

CSIRO information circular

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ADDITIONS TO COMPUTING FACILITIES AND CHARGING VARIATIONS

(1) Additional facility

Due to unforeseen delays in the procurement of new equipment, the load on CSIRO's computing facilities has increased to a stage where the equipment currently in use cannot cope with the demand. The Executive has therefore looked for alternative means of satisfying scientists' computing needs on modern equipment available in Australia and has decided that a MARC II 200-User Terminal should be installed at the premises of the Division of Computing Research in Canberra. The terminal will be linked by a private telephone line to the Control Data 6600 in Sydney, owned and operated by Control Data, Data-Services Division.

It is believed that a substantial part of the load on CSIRO's computing facilities will be relieved by the transference of the more time-consuming jobs to the 6600, and an appeal is made for users currently submitting jobs of this class to contact the Director of Technical Services, Division of Computing Research, Canberra to determine the suitability of their jobs for conversion. A programme is already available on the 3600 for the purposes of automatically converting most Fortran statements from the 3600 form to the 6600 form: where automatic conversion is not possible, and where difficulties due to compatibility are likely to arise, the offending statement is flagged. Appropriate jobs will be converted by means of this conversion programme, free of charge to the user, who will be assisted also to make the further changes necessary to enable the job to be processed on the 6600.

It is recognised that allocation of costs for 6600 use will pose some problems, which will be overcome as experience is gained. The Division of Computing Research undertakes the responsibility of ensuring that all users will benefit by the use of the terminal and that costs to the terminal user are not significantly greater than those currently charged for the use of CSIRO facilities. It is expected that some discussion with users will at times be necessary in order to determine the appropriate "transfer factor" to be applied.

Obviously, when considering the transfer of work from the 3600 to the CDC 6600, it will be necessary to concentrate on the larger and more suitable computing jobs.

(2) Charging changes

With the increase in facilities, and with inevitable increases in costs of computing in recent times, it has been decided also that charging rates for computing facilities should be reviewed.

Central processing time and drum usage are the only two resources of the computing facilities currently being charged to the user, while other resources with comparable actual and recurrent costs have been free of charge.

As from 1st February, 1970, charges for actual processing time and for drum document storage on the 3600 (modified for peripheral usage) will not change, but the following additional rates, which relate to the usage of resources, will apply throughout the network:-

- (a) Rental for storage of disc documents:
\$0.04/track/day (1 track = 8,000 characters)
- (b) Priority access (break-in):
double standard CPU charge.
- (c) Mounting charges for magnetic tapes:
equivalent of 15 secs. of 3600 time.
- (d) Mounting of non-standard paper for line printers or plotters:
equivalent of 1 min. of 3600 time.
- (e) Magnetic tape storage:
\$1.00/tape/month.

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