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Volume 3, Number 1 Information Services Magazine Fall/Winter 1994

Inside

Personnel Directory	2
Student Information System Conversion	3
BBS News	4
Not the Comic Book Teen	5
Systems Operated by Information Services	6
Mother Says	9
Staff News	9
Acknowledgements	9
NCSA Mosaic	10
To Internet or not to Internet	10
Network Address Instructions	12
Network Address Request	13
DEC7000/610	14
Unisys 2200/402	15

Administrative Software Conversion Progress

The migration from UAH's OS-1100 based legacy systems to the new Systems and Computer Technology (SCT) IA-Plus software is proceeding on schedule. Since the last issue of @UAH.EDU was published, the Financial Reporting System (FRS), and the Purchasing and Accounts Payable modules have gone online.

Although the new software offers many advantages to the respective administrative departments, the advantages to end users on the campus at large may not be so apparent. However, according to several people involved in the conversion process, all users will eventually benefit from the new software.

Whereas previous systems were developed independently, requiring nightly feeds of data from one system to the other, the new software will "totally integrate" the processes with one another, according to Mary Perkins, Senior Analyst for Information Services. As an example, Perkins offered the flow of information between the current Payroll and Accounting systems. When an individual is paid, the Payroll system must create a data file containing the transaction, then in a separate process, the data file is fed into the Accounting system. Until October 3 (the implementation date of the new Purchasing / Accounts Payable System), this was also true of invoices paid from Accounts Payable. As modules of the SCT software are put into place, a transaction in one module will automatically update all other affected modules, with no intermediate data files being created. Perkins and Michael Meyer, Assistant Vice-President for Information Services, agreed that the removal of the extra step results in one less chance for error

(Continued on page 17)

Too Late to Elaborate

As this issue went to press, @UAH.EDU received word that Information Services has just begun negotiations with Microsoft Corporation on issues relating to campus-wide licensing of Microsoft software products. As more and more users on campus migrate to higher-end desktop computing platforms, these discussions will hopefully result in significant cost savings to the University for the licensing of Microsoft software. ■

Directory		
Information Services 895-6347		
	Ext.	Support Services
Computer Room	233	Albright, Chris
The Help Desk	270	Gossett, Frank
Meyer, Mike	223	Hall, Carey
Moore, Darlene	222	Hampel, Larry
Wiley, Sandra	221	Hemphill, Rich
		Humphrey, Earl
		Looger, Joyce
		Morphew, Larry
		Mullican, Joe
		Stanton, John
Administrative Applications		
Demirjian, Ginger	227	
Dossey, Eric	226	
Glover, Fruzzie	241	
Greenwood, Jean	229	
Jackson, Jim	267	
Kennedy, Jeanne	234	
McCormick, Shirley	237	
Newby, Chris	247	
Perkins, Mary	240	
Rice, Malcolm	242	
Tanev, Wayne	244	
		Systems & Operations
		Allbritton, Bill
		Eiford, Becky
		Lambert, Larry
		McCullars, Jim
		Moore, Randi
		Sweeney, Barbara
		White, Paula
		Woodard, Jerry
		Youngblood, Paul
		Fax Machine 895-6643

@UAH.EDU

Editor:

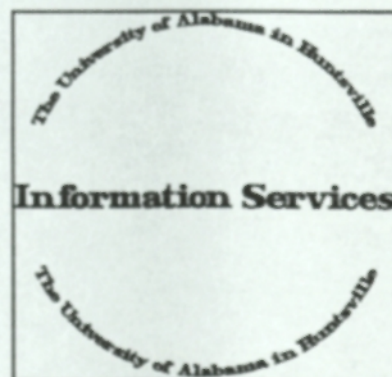
James H. McCullars

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Student Information System Undergoes Major Conversion

by Malcolm R. Rice

The current Student Information System, which consists of programs and applications that support the offices of Enrollment Management, Bursar, Admissions, Student Records and Financial Aid was developed and written in-house.

Developed on the Unisys mainframe, these applications consist of SIS - Student Information System, FAD - Financial Aid, TOC - Timetable of Classes, REG - Registration Reporting, and SAR - Student Accounts Receivable. These applications are written in COBOL as their primary language. MSAM (indexed keyed) files are the primary data storage facility. The Unisys DPS screen generator package is the systems screen management facility.

Primary application development is on the Unisys 2200 mainframe computer. Few applications are developed for use on personal computers.

The majority of the applications were developed and brought on-line in the early 80's. Incremental updates; to correct problems, respond to state and federal regulations, take advantage of technology and improve functionality have been implemented through the years.

The most significant enhancement to the current system occurred approximately 7 years ago when ARTS - the Admissions and Records Tracking System was implemented. ARTS was developed using MAPPER, a Unisys database management product. This is used by the Admissions Office to recruit students and track them through the admittance process.

In response to changing technology, the entire

Student Information System is undergoing a complete overhaul. It will be re-engineered as an integrated unit, taking full advantage of available technology. This will make application development and information reporting much more responsive to the ever-changing needs of the user community.

The first significant change that has been implemented is the acquisition of a new mainframe computer. All student information applications will be moved from the Unisys 2200 computer to the DEC Alpha AXP 7000, Digital Equipment Corporation's (DEC) newest platform.

A major improvement that will facilitate design and reporting functions is the move from keyed files to relational databases. SIS's main data storage facility will be Digital's Rdb database product. In addition to the flexibility provided in this product, there is the potential to use third party software for query and reporting.

The primary language of new application development will remain COBOL. Database access will be provided via Rdb's SQL language. System development regarding the use of SQL will take the modular approach, with calls from within the COBOL program making requests of the database.

The screen management product chosen for new development is DEC's DECForms software package. Many of the system's screens will be developed in such a way as to minimize the need for duplicate programs that update and display the same data. This is efficiently accomplished via DECForms implementation. Many screens in the current system will be combined in the new system so that related data can be retrieved with the same call to the database.

For security reasons, certain data elements, application functions, and screens will not be available to all users. This will be accomplished

(Continued on page 4)

Student Information System

(Continued from page 3)

by implementing the available security features of COBOL, Rdb and DECForms as well as taking advantage of the security features that are inherent in the VMS operating system.

If all deadlines are met by both Information Services Personnel, DEC and third party vendors; the enhanced Student Information System should enter the testing phase of development around the latter part of February 1995. It is scheduled to run parallel with the current system for the Summer semester. Full production release will be the Fall semester of 1995.

Direct question, comments and suggestions to:

Academic Systems Manager
Information Services, RI Annex B
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
Huntsville, AL 35899

or

E-mail: RICEM@EMAIL.UAH.EDU

Digital, DEC, DECForms, DECrdB, VMS, DEC Alpha AXP 7000 are registered trademarks of the Digital Equipment Corporation. MAPPER, Unisys, Unisys 2200 are registered trademarks of the Unisys Corporation. ■

BBS News

In view of the increasing attention paid to the campus network, and increasing access to the Internet world of file transfers, Web and Gopher sessions, and remote Telnets, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that the University's public-access computer bulletin board continues to attract a large number of callers.

BBS? What BBS?

In 1984, UAH and Sperry Corporation (now Unisys) were in the middle of Project

ACCESS, an agreement which provided for the purchase of a large number of personal computers, and the donation of mainframe hardware to the University. It was felt at the time that a PC should be dedicated to the enhancement of personal computing in the local community. So in December of that year, The ACCESS System was born.

As ACCESS approaches its tenth birthday (an extremely long tenure in the BBS arena), it continues to be a source of inexpensive software to the Huntsville community. Some local computer stores even include the phone numbers whenever they sell a modem, knowing that the neophyte user will find a friendly and helpful environment as they learn to navigate the BBS scene.

Getting access to ACCESS

If you have a computer and asynchronous modem, you can dial into the BBS and participate in the messages and/or files systems. The BBS is dual-node: Node 1 can be reached at 895-6152 and supports speeds of 2400/1200/300 bps. Node 2 is at 895-6992 and supports data rates from 1200 to 14,400 bps. Both nodes operate from the same machine, and have equal access to software ranging from the latest Epic or Apogee game, to virus protection software, to Windows utilities, and more. There are also several thousand files related to the Hewlett-Packard line of palmtop computers (HP 28/48/95/100 series). The board also carries several FidoNet conferences, such as Windows, Amateur Radio, Telecommunications Regulation, Scouting, etc.

So whether you're looking for a shareware database manager, or a printer utility, give ACCESS a call. With over 400 megabytes of files, chances are we have the software you need.

For more information about ACCESS, send email to mccullarsj@email.uah.edu - ed. ■

Not the Comic Book Teen

Todd E. Curtiss

tcurtiss@umiami.ir.miami.edu

Archie, in terms of the Internet, doesn't refer to the comic book teenager. Rather, Archie is an archival system, created by McGill University in Canada, for anonymous FTP sites on the Internet. Because there is such a large amount of information available on the net, keeping track of which files are on which sites can be very time consuming. Archie's query system does just that. By connecting to an Archie site (there are many located throughout cyberspace), a user can initiate a search for a filename or keyword throughout over 1,000 anonymous FTP sites and well over a million

Other Archie sites are also available; their site addresses are available from the opening screen of the SURAnet server, **archie.sura.net**.

To initiate a search from an Archie site, log on to the system by typing **archie** at the login prompt. Users will then be put into the main Archie command line. From the command line (prompted by **Archie>**), the user may enter any series of commands to initiate the search. For example, to scan all FTP entries for the file called "DocumentX" and return only the first 10 entries Archie finds, the user would enter

```
set maxhits 10
prog DocumentX
```

Site name	IP address	Location
archie.ans.net	147.225.1.10	ANS server, New York
archie.sura.net	128.167.254.195	SURAnet server, Maryland
archie.internic.net	198.49.45.10	AT&T server, New York
archie.rutgers.edu	128.6.18.15	Rutgers University, New Jersey
archie.unl.edu	129.93.1.14	University of Nebraska, Lincoln
archie.uqam.ca	132.208.250.10	Canadian Server (prompts in French)

and a half files. Better still, if you don't know the exact name of the file you need, Archie can search for substrings, and will return all files which match the pattern you entered. Collectively, these files represent over 100 gigabytes of information, with new entries being added daily. Best of all, Archie will not only return the Internet address of the archive site which has the file you are looking for, but also the directory path location for that file.

Archie sites typically are quite busy, so you may want to try a few different sites to find the fastest connection to your local site. Some relatively local Archie sites (local in terms of cyberspace) can be accessed through Archie clients or by telnetting to any of the Archie sites listed in the accompanying table.

The results from the search will then be returned to the user. To save those results, users can set their "Mailto" address and type **mail** after the results are displayed. Many other options are available, and are discussed at great length in the Archie help file, accessible from the **Archie>** prompt by typing **help**.

Reprinted from *The Tropical Byte* (University of Miami).
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A Brief Description of Systems Operated and Maintained by UAH Information Services

*By: John Stanton
stantonj@email.uah.edu*

The Information Services department of the University of Alabama in Huntsville is responsible for the operation and maintenance of various academic and administrative computer systems owned by UAH. These computer systems are commonly referred to as "hosts".

UAH host systems include: the UAH information Gopher, the campus electronic mail system, the Unisys 2200 mainframe system and the high performance Digital 7000 Alpha or AXP mainframe system. Information Services host systems are available to full-time students†, faculty and staff employees of the University of Alabama in Huntsville who have requested appropriate computer accounts. Account request forms are available from academic departmental secretaries or the Information Services HelpDesk.

What applications are available on these hosts?

UAH Information Gopher -- info.uah.edu

This is a exciting new host system operated and maintained by UAH Information Services. This system provides information about academic programs, research initiatives, and general information about the UAH campus as well as faculty/staff and student directories. Access to this system is available via modem through the Information Services modem pool (205) 895-6792, and Internet using either TELNET or the NCSA Mosaic program. Although this system is currently under construction, it is providing useful information to the UAH and world communities. Please contact the Information

Services HelpDesk for additional information.

Electronic Mail Service -- email.uah.edu

The Electronic Mail or EMail host provides access to TELNET (remote terminal), FTP (File Transfer Protocol) utilities as well as Bitnet/JNet and Internet electronic mail. Prospective users should complete a "Request for Computer Account" form (available from academic departmental secretaries and the Information Services HelpDesk) to access this system. Account Request forms and instructions are available from your academic departmental secretary or the Information Services HelpDesk.

Unisys 2200 Mainframe -- univac.uah.edu

This is the long-time mainframe system of UAH. Although it's slated for retirement in the next couple of years it still provides access to some administrative applications.

These include the @uah*on-line.labor program used to produce statements pertaining to Labor Distribution, the Student Information System (SIS) for student registration, billing and records management, the UAH Library's automated library system (PALS) and some programs which are part of the Financial Accounting System (FAS) which will be replaced by the Financial Reporting System (FRS - See UAHAXP).

Access, in most cases, requires submission of a formal account request. The PALS system, however, is available to the UAH community without this restriction. Please contact the UAH Library for help with PALS or the Information Services HelpDesk for any other information about this system.

Digital 7000 Alpha / AXP Mainframe - uahaxp.uah.edu

The Digital 7000 Alpha/AXP mainframe will

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

replace the Unisys 2200 mainframe which is quickly approaching retirement. This state-of-the-art computer system will be the host for UAH administrative and many large-scale research applications.

Use of this system is restricted to administrative staff, and to researchers and graduate students performing specialized research.

This system will be the host for the new Financial Reporting System (FRS), will produce the On-line Budget Statements (@month-end, @cur-bal) and many research applications. Account Request forms are available from your academic departmental secretary or the Information Services HelpDesk.

Connecting to UAH Information Services Host Computer Systems

Once you have established an appropriate account on a UAH host system, you will need to establish a communications link to it.

There are several ways of doing this. Terminal server, ethernet and modem pool are the most typical and the ones Information Services support. All require a computer, appropriate computer software, basic computer skills and some instruction.

Connections on the UAH Campus:

Many of UAH's buildings are currently wired and others are in the process of being wired for connections to UAH host systems. Once a building is wired it is connected to UAH host

systems through either a terminal server or ethernet.

What is a terminal server???

This is an electronic device which, if installed in your building, connects the port in your UAH office to the campus network. This form of connection is a low cost way of connecting a personal computer or dumb terminal to UAH's host systems. Terminal servers are an ideal solution for users who wish to connect to host systems without the need for special graphics or file transfers. They are not suitable for applications which are graphics intensive or transfer binary data. Examples of binary data include: Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, Microsoft Word documents and Microsoft Windows for Workgroups version 3.11 networking software. You can, however, connect to the UAH Information Gopher (info.uah.edu); Campus Email system (email.uah.edu) for TELNET and VMS Mail; Unisys 2200 mainframe system (univac.uah.edu) for statements pertaining to Labor Distribution, student information system (SIS) and on-line Library (PALS); and the UAH Alpha/AXP for Budget Statements and the new Financial Reporting System (FRS).

Morton Hall is connected to the campus network via a 32-port terminal server. This terminal server configuration will allow up to 32 offices to be connected. Optics Building, Materials Science Building and Wilson Hall provide their occupants connection to the campus network using terminal servers as well as ethernet.

What is needed to connect to a terminal server???

You will need an active terminal server connection in your office, a patch cable, a PC (be it an Apple or IBM clone), and some communications software. Not sure if your office has an active terminal server connection

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

installed? Contact the Information Services HelpDesk at 895-6347 and select the "HelpDesk" option. We will be glad to help you determine this.

Patch cable. This is the cord which physically attaches your terminal or PC to the active terminal server connection. They can be purchased from the Campus Bookstore.

The PC can be either an Apple, IBM, or IBM clone. It should contain at least one free communications port or "COMM" port. You may have heard them referred to as "serial ports". Your patch cable will be attached to your PC at this "COMM" port. Please contact the Information Services HelpDesk if you need help.

A variety of computer communications software can be used to connect to a terminal server. However, the only two which Information Services support are "PROCOMM version 1.1B" for IBM PC's and clones and "White Knight" for Apple computer systems. The PROCOMM program is available free of charge to UAH faculty and staff. To receive a copy bring two formatted 3.5" or 5 1/4" floppy disks by Information Services User Services department. They are open Monday - Friday 8:30 am until 5:00 pm. They are located in room M-30 of Research Institute. There is a charge for the White Knight program. See the Campus Bookstore for its availability.

What is ethernet?

Ethernet is, in most cases, the ideal method of connecting to UAH host systems. It provides the most sophisticated connection of the three that Information Services Supports. Ethernet connections are high-speed and very reliable. They offer the most flexibility. They are, however the most expensive to set up and maintain. They require a Network Interface Card, a more powerful PC and some additional

communications software. Most of the major buildings on the UAH campus are wired for ethernet connections. These include the University Center, Roberts Hall (in progress), Library, parts of Wilson Hall, Administrative Science Building, Alumni House, Madison Hall, Engineering Building, Research Institute, Optics, Material Science Building, Printing Services, Clinical Science Building and University Medical Clinics (in progress). Others will be connected to ethernet services as funds and other resources are available.

A Network Interface Card must be installed in the PC. Since communication speeds are significantly higher, this special adapter must be used. In installations involving IBM and IBM clone PC's, a SMC Elite 16 or an Elite 16-T Network Interface Card is required. They are available through vendors on the UAH Purchasing bid list. Contact the Information Services HelpDesk to determine which card you will need. Apple computer users will need to contact the Information Services HelpDesk to determine the type of interface card to purchase.

If you are the user of an IBM PC or clone you must have a 386 series PC or greater. The hard disk space on the system should be 200 megabytes or greater and RAM memory should be 8 megabytes or more. If you use a PC which does not meet any of these criteria you will not be able to use an ethernet connection. Users of Apple systems should contact the Information Services HelpDesk for requirements needed for their systems.

Software used for ethernet connections is more sophisticated. PC users who meet the above criteria should purchase a copy of the Microsoft Windows for Workgroups version 3.11 software. It is a very inexpensive software package, yet it provides the necessary base for installing a package called WinQVT/Net. WinQVT/Net is an easy to use software package available free of charge from

(Continued on page 11)

Mother Says

By: Helga Schmedlapp

Mother Declares!

Mother was in the mood for a cozy little chat with her many reader. Unfortunately for you, her gentle readerperson, she has spent her cozy time playing telephone tag with folks from one end of this fine upstanding country to the other end or side or coast whichever is your personal idiomatic expression for the East/West extremities of the contiguous set of forty-eight.

And Mother is depressed. Telephone tag has become the second largest time-waster in Mother's little world (meetings of dubious need easily qualifying for the number one spot on the time-waster hit parade). She protests! Why is the hi-tech universe not using EMAIL? Why is Mother attempting to contact, for the second week, an individual with a large computer firm only to be faced with having to explain her questions in 30 second snippets? And why does that individual respond with regret at not being available but with few answers? BECAUSE telephone tag has become a national pastime. People leave their offices freely knowing that the ever faithful voice-mail will record all those highly important messages which will come pouring in the second the phone is deserted. And most persons do call back. At least, they call Mother back. Mother takes names of those who do not call back and makes it a point to be vindictive. So, the message receiver returns a call to find that the message giver has also freely left the phone to the ever faithful . . . And so it goes. Now about that EMAIL stuff...

Have you noticed that EMAIL messages are generally pithy? Even when there is the

individual who waltzes around a point before getting to it, the point is gotten to in much less rhetoric by type than by voice. And, as if the writer isn't direct enough, the reader tends to scan the message for the crux, the core, the elemental. By the way, CHAT functions appear much more conversational than informative. EMAIL, even between comrades, generally exists for a purpose. Something, besides the need for human contact, is being exchanged. Available from the fine personages at Information Services, is a form for your EMAIL account. If you have not done so, take that leap into the "now". EMAIL is where it's at.

Note: Mother did not supply her E-Mail address -ed.

Thanks...

The following individuals contributed to this issue of @UAH.EDU: Todd Curtiss, Jean Greenwood, Mike Meyer, Malcolm Rice, and John Stanton.

If you would like to see your name in print, or if you have an idea for a story that you think would be helpful and interesting to our readers, e-mail your ideas or suggestions to EDITOR@EMAIL.UAH.EDU, or send them to the address on the inside front cover of this issue.

Staff Notes

Congratulations to **Laura McComb**, former Information Security Coordinator on the birth of her daughter, Hannah. Information Services welcomes **Jim Jackson** aboard as the new ISC. Best wishes to **Felix Baxter**, who left UAH to pursue other interests. Computer operator **Rebecca (Merrell) Eiford** recently exchanged wedding vows with Jay Eiford. Good luck, Becky!

What is NCSA Mosaic???

By: John Stanton
stantonj@email.uah.edu

NCSA Mosaic is a graphical Internet information browser. Mosaic is a joint project of CERN in Switzerland and the National Center for Super computing Applications (NCSA) here in the US.

With NCSA Mosaic, a properly configured PC and an Internet connection, you can browse what's known as the World Wide Web (WWW). The World Wide Web is part of the Information Superhighway. You can make stops along the WWW at what is referred to as "Home Pages". Home pages vary greatly in content. Some provide information about such topics as Music, Computer Systems, New Technology, Civic Information and Educational Institutions. UAH has a home page on the WWW.

Its WWW address is: <http://info.uah.edu> on the web if you are already using Mosaic.

NCSA Mosaic is a freeware package. You do not have to pay for it. There is a catch, though. NCSA Mosaic is not a finished product like commercial packages. There are bugs in the program and occasionally it will crash. NCSA is very good in providing new releases which correct known bugs.

Mosaic incorporates what are known as viewers into its program. Viewers enable you to display pictures, show brief movies, download files, and play audio clips on a properly configured PC. Many viewers are shareware like the Mosaic program. The better ones will ask for a registration fee. Typically, this registration fee includes future upgrades of the viewer.

Versions of NCSA Mosaic are available for the Apple and IBM PC.

Please call the Information Services HelpDesk and we will help you configure your system.

UAH Information Services HelpDesk
Research Institute Room M-1-A Phone:
(205) 895-6347 Ext. 270
Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday 8:30 am till 5:00 pm

To Internet or not to Internet That is the question

At least once a week the University is asked for a connection to the Internet for non-profits, profits, or individuals. The decision to provide that connection is entirely out of the University's hands.

The Commercial Internet Exchange (CIX) is the organization which manages the majority of all commercial traffic. This is a membership organization and has decided to block all traffic for which it provides routing from sites that are not dues paying members beginning November 1, 1994.

The only exception to this rule is that a university that provides Internet Protocol (IP) services to its faculty, researchers, and students is not required to pay a membership fee.

A university that provides IP services to alumni, local businesses, or other organizations not directly participating in the university's educational mission is required to join.

Membership in CIX for IP resellers is fixed at \$7,500.

A Brief Description of Systems...

(Continued from page 8)

Information Services. Please contact the Information Services HelpDesk for details. WinQVT/Net will connect you to the various UAH host systems. Microsoft Windows for Workgroups version 3.11 is available from UAH Purchasing on their bid list. Apple PC users should contact the Information Services HelpDesk for assistance in selecting software for their systems.

Lastly, let's discuss the method of connecting to UAH host systems when you are off-campus. The UAH Modem Pool.

Connections made from home or off the UAH Campus:

If you are planning to work from home or some other location you can connect to UAH host systems using the UAH Modem Pool.

Telephone modems have been in use for many years. They provide an affordable link to individuals who wish to connect their computer to remote host systems. Telephone modems are commonly used to connect to services such as CompuServe, America On-Line, Prodigy and other computer service companies. These service companies have, in some cases, hundreds of modems at different geographical regions of the country. These "Modem Pools", as they are called, provide telephone modem access to the service company's subscribers. In the case of UAH, we have 22 modems available to students, faculty and staff employees. We refer to this group of phone modems as the "UAH Modem Pool".

What is needed to connect to the UAH Modem Pool???

Computer: You will need a IBM compatible,

an Apple personal computer or other computer system which can have a phone modem connected to it. Many of the computers sold on today's market come with phone modems already installed. If you currently own a computer system, consult your owners manual and related documentation or contact your computer dealer if you wish to confirm this. If you are planning to buy a system, mention that you would want a system which either comes with a phone modem installed or one which can have one added later.

Telephone Modem: Telephone modems are like most electronic gadgets. Some are simple, no frills devices and some are very sophisticated. Generally, a basic modem will do just fine for connecting to the UAH Modem Pool. The data rate (transmission speed) of the modem should be between 1,200 and 14,400 bps. Modems with speeds lower or higher than this range are not yet supported. The modem you select should be compatible with your computer and, what will be discussed next, your *communications software*. Here again, consult your owners manual or computer hardware dealer if you have any questions.

Communications Software: The market for computer communications software has been growing along with the rest of the information industry. As a result of this growth, several really good, low cost communications applications have been developed. These applications are available for all types of computers including Apple, IBM and IBM clone personal computer systems and others. The software you choose should be compatible with your computer and modem. Your software dealer can help you with this.

Phone Line or extension: In most cases you can use an extension of the phone line in your office or home for computer communications. ***Phone modems are not usually needed for on-campus users.*** Many of the campus's buildings have wiring installed to provide

(Continued on page 16)

**UAH Network Services
Network Address Request Form
Completion Instructions**

Refer to the Network Address Request Form for sections of the form described herein.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: The name of the actual user of the workstation or the system administrator if the machine is a multi-user platform.

Department: Department to which the machine belongs. Be explicit as possible.

Mailing Address: The Campus mailing address of the user. Include room numbers.

E-Mail Address: The electronic mailing address of the primary user or system administrator.

Phone Number: Entire campus phone number including extension.

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION:

Type of Equipment: The manufacturer, make and model of the machine. Include any model numbers.

Equipment Location: The physical location of the machine. Include site, if off campus, building, room number, and section number if applicable.

Operating system: Type of operating system in use on the machine.

Comm. Hardware: Type of interface in use to connect to the network.

Comm. Software: Type of communications software used to access network.

CONNECTION INFORMATION:

Type of connection: Check appropriate selection. Give any additional information requested based on selection (i.e. give the ethernet address or serial connection scheme used to connect to the network).

NODE NAME INFORMATION:

Internet Node Name: The name by which the machine will be identified on the network. This name can be as long as desired. If any subdomain (i.e. CS.UAH.EDU) is desired, supply the information as part of the node name.

DECNET Nodename: The decnet node name desired (max of six characters).

The number will be assigned by Information Services personnel and the user listed in the contact information section will be notified by phone or E-mail of the assignment.

UAH Network Services

Date: _____

SEND TO: Rich Hemphill
Information Services
Research Institute

DECNET: UAHAXP::HEMPHILLR
INTERNET: HEMPILLR@EMAIL.UAH.EDU
VOICE: (205) 895-6347x231

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Department: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION

Type of Equipment: _____

Equipment location: _____

Operating System: _____

Comm. Hardware: nothing on this PC, everything else connected to a LANComm. Software: Microsoft Word 2003

CONNECTION INFORMATION

Type of connection:

Ethernet: () Ethernet Address: _____
(e.g. 00-00-00-00-00-00)

Serial: () Connected To: _____

Connection Speed: _____

Other: () Describe: _____

NODE NAME INFORMATION

Internet Nodename: _____ (.UAH.EDU)

DECNET Nodename: _____
(If applicable, 6 characters)

PROCESSING INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED BY NETWORK SERVICES

IP ADDRESS: _____ DECNET Address: _____

Date Completed: _____

DEC 7000/610 COMPUTING FACILITIES

Major Hardware

The DEC 7000/610 unit processor (Alpha chip)
Clock Speed: 200 Megahertz
Memory: 128 Megabytes
Disc Storage: 16 Gigabytes of DASD

Peripheral Equipment

Two TZ867 tape drives; each capable of backing up 42 Gb of disc space unattended
One high-speed line printer (LP29): 2000 lines per minute

Software

Languages:

C
COBOL
Fortran

SCT Administrative software packages:

FRS - Accounting module
FPR - Purchasing module
BID - Bid module
FXX - Fixed Assets module
BDS - Budget Development module
HRS - Human Resources module

FOCUS

To be used as a report generator for the SCT software

VISAGE

A graphical user interface (GUI) for the SCT software

TEK

A mainframe-based technical document preparation tool

IDL

An interactive graphics display language

IMSL

A mathematical and statistical subroutine library

UNISYS 2200/402 COMPUTING FACILITIES

The 2200/402 system is a mid-range computer system providing compatibility with the Unisys Series 1100 Operating System. It uses low power and cooling requirements with contemporary bus-structured architecture.

Major Hardware

Two Instruction Processors (IP). Perform logical, arithmetic and instruction sequencing operations and is sometimes referred to as a central processing unit.

Four Input/Output Processors (IOP) to control I/O operations between peripherals and the system.

Two Main Storage Units (MSU) each consisting of an interface, control logic and 4 megawords of random access storage.

One common I/O Processor (CIOP) to provide system initialization and microcode loading.

Peripheral Equipment

Two M9270 disk subsystems with a total 14.61 gigabytes of storage.

Two Uniservo 34 tape drives for 9-track, 1600/6250 BPI.

Four Uniservo 36 tape drives for 9-track, 1600/6250 BPI.

Four USR5073 SCSI cartridge tape drives (IBM 3480 type)

One USR2145 tape drive for 9-track, 800/1600/6250 BPI.

Two 9246-25B printers (2000 lines/min).

One Distributed Communications Processor (DCP/40) with 32 synchronous lines, two 9600 baud lines for graphics use plus 16 asynchronous lines connected to a DEC Reverse LAT terminal server.

One Bus-Tech, Inc. Ethernet control unit (HLC) for TCP/IP access.

Software

The software system is based on an Executive known as the 1100 Operating System. The resident OS1100 system includes:

COBOL	PASCAL	FURPUR	FORTRAN
BASIC	DOC	PALS	KERMIT
ED	QLP-1100	DPS-1100	ELT
FAS	SSG	CML	SYSLIB
FLIT	Meta Assembler	SORT/MERGE	PCIOS
PDP	PMD	DMS	

Other available libraries include:

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSSX).

Tektronix PLOT 10 software, TCS, AG2, IGL, and Easygraph DISSPLA graphics.

Unisys Mathematical Subroutines (Math Pack).

Unisys Statistical Subroutines (Stat Pack).

International Mathematical and Statistical Library (IMSL).

Biomedical Statistical Library (BMDP).

(Continued on page 16)

Unisys 2200/400

(Continued from page 15)

Ordinary Differential Equations System (ODEPACK).

SYSTAT, SYSGRAPH, NCAR.

Harvard Graphics.

Campus Software Library Grant (DEC).

A User's Guide is available in machine-readable form. A @GUIDE processor is available to users for extracting and printing material from the Guide. The Information Services staff is available to consult with the University community on problems associated with use of the center. ■

A Brief Description of Systems...

(Continued from page 11)

access to host systems via terminal server or ethernet (both described earlier) so phone modems are not required. Contact UAH Telephone Services for information pertaining to installation of extensions at campus offices or general questions regarding to UAH phone systems. Off-campus users should contact South Central Bell or their phone service provider.

Assuming you have met all of these criteria and have a working knowledge of your hardware and communications software, and it is working properly, you will need to configure your communications software for the following settings.

Data Rate:	Between 1,200 and 14,400 bps
Data Bits:	8
Stop Bits:	1
Parity:	None

Consult your communications software

manual if you have questions pertaining to making these settings. Because of the multitude of communications packages available today and limited resources, UAH Information Services personnel will not be available to assist you in debugging problems related to your modem or configuring your software. You should consult your manual or contact the support phone numbers for your modem and communications software.

Assuming that your hardware and software are functioning properly and you have made the software settings mentioned earlier, you are ready to contact the UAH Modem Pool. The phone number, which is the first in a 22-line rotary group, is (205) 895-6792. *This number should be used for modems of between 1,200 and 2,400 bps rates. Contact the Information Services HelpDesk at 895-6347 Ext. 270 if you would like to connect to our higher speed modems.*

Advantages of Phone Modems:

- Good temporary or short term connections to UAH computer services.
- Inexpensive to implement and in most cases extensions of current phone lines can be used.
- Many communications programs provide software emulation of commonly used terminals.

Disadvantages of Phone Modems:

- Phone lines are not as stable as other forms of communication links such as Terminal Server and Ethernet.
- Communications speeds tend to be slower than terminal server and much slower than ethernet. ■

Conversion Progress...

(Continued from page 1)

being introduced into the system.

Meyer stated that another advantage that the end-user will notice is a "consistent look and feel" of data query and data entry screens across the system. For example, future plans call for users to be able to enter "electronic requisitions" into the Purchasing System. When this is available, the "flavor" of all screens will be similar, reducing the training time for users to learn the new features.

Meyer also pointed out that under the new FRS, two years worth of data will be kept online at all times. Under the old system, if a comparison was needed between two years, a report would be run against the current data, and the same report run against the old data files. The reports would then have to be manually examined for comparison purposes. Now, however, reports are available that can compare current and prior years.

Another advantage of using the purchased software is the timely update of software by the vendor in response to changes such as federal regulation changes, tax changes, etc. Previously, these changes were coded by Information Services programmers at the initiation of the affected user department. Now, however, tax table and other changes will come from the software vendor in a timely manner.

In short, while there may be some initial "getting used to" the new systems, the end result should be a more consistent, user-friendly platform upon which to conduct the University's business. We at Information Services hope you share our excitement about the changes to come. ■

E-Mail Forms Available

Just a reminder that all UAH students, faculty, and staff are eligible for an account on the campus EMAIL machine. This host offers Internet (SMTP) mail, FTP, and Telnet. To receive an account request form, stop by room M-30A in Research Institute, or contact User Services at 895-6237, ext. 259. ■

Mailing List Update Form

Please delete my name from the Newsletter mailing list:

☐

Please add my name to the Newsletter mailing list:

☐

Please change the following information:

☐

Name: _____

Address: _____

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