2-1987

Academic Computing Newsletter: February 1987

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/31

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.
Faculty Prime Refresher Seminar

There has been some interest expressed for a faculty seminar on using the PRIME in courses. The seminar would focus on how various PRIME features may be used to make courses using the computer run more smoothly. Topics to be covered would include: using the MAIL system to communicate with students (including how to send mail to the entire class in one step), setting up custom messages which your students will see on login, designing and setting up common directories and/or files for use by your entire class, using the classroom terminals and the Sayette screen projection device, and any special concerns that the participants raise.

This seminar has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th at 1:00 p.m. in the ISL in the Academic Computing Center. If you would be interested in attending, contact Art Fiser by campus mail or at 5227. The presentation is contingent upon sufficient interest.
As part of our efforts to make computer based applications an integral part of the college experience and valued tool in research endeavors, I am pleased to bring the following to your attention. During this academic year, several significant computing resources will be made available to the campus. These capabilities will address needs of the entire campus community and will provide a vehicle for improved scholarly activity regardless of disciplinary interest.

Drake Memorial Library has undertaken the task of automating its collections catalogue. Since the data base will be housed on the Prime system, telephone access, which currently exists, will be available for inquiring into, for instance, the collection catalogue. Circulation control will be enhanced and checkout will be facilitated. The capabilities of this undertaking will be detailed in notices from the Library as the project nears full implementation.

Brockport will become a part of the growing number of university and non-profit institutions, world-wide, which cooperate in the interconnection of their computing systems in the network known as BITNET. By logging into the Prime system it will be possible to send and receive electronic mail, files and, if another user is logged into his system, interactive messages. Our connection address, or node, will be known in the network as BROCK1P. The anticipated date for implementation is during the month of March; please watch for notices in the system NEWS.

We hope that you will make effective use of the facilities and communicate to us your interest and needs.

*************** NOW AVAILABLE **********************
User's Guide to Computing at Brockport

>>>>> An introductory guide to the major computing facilities and equipment on campus.

ON SALE NOW IN THE CAMPUS BOOKSTORE FOR $2.75
NEW ON-LINE TUTORIALS AVAILABLE

ACS has prepared on-line tutorials for the PC-Write word processor and the PC-Calc spreadsheet program. These tutorials use the programs themselves to teach you how to use them. They will allow you to learn either program in a step-by-step manner, at your own pace. Either may be obtained free of charge from ACS. Each requires a double-sided, double-density diskette (and a copy of the main program, of course).

PC LAB UPDATE

Currently, the ACS PC Lab contains 6 dual-floppy PC's (256K each), one hard drive PC (512K), and two IBM Graphics-compatible printers. In the near future, the six dual floppy units will receive more memory (for a total of 640K each), and the hard-drive unit will receive an Enhanced Graphics Adapter card and a color monitor. In addition, the lab will be installing a Macintosh Plus unit with an Imagewriter.

Software available for the PC:

DOS 3.10 %
Basic
C
Fortran
8080 Assembler
Prolog %
Expert (expert system) %
Lotus %
Dbase III
PC-Write version 2.7 %
PC-File
PC-Calc %
Kermit

[* new; % on-line tutorial available]

Disks for the six dual-floppy units (for DOS and the PC-% programs) may be checked out from an ACS operator or user consultant by leaving one's ID card. Users must supply their own scratch disks.

QUICKSOFT RELEASES A NEW VERSION OF PC-WRITE

Quicksoft released version 2.7 of their PC-Write program late last November. It is now available to anyone who wishes it in ACS. You will need two double-sided, double-density 5 1/4 inch diskettes to obtain your copy (and a third one if you want the on-line tutorial as well—see the article on PC-tutorials elsewhere in this issue). The program is an improvement over version 2.6 in a number of ways:

[Continued on page 4]
I. The program has been made significantly faster. This is especially noticeable when PC-Write is rearranging text on the screen.

II. Many more printers are now supported. There are two programs on the Utilities disk which allow you to specify the kind of printer you have: MENUPRT and MENULAZ. The latter is used for laser printers, the former for all other kinds of printers. To create a new print control file:

**DUAL FLOPPY SYSTEM**

1. Place the Utilities disk in A.
2. Place the PC-Write Workdisk in B.
3. Command:
   A:MENUPRT B:PR.DEF

**HARD DRIVE SYSTEM**

1. Place the Utilities disk in A if it wasn't copied to the hard disk.
2. Use the CD command to move to the PC-Write directory. Ex: CD \PCW
3. Command: A:MENUPRT PR.DEF (w/ disk) MENUPRT PR.DEF (w/o disk)

The printer menu will now come up; choose the code for your printer's brand and model number. If you have a laser printer, substitute MENULAZ for MENUPRT in the above instructions.

III. Word wrapping has been made more flexible. The status line item "Reform+-" has been replaced by three new indicators:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wrap-</td>
<td>Word wrap and auto-reformatting both OFF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrap+</td>
<td>Word wrap ON, auto-reformatting OFF (= old Reform-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Para+</td>
<td>Word wrap and auto-reformatting both ON (= old Reform+)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entering text is usually done with status Wrap+; editing (inserting and deleting characters) works best if you use Para+- make sure to surround sections you want to protect from reformatting, like tables and intentionally short lines, with ALTMODE-G.- and ALTMODE-G.+. The command to change the reformat status is still SHIFT-F7.

IV. A spelling checker has been added. It's menu is reached via the command ALTMODE-F2. You may ask the checker to check the last word typed, to find the next word not in its word list or to automatically check every word as you type it. Checking is done by searching a master word list to see if your word is present or not. If it isn't, the spelling checker will tell you so. This does not automatically mean that the word is spelled incorrectly, however; it simply means that it's not in their list. "Grey," for example, is not in the list, If the word isn't found, you can request that PC-Write guess the correct spelling. This feature is still quite primitive and basically not very useful, as the following examples will demonstrate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corrected Word</th>
<th>First Guess</th>
<th>Second Guess</th>
<th>Third Guess</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>corrections</td>
<td>cores</td>
<td>corespondents</td>
<td>christens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plotter</td>
<td>plotters</td>
<td>plotting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>funded</td>
<td>funding</td>
<td>funds</td>
<td>bandaid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEleen</td>
<td>Aeneas</td>
<td>Aeneid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frisch</td>
<td>Frisco</td>
<td>frisk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You might try your own name for fun.
NEW COMMAND: AA

This utility will allow you to change your attach point quickly and easily. Formats (assume you are attached to CSC3>CSCXXX>ZZ9999>PASCAL.UFD):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORM</th>
<th>MEANING/EQUIVALENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA name</td>
<td>Attach *&gt;name: A CSC3&gt;CSCXXX&gt;ZZ9999&gt;PASCAL.UFD&gt;name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA /</td>
<td>Move up one level: A CSC3&gt;CSCXXX&gt;ZZ9999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA /name</td>
<td>Move across one level: A CSC3&gt;CSCXXX&gt;ZZ9999&gt;name</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If "name" does not exist, AA will append .UFD to it and try again to make the attachment.

NEW SOFTWARE PACKAGE--THE PRIME INFORMATION DATABASE SYSTEM

INFORMATION, Prime Inc.'s relational database system, is now available on our system. Through the use of its internal command language, you can define the structure of your database, enter records, modify or delete existing records, and prepare a wide variety of tables and reports. Advanced features, such as a menu generator, a user-defined command facility and the INFO/Basic language, allow you to create custom input screens, menu-driven data systems, and a virtually unlimited range of customized data manipulation and report generating programs. ACS has prepared an introductory guide for new users of INFORMATION, entitled "A Brief Overview of the Prime INFORMATION Database System," available free of charge on the ACS reference rack. Main INFORMATION manuals are also available for reference in the documentation rack in the ACS User's Room. For further information, contact AEleen Frisch at 2368.
What's New

ACS has recently acquired two Plasma Screen projection units manufactured by Sayette (a subsidiary of Eastman Kodak). They perform a function similar to conventional terminal projection devices, but provide much improved resolution. The plasma screens work by sitting on top of an overhead projector and accept input from an IBM PC or compatible or an Apple II. The microcomputer may operate as a standalone unit or be connected to the Prime using the KERMIT program. These devices make it possible to present a wide variety of computer demonstrations easily and clearly. In addition, it is possible to place a blank overhead transparency over the plasma screen. One may then write on the transparency, and those marks will be projected on top of the computer output; thus, one can highlight, make corrections to or otherwise interact with the computer generated text.

A demonstration of this device will be held for faculty members as part of the faculty computer refresher course to be held later this semester (see announcement elsewhere in this issue). Arrangements to use one of these units may be made by contacting Art Fiser at 5227.

coming next issue: Graphics...

Figure 1: Breakdown of Prime Users by Discipline

ACADEMIC COMPUTING NEWSLETTER (Volume 2, Number 3, February 1987) is published on an irregular schedule by Academic Computing Services of the Educational Communications Center, State University of New York, College at Brockport. Contributions and suggestions from readers are welcome and should be addressed to: Editor, ACADEMIC COMPUTING NEWSLETTER, Academic Computing Services AC-10, Campus.