9-1986

Academic Computing Newsletter: Fall 1986

E. Arthur Fiser
The College at Brockport

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/lits_news

Part of the Education Commons, and the Library and Information Science Commons

Repository Citation
http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/lits_news/27

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Library, Information and Technology Services at Digital Commons @Brockport. It has been accepted for inclusion in Library, Information and Technology Services Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @Brockport. For more information, please contact kmyers@brockport.edu.
Welcome Back!!!

We at Academic Computing Services (ACS) would like to welcome you back to another semester at Brockport. And to those of you who are new to this campus, welcome. ACS is a specialized service designed to fulfill the computing needs of faculty and students for instruction and research. We support facilities and offer services for users at all levels of expertise, and are located on the ground floor of Drake Library. The current ACS staff members are:

E. Arthur Fiser, Manager of ACS. (Office: A8 Edwards, X5227)

Brian Volkmar, Operations Supervisor. (Office: Academic Computing Services AC-3, X2479)

Æleen Frisch, User Services Coordinator. (Office: Academic Computing Services AC-10, X2368)

Feel free to call upon one of us with regard to your computing problems and/or needs.

[Continued on page 2]

Manager's Column
E. Arthur Fiser

This is our “Welcome Back” edition of the ACS Newsletter. This summer has, as always, been a very busy time for the staff, and I wish to take this opportunity to welcome our newest staff member, Æleen Frisch, who will serve as our User Services Coordinator. Her office is in the ACS User’s Area, Room AC-10; her extension is 2368.

[Continued on page 4]
ACS currently offers support for four types of computers: a Prime 9955 "super-minicomputer", Apple Ile computers, IBM PC and Zenith (PC-compatible) micro-computers. Terminals for the Prime are located throughout the campus, with the main concentrations in ACS and in the Letters and Science Data Analysis Laboratory (170 FOB). Apple Ile's are mostly located in the Educational Communications Apple Laboratory in A-21 Edwards, with a few units in ACS. The PC's are located in ACS.

ACS offers workshops and tutorials on a variety of computing topics designed to get you started with various systems and software; our current offerings are listed later in this issue. Individual help is also available from our student user consultants (on duty when the various facilities are open). The User Services Coordinator is available to help faculty members with their instructional and research computing needs. ACS strives to meet each user at his/her current level and to help him/her move on from there.

We very much want this Newsletter to meet the needs of our user community. Therefore, we welcome your comments, suggestions, and contributions. You may contact the Editor by calling extension 2368, by sending campus mail to: Editor, Academic Computing Newsletter, ACS AC-10, or by sending computer mail on the Prime to AELEEN. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fall Hours for Campus Computing Facilities

Academic Computing Services
Ground Floor, Drake Library, X2479

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>7:00 am. -1:00 am.</td>
<td>7:00 am. -8:00 pm.</td>
<td>10:00 am. -6:00 pm.</td>
<td>1:00 pm. -1:00 am.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Analysis Laboratory
170 Faculty Office Bldg., X2234

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>9:00 am. -10:00 pm.</td>
<td>9:00 am. -5:00 pm.</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>2:00 pm. -10:00 pm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Apple Laboratory
A-21 Edwards, X2660

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>8:00 am. -10:00 pm.</td>
<td>8:00 am. -4:30 pm.</td>
<td>To Be Announced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Weekend hours for the DAL and the Apple Lab. are contingent upon funding.
*** New Software Installed ***

We have recently installed Revision 20.0.3 of the Primos Operating System. The capabilities of many commands are greatly enhanced in this version of Primos. If you experience any problems, please contact an ACS staff member.

**LT.** There is a new version of the LT utility directory listing on the system. The following are three new options which have been added to the it:

1. **-AFTER date** = List only those files which have been modified after the given date.
2. **-BEFORE date** = List only those files which have been modified before the given date.
3. **-INDEX** = Group together those files which have the same file type. In other words, list files, subdirectories, and segment directories separately.

Because of the first two new features the minimum abbreviation for the ALL option is now **-AL** (previously it was **-A**) and the minimum abbreviation for the BRIEF option is **-BR** (formerly **-B**). The operation of these options remains the same.

**The EMACS Screen Editor.** A new screen editor, EMACS, has been installed on the Prime. For information on how to use this editor, stop by the Users' Room and pick up the quick guide entitled 'EMACS Reference Sheet.' You may also type 'HELP EMACS' for further information about EMACS and its online tutorials.

**PRIMIX.** Prime’s version of UNIX operating system is available on our system. Primix is an implementation of AT&T System V Unix (the Bourne Shell), although it includes a C Shell as well. To obtain access to this software, contact Brian Volkmar at 2479, or send mail to SYSADM.

**Languages.** We have also installed a new version of the C compiler along with a full version of PL1. To invoke either one, use the COMPILE command with the option '-CCB' for C and '-PL1B' for PL1. The PL1 compiler recognizes the suffix '.PL1'.
Manager's Column—Continued from page 1

In preparation for the opening of the Fall term, we have made a number of changes to the system hardware and software resources; these are detailed elsewhere in this issue. I encourage you to review these items and call on us for additional information. We make every effort to see that changes to the user environment are transparent to the user community, but there are always a few items that escape our notice. We have in preparation a User's Guide which we hope to have available early in the term. This document will pull together in one place all of the essential usage information for our computing facilities.

The development of the campus computing facilities is an ongoing effort, and several significant items are in progress at the present time. An RFP ("Request for a Proposal": a request for vendors to submit bids) for the replacement of the current Burroughs systems on the 17 SUNY campuses was released in mid-August, and the vendor proposals are due in mid-December. A copy of the RFP will be available for review in ACS. For those wishing to study the document in more detail, a copy may be checked out with Barb Thaine in the EDCOM center (A8 Edwards). On the Prime side, we are anticipating connection of our system to the nationwide BITNET network. Over 400 colleges, universities and research institutions are currently participating in this network. As our connection date gets nearer, we will offer seminars on the "how to's" of BITNET. I think that this capability will open some exciting opportunities for information exchange.

I invite you to visit the User's Area and meet the staff, and participate in the development of computing at Brockport.

______________________________

IN BRIEF

User Guide Coming

ACS is publishing a User's Guide to Computing at Brockport. This document will give general information about all ACS resources and facilities. It is designed to be a basic reference source for all of the systems that ACS supports: the Prime 9955, the Apple IIe, and the IBM-PC. It contains sufficient information to get you started on any of these systems and in a variety of application programs. The User's Guide should be available by early October.

The CONFIGURATION Command

This is a new command for the Prime. The command will give you information about the current status of our prime system, including the Primos revision being run, the amount of memory, and the amount of disk storage space on the system.
ACS Introduces Its Newest Special Purpose Laboratory

ACS has established an IBM Personal Computer Laboratory, located within the Academic Computing Services area on the ground floor of Drake Library. Currently, there are two IBM-PC's with hard drives and six dual-floppy units. The DOS operating system, PC-Write (word processor), PC File (database program), and PC Calc (spread sheet program) are available on all of them. In addition, the hard disk units offer the Fortran, C, Pascal, and 8080 Assembly languages and a graphics system (driving a Hewlett-Packard 7475A plotter).

The hard disk systems also function as the distribution point for the PC-* software listed above. This software is offered by its owner companies under liberal marketing policies in which copies may be freely distributed among users within an institution once any required licenses have been acquired. ACS has made all the necessary arrangements to distribute them at Brockport. To make a copy of one of these programs, you will need a blank double-sided double-density five-and-a-halfinch diskette. Then, follow these steps:

1. Turn on the PC if necessary.

2. When you have the DOS prompt (C>), enter the command:

   PC-COPY program_name

   where "program_name" is one of WRITE, COPY, and FILE, depending on which program you want to copy.

3. Follow the directions given by this program, inserting your diskette into drive A (the left drive) when you are told to do so.

   Remove your diskette when PC-COPY finishes; the program you requested will then be on your diskette and ready for use.

Changes Made to the PRIME

With the installation of Revision 20.0.3 of the Primos Operating System, several important changes have been made. They are detailed below:

1. The Primos kill character has been changed from the ? to CONTROL-X (entered by holding down the CONTROL key and then striking the X key). This character tells Primos that you want to discard previously entered characters and begin with a fresh command line.

2. Changes to the ED editor. The tab character has been changed from '\ \ ' (backslash) to the TAB key, and the escape character has been changed from '" ' (caret) to '" ' (tilde, located in the upper right corner of the keyboard).

3. The DOCUFD directory was renamed to DOC* and all document files within it have been renamed from " _ file" to " _ file".doc (example: d _ clip is now clip. doc). The DOC* directory contains information on many useful utilities available to all users of the Prime. You might want to browse through these files.

We think that these changes will make the system more efficient and easier to use. If you have any questions or encounter any problems, feel free to contact an ACS staff member.
Tutorials and Workshops Offered

As always, ACS will be offering a number of tutorials and workshops for new and experienced users at the beginning of this semester. They are open to everyone; new users are especially urged to attend.

Tutorials on the basics of Primos will be offered during the second week of the term according to the following schedule. Times marked "BASIC" are designed for students enrolled in the BASIC Language Course (CSC 101) and will cover Primos commands and BASIC; the other tutorials are intended for everyone else (students in CSC 203 and above) and will cover Primos commands and the EMACS screen editor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept. 8th</td>
<td>12:00 noon (BASIC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:15 pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:30 pm. (BASIC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Sept. 9th</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:15 pm. (BASIC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:30 pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 pm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All tutorials are held in the Instructional Seminar Laboratory in Academic Computing Services. Reference sheets will be available at all sessions.

Several advanced workshops will be offered during the third or fourth week of the term. Topics were still being determined at press time, but it is expected that they will include an in-depth EMACS workshop and Advanced PC-Write. If there is a topic in which you are interested, contact AEleen Frisch at 2368.

QUICK NOTE: The NEWS and WELCOME Commands

These commands are the means ACS uses to communicate important information to users on the Prime. Type NEWS at the OK prompt to see the latest messages from ACS. These notices introduce new features, announce changes to the system, give operating hours information, list seminar times and locations, and present other news to the general user community.

Critical messages, such as those concerning upcoming system downtime, are not relegated to the NEWS file but rather are displayed automatically on your screen when you login. If you wish to reread one of them later in your terminal session, you may do so by issuing the WELCOME command. This command will redisplay all login messages.

ACADEMIC COMPUTING NEWSLETTER (Volume 2, Number 1, September 1986) is published on an irregular schedule by Academic Computing Services of the Educational Communications Center, State University of New York at Brockport. Contributions and suggestions from readers are welcome and should be addressed to: Editor, ACADEMIC COMPUTING NEWSLETTER Academic Computing Services AC-10, Campus.