provides forms and procedures for maintaining important word processing information and standards, such as listing abbreviation /paragraph library codes; storing list processing routines, field names, and form layouts; and maintaining ruler, printer, and user-defined key settings. A glossary includes over 100 word processing terms.

Published March 1983, 224 pages, order number EY-00019-DP, available from Digital Press, Digital Equipment Corporation, 12-A Esquire Road, Billerica, Mass 01862

****

They Soon Forget

from the "Communications Briefing", January, 1983

"People forget 40% of what you say to them 20 minutes later. Worse, they forget 90% in one week and 95% in two weeks."

Dave Johnson, author of those statistics, notes that people recall 60% of a message repeated six times.

To sell an idea, Johnson suggests repeating the main advantages in different contexts.

****

Subscription Service

This month, the active U.S. DECUS members have been mailed information and order forms for the DECUS Subscription Service. If you have not received the packet yet, please notify the DECUS office. One Iron Way, (MR02-1/C11), Marlboro, Ma 01752.

****

Help Me, Please

Charles Stewart of Baker and Taylor Company is looking for someone who can talk with him about suggestions for an OA system that can do block-mode transmissions to a DEC 20/60 using VT131 terminals, if possible. If any of you can help Charles, he would appreciate a call at (201)-526-8000.

****

LAS VEGAS COUNTDOWN SCHEDULE

Date	Event
Mar 21, 1983	Call For Participation To Publications
Mar 29	Call For Participation To Printers
Apr 11	Call For Participation Mailed (3rd class)
May 23 - 27	Spring '83 Symposium - St. Louis, MO
Jun 06	Pre-Symposium Seminar Info to DECUS Office
Jun 10	Deadline for Calls
Jun 13	Registration Kit W/Pre-Symposium Seminar Info To Publications
Jun 20	Handout Editors Identified by SIG Chairmen
Jun 20	Registration Kit To Printer
Jun 27	Final Review And Screening Of All Calls By Symposium Committee
Jul 05	All Symposium Committe Members To Have Submitted Documentation On Substreams, Priorities, Conflicts, Estimated Attendance To Their Scheduling Sub-Committee Representative
Jul 11	Registration Kit Mailed (3rd class)
Jul 11 - 15	Scheduling Meeting
Jul 11 - 15	Editing of Abstracts
Jul 18	Confirmation Letters In Production
Jul 18	Sessions At A Glance To Printers
Jul 25 - 29	Final Editing of Abstracts And Coding Of Floppies
Aug 05	Preliminary Program To Publications
Aug 12	Preliminary Program To Printers
Aug 15	Formal Program Floppies To Typeset
Aug 23	Session Notes Due To Editors
Sep 05	Formal Program To DECUS Office From Typeset For Combining With Indexes And Front Matter
Sep 06	Session Notes For Sessions Due To DECUS Office
Sep 09	Preliminary Program Mailed
Sep 09	Addendum To Publications
Sep 12	Formal Program To Printers
Sep 16	Addendum To Printers
Oct 03	Formal Program
Oct 24 - 28	Fall '83 Symposium - Las Vegas, Nevada
Nov 11	Call For Participation For Spring '84 To Publications
Nov 18	Call For Participation To Printers
Dec 09	Call For Participation Mailed (3rd class)
Feb 02 - 06, 1984	Scheduling Meeting

JOHN MCMAHAN ASSOC. INC.
201 CALIFORNIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO
CA 94111
28-APR-83 2338 4618 00488
28-APR-83 2357 M896 NYC WU

CLYDE E KELLEY
OA NEWSLETTER C/O DECUS
ONE IRON WAY MR2-3/E55
MARLBORO MA 01752

    - ECOM - US POST OFFICE ELECTRONIC COMPUTER ORIGINATED MAIL -
----

RE: NEW STRATGEY FOR NO. 2 IN COMPUTERS
    BUSINESS WEEK - MAY 2, 1983

THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS SENT TO THE EDITOR OF BUSINESSWEEK
MAGAZINE. YOU BE INTERESTED IN USING ALL OR PART OF IT IN THE NEXT
OA SIG NEWSLETTER:

IN 1978 WE BECAME ONE OF DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION'S EARLY (AND
LOYAL) CUSTOMERS IN THE WORD PROCESSING AND OFFICE AUTOMATION AREA.
SINCE THEN, WE HAVE BEEN BAFFLED FREQUENTLY BY THE UNPREDICABLE AND
CHAOTIC NATURE OF DEC WHICH YOU SO CORRRECTLY REPORTED IN YOUR MAY
2ND ARTICLE.

THROUGH OUR OWN EFFORTS, WE WERE POSSIBLY THE FIRST SMALL BUSINESS
USER IN CALIFORNIA TO INSTALL DEC'S VT-180 PERSONAL COMPUTERS AS
EXECUTIVE WORKSTATIONS IN A TOTALLY INTEGRATED MULTI-USER DEC
OFFICE SYSTEM. WE DID THIS ON OUR OWN AND WITH LITTLE INTEREST OR
SUPPORT FROM THOSE AT DEC WHO WE THOUGHT WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED.

FOR US, THE "OFFICE OF THE FUTURE" IS ALREADY HERE: USING THIS
MARRIAGE OF A DEC MINI-COMPUTER WORD PROCESSING SYSTEM AND A NUMBER
OF DEC MICRO-COMPUTERS AS WORK STATIONS, OUR EXECUTIVES EASILY
RETRIEVE DATA, DRAFT LETTERS AND REPORTS, PERFORM FINANCIAL
ANALYSIS, TRANSFER THE RESULTS TO CENTRAL WORD PROCESSING, HAVE
THEIR SECRETARIES EDIT AND APEND TEXT, AND ULTIMATELY TRANSMIT THE
RESULTS TO OTHERS WITHIN OUR OFFICE OR TO OUR CLIENTS WORLDWIDE VIA
ELECTRONIC MAIL OR THE TELEX NETWORK.

WITHOUT THIS EXTENSIVE USE OF OFFICE AUTOMATION, IT IS DOUBTFUL
THAT OUR SMALL FIRM COULD HAVE ACHIEVED ITS RAPID A GROWTH AND
SUCCESS AMONG THE MANY LARGER COMPETITORS IN THE INSTITUTIONAL
INVESTMENT INDUSTRY.

EVEN SO, AFTER FIVE YEARS WITH DEC, WE NOW FIND THAT WE HAVE NO
SAES REPRESENTATIVE SERVICING OUR ACCOUNT BECAUSE, DEC TELLS US,
OUR COMPANY IS CONSIDERED TOO LARGE FOR DIGITAL'S RETAIL STORES AND

<cM896> <g4618> <m00488> <s16> <r01752>

TOO SMALL FOR THEIR DIRECT SALES ORGANIZATION.

WHEN WE CORRESPOND WITH DIGITAL CONCERNING OUR SPECIFIC WORD
PROCESSING OR OFFICE AUTOMATION NEEDS WITHIN OUR EXISTING SYSTEM,
WE FIND THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR EARLY DIGITAL OFFICE
PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED AS A PART OF THE REORGANIZATION AND
THAT NO ONE IS IN CHARGE OF DEALING WITH OUR PARTICULAR OFFICE
AUTOMATION NEEDS.

TO UNDERSTAND THIS PARADOX ONE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT, UNLIKE IBM,
DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION HAS HISTORICALLY DEALT ONLY WITH THE
SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL COMPUTER MARKET WHERE THE END USER IS
TECHNICALLY SKILLED AND HAS A RELATIVELY SMALL INVESTMENT IN
COMPUTER HARDWARE COMPARED HIS TOTAL INVESTMENT IN PLANT AND
EQUIPMENT.

INDEED, DEC HAS A LONG ROAD TO TRAVEL IN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE
TYPICAL OFFICE AUTOMATION USER WHICH DEC SEEKS WILL HAVE MORE
CAPITAL TIED UP IN THE COMPUTER SYSTEM THAN IN ANY OTHER ELEMENT OF
OFFICE OPERATION. AS SUCH, THAT OFFICE USER REQUIRES A VERY
DIFFERENT LEVEL OF SALES, SUPPORT, AND PLANNING FOR PHASED
MIGRATION FROM SYSTEM TO SYSTEM.

WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT KEN OLSEN'S TROOPS FIGURE THIS OUT BEFORE
THEIR VERY NEW AND VERY SLICK MARKETING PROGRAM GAINS DEC A LARGE
NUMBER OF FRUSTRATED OFFICE AUTOMATION CUSTOMERS WHO BUY ONCE BUT
FAIL TO STAY WITH DEC DESPITE ALL OF THE COMPANY'S EXCELLENT
ENGINEERING, TOP-NOTCH FIELD SERVICE, AND CLAIMED SYSTEM
COMPATIBILITY.

WILLIAM LEE ROBERTS
JOHN MCMAHAN ASSOCIATES, INC.
REAL ESTATE ASSET MANAGERS
SAN FRANCISCO

00952

123 Alto Street
P. O. Box 3437
San Rafael, Ca. 94912
(415) 453-4103

& Mailing Service, Inc.
"The Professional Touch in Ink"

US POSTAL SERVICE E-COM
ACCESSED WITH PDP8/E

Ace Printing & Mailing Service in San Rafael, California is one
of the 176 certified carriers of the Postal Services Electronic
Computer Originated Mail Service (E-COM). Using Decmates and
WPS-8 Word Processing Software to serve customers with common
text messages (COT)and text insertion messages (TIM). We found
many hoops to jump through and a manual difficult to understand,
but with telephone assisstance from the tech center and others in
the USPS,we were successfully certified. Whenever one of out
customers wishes to send multiple messages fast, and keep the
cost down, E-COM is a good way to go. We maintain a file of
addressees for each customer list and merely merge the list with
a message with WPS-8. The format requirements are filed as a
separate document, then retrieved and the new message inserted.
The formatting as required by USPS is unforgiving and must be
precise. One observer has remarked that "the only thing that
could be added to make it more complicated, is to somehow tie it
into AMTRAK". It is working however, and we are able to serve our
customers in a new and expanding area.

We are using our Decmates for Word Processing, Payroll, Telephone
data transmission, and several programs developed in-house under
OS-78 for Invoicing, Estimating and other business related needs.

Two PDP11/04 with 600lpm printers are being used for mailing list
management and label generation using software developed by Bell
& Howell.

by Vernon L Burns, President
Ace Printing & Mailing Service

Louis L. Chopin Cusachs
Diploma d'Etudes Superieures
Director of Philosophy

Mr. Tom Orlowski
HQDA, TAGO
Attn: DAAG-ID
2461 Eisenhower Ave.
Arlington, VA 22331   9 March 1983

Dear Tom,

I reply to your suggestion by telephone.

We are concerned with communication between PDP8's and VAX via
Floppy Disks.   The physical drives are identical (RX02) but the
recording formats are not. We have been supplied a routine for the
PDP8, RTPIP, which can write an RT-11 floppy, but not read anything.
RT-11 would be fine, though Files-11 would be better; but we are
looking for a package for the PDP8 that will write and read something
VAX can also write and read.   A package for the VAX to read/write
OS8 style would be a bandaid we could live with.

I will be glad to pass on any news to a few others with similar
concerns, particularly to the Houston RT-11 LUG.

Very cordially,

Choppy Cusachs
Co-Chairman, Houston VAX LUG
#137710

S-187
Exxon Production Research Co.
Box 2189 Houston, TX 77001

(713)965-4173 (O)
     923-2496 (H)

12 Bit/PDP-8/DECmate Contact List

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Bob Hassinger
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(617)-435-9061

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DECUS 12 BIT NEWSLETTER
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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

    Submissions are accepted at all times and are normally
used in the next issue to go to press regardless of date of
receipt.

    Material submitted in machine readable form is
particularly desirable because it can be edited and
incorporated into the newsletter format more easily. Higher
quality reproduction is also possible this way. Contact Bob
Hassinger for further details on acceptable media and
formats if you plan to make a submission in machine readable
form.

HELLO AGAIN

    Yes, this is really the latest incarnation of the 12
Bit SIG Newsletter. Since last Fall's issue I have been
involved in a very unhappy series of events involving the 12
Bit SIG. The Fall and early Winter was spent fighting for
the SIG's future status. See below for details. Several
proposed Symposium sessions were lost due to the way this
was handled by DECUS. The rest of the Winter and Spring has
been devoted to a series of problems and delays in
establishing liason with Office Automation SIG and setting
up how we are going to proceed from here. Considering that
I have devoted over a dozen years to the 12 Bit SIG you can
understand that it has not been a particularly happy time
for me.

If you still want 12 Bit activities in DECUS you are going to have to prove it. You personally are going to have to demonstrate active participation - submit a paper or session for the next Symposium - submit a program to the Program Library - send me something for the newsletter - start a project like organizing and reviewing part of the Program Library - start a Local User group - etc. All of you that have called or written me asking for help over the years, it is your turn now!

If you need help getting started, give me a call - I can help. We have a number of resources to draw on. We can get several of you together to divide up the work. DECUS and DEC will not let us continue at all unless you do this. Prove you still need the 12 Bit SIG and are willing to do a little to make it happen, give me a call. This may be your last chance.

12 Bit Committee

Robert Hassinger
- address above -
(617) 435-3452

COS/DIBOL and WPS liason
Lawrence H. Eisenberg
17141 Nance Street
Encino, California 91316
(213) 788-0354

Education, Multiuser systems, PASCAL
Father Geoffrey Chase O.S.B.
Portsmouth Abbey School
Portsmouth, RI 02871
(401) 683-2000

Representitive to DECUS Product Planning Committee
Jim van Zee
Lab Data Systems
10320 Ravenna Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98125
(206) 522-6950

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have been paying attention to your mail, you know by now that free Newsletters end in June. After more than five years of talking, DECUS has finally decided to start a subscription fee system. In order to try to ensure more regular publication, many of the present Newsletters have been grouped. All the material from the group will be distributed as one unit. In our case, we are now a part of the Office Automation SIG's Newsletter which in turn is going to be published together with several other related Newsletters. DECUS can not make any promises about what you

are going to get for your Newsletter subscription fees since most of the writing, editing and typing of the Newsletters is done in spare time by volunteers. For example, I have no idea how much 12-bit material we will have - it depends on you. In spite of this if you want to keep getting what does come out in the various Newsletters you have to get your money in to DECUS now. If you have lost the subscription form, contact the DECUS office.

THE ONCE (AND FUTURE?) 12 BIT SIG

This Newsletter is being sent to the 12 Bit SIG mailing list as well as the Office Automation SIG list. The following will try to explain what has been happening and why.

First, what is the 12 Bit SIG and where did it come from? In 1970, then DECUS president John Alderman decided that DECUS needed Special Interest groups to focus attention on areas of particular interest to groups of members. In particular, the hot topic at the time was a new operating system for the PDP-8 called PS/8 (the PDP-11 was not really an issue yet!). There were many problems, users needed a way to get together to help one another and to communicate problems and needs to DEC in connection with the new software.

After some difficulty getting started, John spotted me at a West Coast symposium session. Since I was fairly confident of being able get to the next symposium, in the East, he asked me to take the job of getting the SIG going "temporarily" - with a newsletter - "just till the next symposium". John never produced a replacement. No one ever produced a replacement. No one ever asked what they needed to do to run for my job. No one ever asked how it was that I got the job. No one I asked was willing and able to take the job. For more than a dozen years I have said just ask and the job is yours - no one has!

As time went on and DEC changed the name of PS/8 to OS/8 to get around a price freeze we changed our name from PS/8 SIG to OS/8 SIG and then to 12 Bit SIG to reflect the broader interests of the membership extending to other operating systems such as COS and WPS. The greatest interest has always been in the area of general purpose use based on the OS/8 family of operating systems.

The SIG idea proved to be a good one and others formed. Some of the SIGs felt they wanted formal organizational structure so they formed steering committees, wrote bylaws and so on. Pretty soon they imposed their idea of how a SIG should be organized on all SIGs. In response I asked a group of our members to form a 12 Bit Steering Committee. This group has meet a number of times over the years and even had a meeting with the DECUS Executive Board to discuss

the SIG's status. Every time the question of formal bylaws, elections and so on was considered the decision was to leave things as they were - apparently they were satisfied with what was being done. The way things were being done was discussed in the Newsletter and at SIG meetings at Symposia and inputs were solicited from the entire membership (in our formative years DECUS did not have a way to support a SIG wide election or referendum - this was all that could be done). All inputs were considered and incorporated in our operation. Unfortunately some of the people from the "organized" SIGs have never been able to understand or accepted this informal organization and now some of them are in positions of considerable power in DECUS.

The original orientation of the SIG was to publish a Newsletter. Soon, we started getting suggestions that a SIG meeting at Symposia was a good idea. We did this and soon other SIGs did too. Many of them started organizing substantial portions of the Symposium program. This has grown to the point were the Symposia are totally dominated by SIG organized sessions and commercial DEC presentations. The papers and so on have almost vanished. Every SIG is now expected to generate a volume of Symposia activity to keep the meetings growing and profitable.

In the last two or three years no one in DEC has been concerned with selling PDP-8 systems so there has been no new hardware or software development. Also there has been no one interested in paying the cost of sending representatives to participate in the Symposia. In fact DEC has not even been able to designate a "counterpart" for the 12 Bit SIG in recent years. DEC and DECUS have an agreement to provide these counterpart contacts for each SIG to interface with DEC. The failure of DEC and DECUS to honor the committment has made it impossible to organize the types of Symposia sessions the 12 Bit SIG membership has responded to over the years. We need DEC representatives to discuss DEC policies and plans and to responded to the on-going needs of those who are still using systems DEC has sold in the past. Worse yet, the repeated promises by the DECUS leadership to correct the problem, followed by a lack of results has been a major problem - admitting they could not do it would have been better - we could have gotten on with other approaches rather than waiting for them if we had known they were not going to do what they promised.

One of the important results of all this has been that 12 Bit activities at the Symposia have dwindled. The present DECUS leadership is very strongly oriented towards face to face contact at the Symposia. If we can not show them rooms full of people they do not think the SIG is real. They want to see a dozen committees with many people on each working on all sorts of projects and rows of people getting up at the microphone to talk about their problems and ideas. They want the whole SIG steering committee to be at the

Symposium. In fact there has been a lot of talk in the current leadership to the effect that you should not hold office in DECUS unless you are assured of attendance at the Symposia.

The present DECUS leadership does not read our Newsletter and would not be in a position to judge it's content or value if they did. Viewing the 12-bit world from the perspective of a large multi-user operation, etc. does not work. They do not see the 12 Bit SIG activity at the Symposia they think is mandatory. They ignore 12 Bit SIG participation on the Library, Newsletter and SIG Chairman committees, demanding SIG level committees get busy building DECUS into a bigger and bigger empire.

There has been a vague indication that some elements in DEC have been actively working to close out the PDP-8 and that part of this has been to actively eliminate the 12 Bit SIG since it has not gone away on it's own like the 18 Bit SIG and others. Some very important people at DEC seem embarrassed and uncomfortable about the PDP-8's continued visibility. I do not know what truth there is in this but it would help explain otherwise irrational events and decisions.

At the SIG Chairman meeting last Fall it became apparent that the DECUS leadership had decided to end the 12 Bit SIG. From then until the end of January I worked trying to explain what we are, what we are doing and why. It was a lost cause, they had made up their minds. They paid no attention when I refuted their claims and pointed out their factual errors. They saw only what they wanted to see and that was it. The Executive Board "decided" (not even a recorded vote?) to "formally delicense" the 12 Bit SIG at the end of January.

The letter from Ray French announcing the action says: "This does not mean that DECUS will no longer support 12-bit activities, it only means 12-bit activities will no longer be supported as a separate SIG" (i.e. no Newsletter, no representation on committees, etc. - RH). The "facts" Ray cites are incorrect and distorted. They are obviously just rationalizations for a decision really taken on other grounds. The fact that none of their reasons are actually true or correct and that the decision was not based on clearly defined criteria communicated in writing to the SIG in a way that permitted it to comply with the requirements for continued existence seems to be of no consequence. The fact of the matter is the board members do not know us, do not understand what we are about and so can not see why to let us go on existing.

The Board decided to place responsibility for 12-bit support under the new Office Automation SIG. Part of this decision was that DEC said that the only way they would

provide support for 12-bit activities was under OA.
"However, Digital made it clear that they will not initiate
any support activities, but will only respond to requests or
requirements defined by groups of 12-bit users willing to
follow through on such requests." Ray wants us to develop
groups of volunteers willing to actively work 12-bit issues.

To start on the revised organization, I am considered a
member of the OA steering committee, responsible for 12-bit
issues and I will contribute our 12-bit material to the OA
Newsletter. The currently active members of the 12 Bit SIG
steering committee plus new members will be our starting
point for the 12-bit committee. There is plenty of room on
the committee and it is not hard to get on it!

It looks like this is the last great chance for all you
12-bit users to do something to help yourselves and your
fellow users. DECUS has the desire and the means to respond
to interested users. The current feeling in DECUS is that
any reasonable idea can be presented and done - the key is
active, involved, visible people working on it. All of you
who have been taking it easy, letting someone else carry the
ball must now come forward with ideas and energy. This is a
good chance to become active in DECUS by the way. Many of
the larger SIGs have a lot of well entrenched people that
make it hard for new people to get things done. The
opportunities in the 12-bit area are wide open and you have
the chance to take advantage of more knowledge and
experience in dealing with DECUS and DEC than is available
in most other SIGs! Consider that there may be projects
that can be addressed from the 12-bit context which have
impact beyond the 12-bit area (i.e. you may be able to get
your pet project going under 12-bit auspices when it would
be harder elsewhere).

For the future, it should be noted that there have been
questions of what happens to DEC's "support" for 12-bit
activities when they stop selling 12-bit equipment to the OA
market or of various other things happen. Ray's letter says
this: "If, after a reasonable period of time, this
(supporting 12-bit under OA) should prove unacceptable to
the 12-bit user community, we will discuss possible courses
of action at that time." - Not too encouraging but better
than nothing I suppose.

If you don't get busy NOW and start being active, YOU
will not have any place to go for help and interchange of
ideas and information. Write me and tell me what you can do
and what you are interested in.

The 12 Bit SIG was the first to be formed, the first to
publish a Newsletter, the first to hold sessions at
Symposia, etc. It seems only fitting that it be the first
SIG to be forcibly dissolved! Remember: "Just because you
are paranoid doesn't mean they'er not all out to get you."

PASCAL-S NEWS

Father Chase noticed the articles on PASCAL-S in the
last newsletter and became quite interested. I got him
together with the material currently available in the US.
Since then he has been busy figuring out the program,
converting the messages to English and generally making it
more accessible to this part of the world. The intention is
that this version of PASCAL-S be submitted to the DECUS
Program Library so it will be easily accessible to everyone.
At last report, Father Chase was trying to coordinate the
submission with the author and the German 12-Bit SIG. The
following sections are taken from Father Chase's
documentation. If there are any errors in it they were
introduced by me while reformatting the files to work on my
system (RH).

PASCAL-S is a subset of the programming language
PASCAL, defined by Niklaus Wirth in Report No. 12 of the
Institute for Information Science at the E.T.H. in
Zurich. This implementation of PASCAL was designed for a
PDP-8/E with 28-K words of processor memory, running
under the OS/8 operating system.

RUNNING PASCAL-S

Source program text may be created or revised with
any of the OS/8 File Editors, including MUTOR(1), EDIT
and TECO. The standard source program suffix is .PS .

To compile and run PASCAL-S programs:

```
.R PASCAL
*DEV:OUTPUT.EX<DEV:SOURCE,DEV:INPUT.EX/Option(s)
   output file     source     input file
```

[the default input and output 'file' is the user's
terminal]

SEQUENCE of OPERATIONS

1. The Compiler prints a header, with version and date.

2. The source program is listed on the user's console.
    On the left of each line is the decimal address of
    the code generated by the line.

3. If syntax errors are detected, they are flagged on a
    line immediately below the source program line, thus:

(1)MUTOR is a multi-user File Editor developed at
HTL-Moedling. Version 04 is specially adapted to writing
PASCAL source code, as it permits inclusion by reference of
previously written PASCAL procedures.

```
     20  COUNTER=COUNTER-1;
     #####          #51                 (the = is an error)
```

At the end of the source program listing, the numeric
error codes are explained in plain language.
PASCAL-S then returns to the OS/8 Monitor.

4. An error-free program is executed. At its
   termination, the OS/8 Monitor is recalled. The user
   may re-run his program by typing START in response to
   OS/8's prompt ('.'). This option is useful when I/O
   is from/to the user's terminal. There is no way to
   respecify file I/O without recompilation; PASCAL-S
   has no RESET or REWRITE.

   Defaults common to other OS/8 programs apply also to
PASCAL. For example, an output file without a device
name is written onto DSK:.

SWITCHES (Decoder Options)

  /S Silent compilation, i.e., no program listing is
     printed.

  /H Halt after compilation, return to OS/8, wait for
     .START.

EXAMPLES:

```
.R PASCAL
*ROOT/S     This runs DSK:ROOT.PS.  No program listing is
            printed.  The input and output default to the
            user's terminal.

.R PASCAL
*PLOT:<SYS:SPIRAL     The program SPIRAL.PS on SYS:  is
            compiled, listed, and run.  Output goes to
            PLOT:, presumably a plotter.  Input, if
            required, is taken from the user's terminal.

.R PASCAL
*DTA3:LIST.80<WAGES.DV,PTR:/H
.START      DSK:WAGES.DV is compiled and listed.  When
            the program is STARTed, output goes to
            LIST.80 on Dectape #3;  input comes from the
            paper tape reader.  Handlers for PTR:
            generally prompt with ^;  the user, when
            ready, strikes the Return key or equivalent.
```

   The internal handler for terminal input prints ?
whenever EOLN=true and keyboard input is wanted. EOLN is
forced on when a program starts to run. The user then
enters a line of data as required; the usual OS/8
facilities (rubout, ^U, linefeed display) are available.

Numeric data should end in one or more blanks
(spaces), even if the number ends its line. Typing no
blanks and Return triggers a repetition of the ? prompt.

RUN-TIME ERRORS

   These take the form ....Text.... ERROR AT xxx. The
program run is aborted. It can be re-.STARTed (with, one
assumes, different data). The address xxx should be
compared with the compiler listing of the source program
to localize the error.

SOURCE CODE

   This is written, interestingly, in excellent English
and includes some useful tables of core and field usage.
PASCAL.SV uses fields 0-5 at compile-time, with field 6
holding the error message explanations and the run-time
initialization routine. At run-time, fields 3-6 form the
stack; the top two bits of the stack pointer, plus 3,
determine the field.

EXTENSIONS and ENHANCEMENTS (Version 2)

1. A predefined procedure ASCII(...) with variable
   number of arguments, intended to output special
   characters. The format is

            ASCII(Arg1, Arg2, ... , Argi)

   where the arguments may be any legal PASCAL
   expression of type Integer and specify the decimal
   ASCII code of the desired character. All 8 bits are
   transmitted, except that:

            0 gives unpredictable results (the contents of
              location CHAR). Use 256 for a pure null
              character.
         141 (octal 215) gives CR & LF, 13 gives CR only.

2. A predefined function RANDOM of type Real without
   argument returns random numbers uniformly distributed
   in the open interval 0,1. The cycle length is around
   2^{33}. The random numbers always appear in the same
   sequence: to randomize, enter the sequence at an
   arbitrary point by "eating" some numbers.

                          NOTE

   There is room in the once-only code at 06000
   ff. to include a call to a real-time or
   system clock, if available. Cf. examples in
   PATCH.ES.

3. WRITE('string':m)...A field width expression is now
   allowed also for strings and performs as described in
   the PASCAL User Manual & Report.

4. The Real Output Conversion Routine (SUP2) of Version
   1 contained a subtle bug. The routine has been
   completely redesigned and seems now somewhat optimal.

5. A predefined procedure HALT, like STOP in BASIC or
   FORTRAN.

COMPILER/INTERPRETER LIMITS

o 512 Identifiers

o 63 Arrays   -- the listing says 64 !

o 63 Blocks

o 1980 Statements of intermediate code

o 16 Levels

o 8 Characters valid in identifiers

o 80 Char's/line maximum for compiler input (not
   protected!)

DIFFERENCES from "WIRTH'S" PASCAL-S:

o MAXINT = 2^35 - 1 = 34359738367

o Reals between 2.78E-309 and 8.98E+307, precision
   about 5.0E-11

o Max. array-bounds

o Max. case-items : -2048 < N < 2048

o EOF and EOLN W I T H O U T (INPUT)

o Additional predefined procedure HALT

o NO Line-spacing control characters provided! (use
   special predefined procedure ASCII(N))

o Output line length not limited (user's
   responsibility!)

A U T H O R   D I S T R I B U T E D b y
-----------   -------------------------
Prof. Heinz Stegbauer   Wolfgang Leber
HTL - Moedling   Chairman, German 12-bit SIG
Austria   Max Planck Institut fuer

Hirnforschung
                         Deutschordenstrasse 46
                         D-6000 Frankfurt am Main 71
                         West Germany

CHANGES MADE to the MOEDLING CODE (by G. Chase)

1. The compile-time error messages were rendered from
   German into English. The run-time messages were in
   English from the beginning.

2. The liberty has been taken of mapping characters read
   from input files, whether source (.PS) or runtime
   data input. The changes are shown in the table
   below. Briefly, Horizontal Tab and lower-case
   letters are now legal in source programs and in data
   input files. Note that comments in PASCAL-S programs
   should be enclosed between (* and *), since { and }
   become [and] respectively.

Octal	Character	Becomes
11 (or 211)	H. Tab	One blank (space)
140 (or 340)	` (Accent Grave)	One blank (space)
141	a	A
142	b	B
...	...	...
172	z	Z
173	{	[
174	|	\
175	}	]
176	~	^
177	Rubout (Delete)	_

PASCAL-S compiles the following correctly:

```
Program Above96 (Input, Output);  (* show conversion
*)
Var      lowercase:        integer;
Begin
 for lowercase := 97 to 127 do begin
    writeln;
    write (lowercase,'     ',Chr(lowercase-32))
  end
End.
```

    Program YourName(Input, Output); syntax is
standard for all PASCAL-S programs(1). Read(ln) and
Write(ln) are directed to this standard Input and
Output, respectively.

    'Lowercase' is significant to 8 characters
('lowercas'). At least one variable needs to be
declared, even if no variables are actually used.

3. According to John Easton, the University of Minnesota experimented with PASCAL-S before deciding to write their own fuller implementation of PASCAL. There were two grammatical oddities in PASCAL-S that disturbed them:

(A) The use of double-quote (") to enclose text when other PASCALs use single-quote (apostrophe: '); and,

(B) The use of pound-sign (#) as a not-equals sign, like <>.

Since the double-quote requires the programmer to do something not standard in PASCAL, it has been removed. The quoting character is now the apostrophe (single-quote). To quote an apostrophe, type it twice, e.g. Writeln ('PASCAL''S syntax');.

The pound-sign doesn't impose itself on the programmer. It might be considered an 'enhancement', a bit like ASCII(N) and RANDOM. But the user should not expect enhanced code to be portable to another version of PASCAL.

4. The source changes made in PASCAL.PA are shown in PASDIF.LS. Optional patches to RANDOM and to the '#' syntax are shown in PATCH.ES. PASCAL-S has no overlays; the .SV file is easy to patch with ODT or with FUTIL.

NOTE

N. Wirth's definition of PASCAL-S and a description of its compiler have been reprinted in D. W. Barron: PASCAL, The Language and its Implementation, Wiley 1981/1982, Chapter 8.

(1)See Eisenbach & Sadler: PASCAL for Programmers, Springer-Verlag 1981, Ch. 8, page 122, "large main-frame implementations of PASCAL...".

```
Program       ASCCHR (input, output);
    (*  Compare Ascii(N)  with  Write( Chr(N) ) *)
Var
    counter, asciicode: integer;
begin
for counter := 64 to 84 do
    begin
    asciicode := counter;
            repeat
                    Write (asciicode,' ');
                    Ascii (asciicode);
                    Write (' ',Chr(asciicode) );
                    asciicode := asciicode+21
            until   asciicode > counter+42;
            (* don't omit that semi-colon ^ ! *)
    writeln
    end
end.
```

64	@	@		85	U	U		106	j	*
65	A	A		86	V	V		107	k	+
66	B	B		87	W	W		108	l	,
67	C	C		88	X	X		109	m	–
68	D	D		89	Y	Y		110	n	.
69	E	E		90	Z	Z		111	o	/
70	F	F		91	[	[		112	p	0
71	G	G		92	\	\		113	q	1
72	H	H		93	]	]		114	r	2
73	I	I		94	^	^		115	s	3
74	J	J		95				116	t	4
75	K	K		96	←	–		117	u	5
76	L	L		97	a	!		118	v	6
77	M	M		98	b	"		119	w	7
78	N	N		99	c	#		120	x	8
79	O	O		100	d	$		121	y	9
80	P	P		101	e	%		122	z	:
81	Q	Q		102	f	&		123	{	;
82	R	R		103	g	'		124	¦	<
83	S	S		104	h	(		125	}	=
84	T	T		105	i	)		126	~	>

COMMENTS ON PASCAL-S FROM RONALD LARKIN

"I have tried Pascal-S and have been unable to use it for a rather simple reason. It seems that program listings are routed to the console terminal device, including all compilation error messages. For people like me using CRT terminals, this is exasperating to the point of discouraging me from using the compiler. All of the documentation I obtained on Pascal-S was in English, although I was also sent some descriptive literature on a related project, which is designed to provide communication with PDP-8's and PDP-11 and VAX systems." - From: Ronald P. Larkin, State Natural History Survey Division, ENR, Natural Resources Building, 607 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 - (217)333-6880.

COMMENT ON OS/8 (MINNESOTA) PASCAL

"I have read with interest your announcements about the availability of the PASCAL OS/8 from the University of Minnesota. In November 82, I contacted Dr. Easton in Minneapolis at the address indicated in the Newsletter but received no response. Do you have any idea when that software will be available for interested users?" - from Anna L. Kleinhaus, Yale University School of Medicine.

No, it has been a long time since I heard anything from Minnesota. I don't think I have talked to anyone who really knows what the current situation is - RH.

LAB-FOCAL

Jim van Zee sent a note on his "final" version of FOCAL for the 12 Bit family. He calls it LAB-FOCAL. It uses 16K to 32K of memory and runs on just about anything with 12 bit words. Jim is asking for little more than the cost of distributing this program even though it is one of the most useful languages you can get for a 12 bit machine. Anyone looking for software to write programs under OS/8, OS/78, etc. should be sure they have this FOCAL.

There are many features to take advantage of the various things the machines have had and there are a number of features that take advantage of DEC's CRT terminals. There are also features to use the Northwest Digital graphics enhancement board that goes in the Z-19 (H-19) VT52 look alike terminal. This combination seems to have a really nice collection of features.

Anyone who is concerned with being sure they have the best possible software for their 12 bit system needs to be getting it and integrating it into their system now. Many vendors are dropping 12 bit items or disappearing entirely. It is becoming very hard to get many of the pieces that go into a well set up 12 bit system (including most of DEC's). Jim's FOCAL is one of the things I want to be sure I will have. If you are ever going to have it in your system, now is the time. Write to Jim for information at Lab Data Systems, 10320 Ravenna Ave NE, Seattle, Washington 98125 - (206)522-6950.

THE LAST OF NEW 8'S??

Glen Barrett of DEC Traditional Products sent me a notice he asked to have included in the Newsletter. Glen knew that due to the goings on between DECUS and the 12 Bit SIG, the notice was going to be delayed but he indicated he still wanted it to reach the 12 Bit world. Although the delay has been even longer than we anticipated, I think the historic as well as the economic aspects of this notice still warrant publication.

"PDP-8 INVENTORY CLEARANCE SALE"

"New and refurbished PDP-8As, and PDP-8Ms are being offered at price reductions of 50 to 86% of original list price.

"These systems and options are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Choose from processors, expansion boxes, OMNIBUS interfaces, core memory systems, MOS RAM memory, disks and drives. And every item comes with Digital's full 90-day warranty.

"A sales brochure with a complete product/price listing will be sent to you on request from

> Digital Equipment Corporation
> PDP-8 Inventory Clearance Sale
> 16 Hampshire Drive
> Hudson, NH 03053"

I got the impression from Glen that this was the last new PDP-8 (OMNIBUS) equipment DEC plans to sell. It seemed that the plan was for DEC to go on with refurbished equipment as always but I am sure their plans have changed more than once since then anyway.

NOTE FROM H PAUL CLAMPIT

"Please accept these comments from one who has silently followed the 12 Bit SIG for many years.

"Your 12 Bit SIG Newsletter was a great Christmas present for me. I now regret allowing it to sit on my desk for a few weeks before reading it. I experienced a great feeling of oneness and brotherhood as I read the exploits of other PDP8 enthusiasts.

"As a test engineer, I have been involved with PDP8 systems for about 10 years. OS/8 (RK05) is my bread and butter. Also, I have two ETOS systems in the small multi-user world (mostly BASIC). While my responsibilities have been mostly with test set control, it has not been uncommon to find these PDP8's solving problems that we cannot get solved by larger systems.

"In my world the basic truth turning up is that the limitations are not the CPU architecture nor the cycle time nor the word length. Instead, for 99.44% of the cases, the limiting factor is the person (engineer) who writes the software, interfaces to the hardware and makes the system function. Or, in PDP8 terms, rather than buying a different CPU that has a DAC instruction, I prefer the simple beauty of TAD (-1.

"My experience has included the PDP8/I, the PDP8/e and the PDP8/a. Now I am disturbed, but fascinated, to learn that I am missing the 6100 and 6120 microprocessor versions of this CPU family. Nothing have I heard from the DEC salesman since telling me, a few years ago, that I was the only Texas purchaser of PDP8 equipment. Perhaps most of my problem is that I have been bombarded by so many new CPU's, new instructions, new operating systems, new, new, ... that I just stopped listening and enjoyed concentrating on solving problems with PDP8's.

"Of special interest in your newsletter were the Hardware review from Jim van Zee, the discussions about the 6100 and 6120 (for years I have been wondering why not a faster 8), the multi-user systems like OMNI-8 and MULTI8, and the small company developments such as the CosMOS-8. Some of these I will be contacting to learn more.

"Perhaps I can change my reputation of an "old out dated PDP8" user to one of a "modern computer on a chip" user. Only I will have to know that on the inside is the same beautiful simplicity that I have enjoyed for so long.

"There are two subjects of particular interest to me. The first is mostly curiosity. What is going on with the PDP8/a 12-bit parallel I/O port? Any fancy parallel processors?

"Also, now that we are seeing less of the PDP8's with available buss slots for interfacing, is there any activity involving the RS-232 port as a more general purpose interface? Maybe one byte could be the address and the next byte the data?

"Bob, thanks so much for all your work. I appreciate your efforts and the impact the newsletter has upon our PDP8 user community." - from: H. Paul Clampit - 433, Senior Test Engineer, Western Electric Co., 3000 Skyline Blvd., Mesquite, TX 75149 - (214)288-2281.

WPS DOCUMENT TRANSMISSION

Recently I noticed a note published in another Newsletter asking about issues involved in transmitting WPS documents - the basic issue was retaining things like underlining, etc. in the transmission. DEC's DX option does this when going to systems that support DX. In this case however, the issue is going to systems that do not have DX support, in fact non-DEC photocomposition equipment. I wrote offering some information and suggestions. The following was the reply:

"Thank you for responding to my letter to Paul D. Clayton which was in his newsletter.

"We eventually took a different tack on our problem concerning photocomposition, so I didn't fully explore ways of transmitting WPS documents without losing highlighting and other special features. The problem will become important again next spring, and I'll look into your suggestions more fully.

"In the meantime, we have purchased a VAX 11/750 for another purpose and several DECmate-II's with CP/M options. Perhaps these systems will provide other options for fully transmitting WPS documents. I was told by DEC, for example, that the DECmate-II CP/M software will include a utility for converting documents between WPS and CP/M, both ways. If the utility includes a translation of highlighting, CP/M could be an interface between WPS and non-DEC photocomposition equipment. Thanks again for your interest" - from: T. Gary Gautier, Chief ADP Program, National Museum of Natural History - Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560 - (207)357-1955.

HELP - EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

"Thanks for restoring my faith in the '8'! A lot of questions were answered in the last Newsletter, thanks again.

"We are a small secondary school with two 8's. The educational system has 32K MOS, RK05F, 2 RK05J's, DECtape, LA180, and 7 users. We are trying to maximize the system in anyway we can. Software is always a problem since we cannot talk with many people with 8's. Any help that you can suggest would be greatly appreciated." - from: Rodney Coze, Math/Science Coordinator, Tilton School, Tilton, New Hampshire 03276.

NOTE FROM DR JOHN A HAWKINSON

"Many thanks for for calling me back regarding the 12 Bit Special Interest Group of DECUS. Geographically I am a long way from anywhere, and must therefor depend upon telephone and letter to get most things done.

"The office here has a DECmate I with WPS/8 version 2 software. To preserve domestic tranquility I bought the same thing to work with at home. We have by no means exhausted the capabilities of the WPS software - in truth we are just learning.

"The principle functions of this small system have been to record the total group of obstetric patients in our practice, to list several other patient groups, to conduct patient billing, and my wife has been doing some historical research.

"Whether we can enhance our computer capability remains to be seen. My inquiry with you was to see whether we could compare notes with other DECmate I users, particularly to see what uses are feasible.

"The books and documentation for OS/8 version 4 have been ordered. The salesman tells me that the current price for OS/78 is in the range of $1600. This is a bit steep for me, but with study it may prove worth the price.

"If you know of any upcoming group activity in the 12-Bit Special Interest Group that is not too remote please let me know" - from: John A. Hawkinson, M.D., 11 Earle Avenue, P.O. Box 210, Easton, Maryland, 21601.

USING THE FPP8/A IN THE PDP8-F

"One can indeed install a FPP8/A in a PDP8-F by removing one of the fans. However, some PDP8-F's have power supplies on the side, not the back, and therefore have no room for the FPP. Also, when adding a power-hungry board such as the FPP8/A, it may be necessary to adjust the ++5 volt level using the middle potentiometer under the panel on the back of the chassis. The PDP-8Fs suffer from problems with power supply regulation." - From: Ronald P. Larkin, State Natural History Survey Division, ENR, Natural Resources Building, 607 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 - (217)333-6880.

NOTE FROM G S LINK

"I read with horror the latest issue of the 12 Bit Newsletter. The elimination of paper tape from DECUS is going to strand the very users who need DECUS the most. These are the new arrivals. It is currently possible to buy a PDP8 with just about everything but magnetic media for under $1000. This includes HS paper tape and lots of core. If you try to add DECtape or disk you will probably spend $2000 more and still need a larger system. To receive the current DECUS Library both tape and disk are necessary. This prices PDP8 software out of reach of many users. The smaller systems simply cannot compete with Apple and TRS-80. The larger systems can't compete with PDP11. With the release of the 6120 chip, I think the PDP8 software situation deserves to be improved. I therefore make the following suggestions.

1. Gather up all the software writeups and listings for every program clear back to DECUS 5/8-1, make listings where necessary and produce several volumes. For a legible copy of 1000 pages 3 hole drilled and shrink wrapped the US Government spends about $5.00 in 100 copy lots. When this is done, quit selling individual writeups. Provide a starter kit for a new system owner at a reasonable

price. This should include everything necessary to start a PDP8 system from scratch. Items should include, a description of common hardware (What is TU55? What does it fit?), a listing of a bootstrap loader, listings of a loader, an editor, and an assembler, object tapes of these programs on paper, and a guide to where things are in DEC (Where do you buy a Small Computer Handbook or a blank DECtape).

2. Group software so that no one gets five feet of tape or mostly empty disk. The cost is not going to be that much more.

3. Investigate reproducing PDP8 software on the PDP11 instead of on an 8 as is now done.

4. Try to get through to DEC that most PDP8 system software is very overpriced. Look at the cost of OS/8 vs. CP/M.

5. Establish a listing of programs available from other sources. This would be very valuable or what ever happened to ALICS?

"Recently I was able to enter an order for 6120 and 6121 chips. The resulting data sheets revealed a number of interesting facts. With the introduction of this chip the whole integrated 8 concept has been redesigned. I was more surprised by what was not done than what was done. The 6100 was merged with the 6102 on one chip. The DMA channel and clock from the 6102 were dropped. EAE was NOT added. Hooks were added to make the task of interfacing both EAE and dynamic RAM easy.

"I find that I design a system with this new chip that contains 32K RAM, monitor in ROM, TTY interface and EAE. This will all fit on an S100 prototype board. I currently have several 6100 systems in operation and expect to have at least one of these converted to 6120 by March. At that time I expect to know more about the 6120."

Mr. Link is at 1881 Main Street, Goshen, Ohio 45122 - (513)722-2457.

NOTE FROM ROBERT W WEEKS

"I was especially pleased to receive the DECUS 12 Bit Newsletter number 41, the first since I joined DECUS. I was beginning to feel that a very important piece of equipment made by DEC had been relegated to the dust bin, and my 8/L with 4K of memory and DF32 were no more important than a museum display.
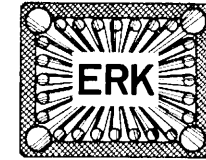
"If anyone needs help in maintaining such a system I
can supply information, moral support, etc. I have
successfully adapted a Tally reader and punch to the system,
maintaining complete compatibility with the Disk Monitor
(i.e. '4K DISK/DECtape Monitor' - circa pre OS/8 - RH). I
am currently trying to expand the memory and to incorporate
a floppy disk to the existing controller as S:1...S:4 or S:7
as a RS08 emulator. I wonder if any one has tried doing
something like this. (note: There was a version in DECUS
that ran with a cartridge disk - RK8 I think - you will have
to get DECUS to help check back in archives however - no
longer listed in active catalog - RH).

"As one of the last paper tape users, I would like to
say that I will have to utilize DECUS offerings via writeups
with listings.

"The elimination of this medium of information transfer
by DECUS will mean many PDP8 afficionados such as me will be
unable to make full use of the services provided by DECUS.

"If there is any thing that I can do such as duplicate
tapes to keep this medium alive let me know. The support
from others has helped me to enjoy and use my 8/L." - Mr.
Weeks is at 6826 Carlinda Ave., Columbia, MD 21046 -
(301)344-7229 (office), (301)997-9595 (home 6-9 PM).

ERK ECKROHRKESSEL GmbH

Lars Palmer
DECUS/Europe 12 Bit SIG Newsletter
Liaison
Hassle
Fack

S-431 2o Molndal 1

Sweden

Ihr Zeichen	Ihr Schreiben vom	Unser Zeichen	Tag
		Fi/he	11th March 1983

Re.: PDP 8/A - Software, especially memory capacity installation
     and capacity of basic compilers

Dear Mr. Palmer,

after several trials in contact with DEC in Germany, we were told to try
to get from DECUS informations which nobody else seems to have. So we
hope, that you can inform us, in which Newsletter we can find a solution
for our problem, or better to send us this Newsletter because we miss some.
Otherwise we beg you to transmit our letter to someone having a solution.

Now our problem:

executing very long OS/8-Basic programs the computer prints out a "TS"-
error on the monitor and jumps back into the monitor mode. This produces
a rather low limit for program and text length.

When we tried to transfer our basic programs into compiled "core image"
files the error "TS" or "TB" is printed out for programs, which normally
are executed without difficulties. This means a further reduction of the
possibility of more comfortable program execution.

We extended the memory capacity from 16 to 32 kByte without any result
although the computer answers to question "MEMORY" with 32 k, what means
it knows the bigger memory.

Is it possible, that the software system is unable to use the 32 k? How
can we enable it to use them?

What about the basic compiler itsself, is it able to compile programs of
any length?

- 2 -

During the output of data on the lineprinter, the whole computer is busy
and no other input or calculation work is to be done. Can this be changed?

If it's possible to get any information in this subject or the methode to
make the system run on 32 k, we would be happy to get them.

Looking forward to your answer we remain

Yours sincerely

ERK Eckrohrkessel GmbH

---

2 MAY 1983

DECUS
One Iron Way, MR02-1/C11
Marlboro, MA 01752

To Whom it Might Hopefully Concern:

Call me bewildered! I have been using a Digital Decmate for 6 months
or so, strictly on the word processing level, and as part of my
company's leasing plan have been receiving various publications put
out by Digital or DECUS and find that as much as I would like to
benefit from these publications, my non-technical background and my
relative newness to "computo-world" limit my ability to derive much
from the already mentioned publications. (They sit in my inbox for
weeks and I'm tempted to discard them after several unsuccessful
attempts at absorbing them.) One of the problems I encounter is that
the intense usage of initials (i.e., LUG, SIG, OA, HQDA, etc., etc. is
intimidating in that I have NO idea what is being referred to, am not
sure who to ask or where to begin to alleviate my lack of familiarity
of this topic. (It's one of those situations when one's total
ignorance is a source of embarassment to oneself!)

Questions. Do you have a publication that is geared toward the
smaller machine such as I use rather than the mega-machines often
referred to in these publications? If not, would it be possible to
run a "beginners column" with an introduction to jargon used and
possibly a series on use expansion of the simpler models? Also, in
the same vein, how to approach software expansion - 1 mean reading a
software catalog at my level draws the big-eyed blank!

I work for a small preservational architectural company and there is
an interest here to expand the use of this little wonder machine, but
our funds at this time are limited (meaning there's not a lot of
capital to send me to classes/symposiums etc. - and even if there were
I feel I'm in an odd category in that I don't have the technological
background to relate to "high-tech" information, yet I don't need
training on the wordprocessing level because I've taken myself as far
as I can with the software we have. So, what now?

I know there is a large gap in the field regarding the kind of service
I seek - the middle man between the seller and the user of the
personal computer - so I look forward to a response from you, even if
it's only in the form of suggesting another source to which to direct
my queries.

Sincerely,

Nancy Holley

⊡DECUS   DIGITAL EQUIPMENT COMPUTER USERS SOCIETY

May 6, 1983

Ms. Nancy Holley
Page, Anderson & Turnbull, Inc.
364 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Nancy:

I can certainly understand your confusion and I hope I can help alleviate some
of it. Enclosed is a DECUS U.S. Chapter membership application form which ex-
plains some of the terms you mention in your letter. This will also give you
the opportunity to join our Society if you wish so you can keep informed of
meetings and publications that might be of interest to you.

In addition, I will forward a copy of your letter to both the Chairman and the
Newsletter Editor of the OA SIG (Office Automation Special Interest Group).
They may be able to give you specific information.

There is a Local Users Group (LUG) geared to small computers in South Pasadena.
All LUG meetings are open to DECUS members. The person to contact is Robert
Benjamin; his number is (213) 441-4909.

Please feel free to call me if I can further assist you. My number is (617)
467- 4143.

Sincerely yours,

Maureen Levine
DECUS U.S. Chapter
Publications Coordinator

/enclosure
sue