

July 2, 1996

MEMORANDUM

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

General

Hardware

My hard drive has died. I have called in a problem report and am to receive an estimate for a new drive within a couple of days. In the meantime I am booting DOS from a floppy, running Kermit from a floppy, and dialing in on a modem to access SYSA and ADMIN.

Report Output Destinations

I believe there was only one successful setup of a printer this month, though there have been many requests. Going through the unresolved requests/inquiries I have received yields the following summary:

- Melissa Simpson of BADM could not provide the necessary details regarding her setup and was to have Bill Jasinski (departmental computing expert) call me. I have attempted to call Bill but have not had my phone calls returned.
- Javene Mounce of Civil Engineering has put me in contact with Emory Faulkner (departmental computing expert). They currently do not have networked printer, but have an NT server on order and would like to wait until it is up and working.
- Clara Hafen of University Relations was to have Victor (departmental computing expert) call me regarding her configuration. He has not called.
- Ian Cumming of ENRC indicated that he had a printer with a Netport XL connection that we could LPR to, and that he would get his own domain name setup for it. I haven't heard back.
- Burnadette in Engineering was going to have Maurice (departmental computing expert) call me. I haven't received the call.
- Marium Twyford of Arts and Science was going to have David Steffarud (departmental computing expert) call after her new computer arrives.
- Lennie Carroll of AVCB and Paulette Tate of Grad Ed both have Mac printers connected to Apple Talk. After some investigation I learned that a Netware print queue can be setup for these and that the Novell Server would communicate with them over the Apple Talk network. A request to have these print queues established has been turned in, but I haven't heard anything regarding the request.
- Ben Hancock in Architecture and Shirley Eaton in Physics have printers directly attached to Macs. I have been directed to Mark Franklin who is investigating what products are available to provide *LPR services* on a Mac.
- Jane Anders and Linda Perry of Agri have made inquiries and are working through Brenda Wideman. Brenda is also working with other Agri folks wanting to print and is front-ending all their requests including getting domain names and appropriate software installed (they don't have any networked printers).
- 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. Problem reports have been

turned in on these. At one point Randall indicated that the print left NPF (on MVS), but the print was still not received at the other end.

- The printer for COEX (EPSON_B01@uaex) was setup and working earlier, but ceased working a couple weeks ago. A problem report was turned in but I have not heard anything back. When the user attempted to also report the problem, she was passed to Becky and Pete (she is using LABOR). I ran the reports they needed myself and routed the print to them the old way (via NETPRINT).

The user exit to provide landscape output on non-postscript HP printers now works and includes a small font so that data is not lost on wide reports. I still need to modify the USA application code to enable online printing for SYSB CMS IDs and plug this form number when printing from online.

Fax Server

David Keith and I have been discussing the Fax server, with his interest being the designation of a fax destination on the Purchasing-BU table. I think we can defer that specific issue, and should pursue establishing fax output as a possible MVS Output Destination. Given the persistent problems in getting regular printers established as MVS Output Destinations, the fax server could provide a better solution for many. The beauty of it would be that the applications would not have to be changed. We would have to develop a *Natural Server* that would run continuously waiting for print jobs to arrive. It would then insert the necessary fax server controls into the print and *LPR* the modified print file to the fax server. One problem will be what to do if the fax server isn't up or doesn't accept our print job.

University of Tennessee

Janet Hickman, Systems Analysts for UT Knoxville, visited us briefly last Fall to see our Leave and Hourly Time systems. They are about to initiate development of a *time and attendance* system and requested additional documentation regarding our systems. I collected what documentation was available and sent this to her.

User Profile

I discovered that the user profile was not honoring the setting to ignore program assigned colors. For some reason, this terminal control command would not work when a variable was used but did work when hardcoded. I suspect that this *bug* was introduced in some version of *Natural*, but went unnoticed. I recoded it to not use the variable, and apparently threw some folks a curve when it started working correctly and their screen colors were suddenly different. I should have announced this when the change was made rather than afterward.

BASIS Files

In response to your request, I developed some overview documentation identifying the ADABAS files used by the BASIS applications. This was a good exercise and provides a central place where all of these files are identified. I also conducted two discussion sessions, one regarding these files in general and the other focusing on BASIS I files. At least one other session is planned.

Data Warehouse

I attended the data warehouse update provided by El and Akbar and am impressed by the slick PC based query products. Given the adhoc reporting transition that is going to be required in HR if we are to wean some data away from MSA, I would like to see them move

directly to the warehouse for their adhoc reporting. We will need to identify the files and elements needed and then build the extracts for this data to be passed on to the Data Warehouse team. In this case, the update of the warehouse could probably lag the 4 or 5 MSA updates per month.

Other

I participated in several organization meetings during the month and took three days off, limiting my productivity.

Labor Distribution

I continued testing and enhancing the *load1* rewrite. The state unemployment insurance calculation was changed to use the self correcting logic employed for worker's compensation, the wage base used to calculate both was added to the summary report, total actual fringe benefits by DOE were added to the report, and a switch setting was turned off to prevent erroneous errors. Parallel runs were also made on the June payrolls with the variance reports provided to Becky. Approval has been provided to move this version into production, which will require production JCL changes and probably occur at the fiscal year break (after 7/12). A one time report was developed and run for David Whitmire to show folks with the special fringe benefit rate, and another developed to attempt to identify erroneous actual fringe benefits. A bug was also corrected in the GLII report involving the percent of gross payroll for each Company.

Purchasing/AP

Meeting activity in this area slacked off during June, which was a welcome relief. Some file changes were made and migrated to DEMO and I provided Donna one more review of her documentation on the receiving functions. I have started development of the *full* text management facility, but have only made limited progress to date -- the entry and reformatting of text. This facility will use paragraph formatting characteristics similar to a word processor and reformat the text as it is entered. Next I will be working on the *marking* of selected text so that it can be deleted, copied, or moved. Other features to be developed include changing the paragraph format, inserting space within existing text, inserting/removing paragraph breaks, insertion of text from other sources, search and replace, etc.

Position Control

I coordinated the migration of file changes to DEMO, performed further testing and documentation involving cutoff processing, and developed the retroactive change lists LDTP and LRDP. I am also participating in meetings discussing and planning for PSB conversion and implementation.

Departmental Accounting

Further discussion was held and changes made to the Dept-Acct-Category and Dynamic-Balance files.

Supplemental Pay

We have now decided that this component is just the first piece of the new Payroll application. A supplemental pay file has been defined and the basic concepts for this system have been laid out, including the following screens.

- ECOL - A TARGET function for processing extra compensation and overload requests (or was it OLEC?).
- SUPP - A supplemental pay entry screen for HR.
- PADJ - A payroll adjustment screen for HR.

Hourly Time Sheets

I was called in, and called in Ava and Katrina, when HR decided to extend the cutoff for hourly time after the cutoff, Payroll feed, roll, and load/validate. I tried to emphasize the danger of such actions, and that if they were going to do this kind of thing they need written procedures that can be reviewed and tested in advance.