

August 1, 1996

MEMORANDUM

To: Dennis Stropes
From: W. David Wimberly
Copy: ISM-L
Subject: July Status Report

General

Hardware

My replacement hard drive arrived and was installed by CS. Once I reconnected the ribbon cable to the CD-ROM, I reinstalled OS/2 and all software components I use regularly. The only thing I really lost was my e-mail archives and directory (since I use a POP client). The e-mail director is what I miss the most, I'm having to rebuild it slowly.

Report Output Destinations

Rufus contacted me and indicated we needed to setup a time to get together for training the Service Center in the use of this stuff. In response to this request I developed some documentation for the system including quite a bit of background and external information in order to put things in perspective. This was shared with Rufus (and Allen Fields who expressed an interest in making printer definitions) who reviewed it and was to get back with a time to do the training. I am still waiting.

The problem with COEX's printer (previously reported) turned out to be a configuration problem on their end, though Dwight Snow (their Netware administrator) doesn't know what changed to make it stop working. In the process of fixing it though, I believe he learned some things and we actually ended setting up an additional laser printer for their use. I was expecting a call from a user their to 'teach' them how to use the new output destination, but it never came.

The requests that I still consider to be problems because of CS include the following (all previously reported):

- Lennie Carroll of AVCB and Paulette Tate of Grad Ed both have Mac printers connected to Apple Talk and are waiting for Netware print queues to be setup for them (six to eight weeks now, I don't know specifically because my copy of the e-mail request was lost when my hard drive died).
- Ben Hancock in Architecture and Shirley Eaton in Physics have printers directly attached to Macs. I am still awaiting feedback from Mark Franklin (6 to 8 weeks) regarding Mac products that would provide *LPR services*.
- Betty Wilcox and Helen Newton in Law have had their printers (law_124 and law_218a) setup, but the print is not reaching the Mercury print queue. I've talked with Randall regarding this one and he says that the print leaves NPF and that Boyster said it was received by Mercury. However, whenever we try the same thing it doesn't get to Mercury. I suggested in an e-mail to David Boyster (can't get him on the phone) that we attempt this when everyone is watching. This has gone for at least two months and Ken Whalen is extremely dissatisfied (as I am).

I have yet to modify the USA application code to enable online printing for SYSB CMS IDs.

SAG Documentation

I received the CD-ROM with all Software AG documentation and have successfully installed the *components* I thought necessary. It took 70+ megabytes of hard disk space. I am not impressed with the product, though I am sure I need to learn how to better use it. The next challenge will be figuring out how to make it available to those without a CD-ROM drive or have limited hard drive space. It just seems logical that a filer-server implementation would be preferred -- one that could be shared by the entire institution.

BASIS II Files

I held one more discussion session regarding our files, this time focusing on the BASIS II files.

Names in Base 27

I've developed some code to convert an alphabetic value to base 27 in order to conserve space in files and indexes. The idea is to store an employee's base 27 name on secondary files (like Labor-Distribution) and use this value as part of an index in place of Emp-ID in order to provide lists in alpha order; and to do this even though the employee's name may be changed on the employee file and thus inconsistent. The space savings were not as great as I expected, 16 characters of a name can be compressed into 10 bytes in a base 27 value.

Labor Distribution

The *load* for the last overtime/supplement of FY '96 data bombed with duplicate records because an individual had two overtime records which did not get consolidated (a regular earnings record ended up in-between them). I had to zap the production data to get it loaded.

I moved the new load processes, and numerous other changes that had been made but not yet migrated, into production. The first new load bombed due to an error dealing with the *loaded indicator*. This was easily diagnosed and corrected. The second load also bombed and so I was called again. This time, however, it was a user problem due to an invalid SSN entered within MSA. I have heard of no other problems with these new processes.

I wrote and ran some programs, and Pete, Becky, and I discussed possibilities of fixing the actual fringe benefits within Labor. However, it appears that this would be an extremely time consuming effort and it was decided to abandon the idea. Actual fringe benefits in Labor for FY '96 are unreliable, at least above a certain SSN.

The first payrolls of July went into July accounting effective the date paid, even though they were coded as FY '96 payrolls. A user noticed this. Larrie was able to cancel the transactions for one payroll because they were future dated and had suspended. I got production to zap the input file for another (we found out the day it was going to accounting) and get Production to substitute a copy in which I changed the date to 06/30/96. For the other, I had to get Production to restore the input transactions, reverse the debit/credit code and send back through, and on another copy change the date to 06/30 and send through. Following this mess, I modified the *load* code to change the date to 06/30 of the FY if the FY is not the same as the date paid. I also made a similar change in the dating of retroactive changes.

I've also provided support to Michael for the JOBS setup for his CCC based transaction extract and questions regarding the occupation based transaction extract.

Purchasing/AP

I attended lots of meetings mostly dealing with the payment and disbursing functions, although credit memos, closing POs, expenditure coding, and non-resident alien topics also were addressed.

My most significant activities have involved the development of the new *Administrative Text Manager*, or ATM as I have currently named it. The only major functions still lacking are a scan and/or replace feature and an *insert text from other entity* option, though there are certainly many small problems and bugs remaining. My current effort is to package this into callable subprograms invoked from standard copycode so that it will be simple to invoke from various functions, and to develop the Purchasing Text management function to demonstrate its use and provide a base for testing.

Position Control

I attended the regular meetings and had limited involvement in discussions regarding PSB conversion and implementation.

Budget

I participated in several meetings discussing the concepts and screens for the budget components, mostly to educate Eric and address his questions.

Supplemental Pay

I have reviewed and provided feedback for documentation that Becky has been working on regarding the online functions for this subsystem. I still need to make file definition changes as last discussed.