phased out just before the fifth subsystem of 8433 disks is installed. When the implementation of all the 8433 disks (5 subsystems) is complete, the user community will have 70% more fixed storage and 12 more removable disk drives available.

✓ In its May, 1979 meeting, the Management Advisory Group (MAG) resolved to discontinue its activities. It was concluded that user participation in ADP planning through the 1980's procurement team and the Performance Evaluation Board was sufficient. The MAG has asked the RTP ADP coordinators to provide recommendations and advise the NCC relative to user concerns.

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