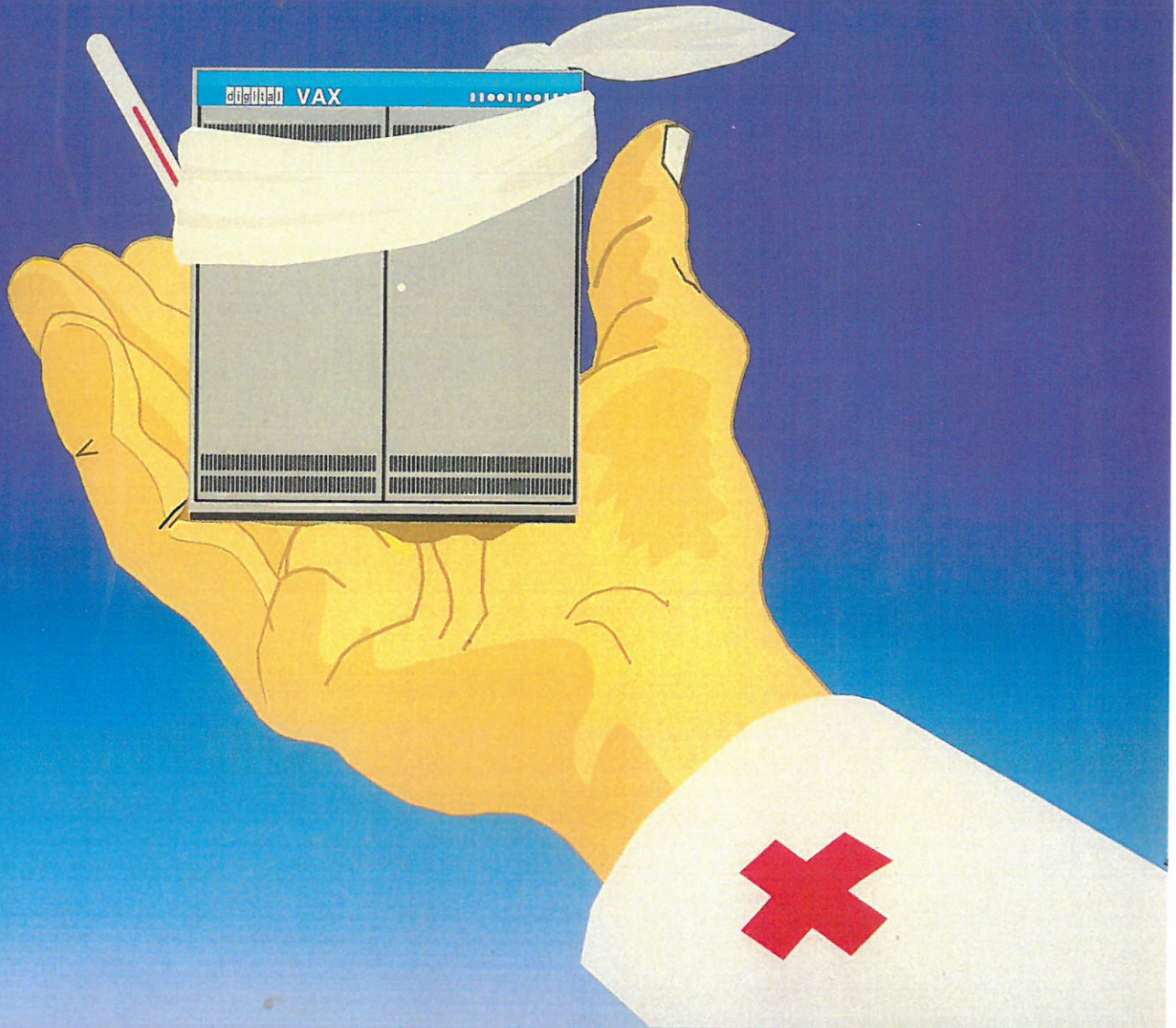# on$deck

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THE MAGAZINE FOR DIGITAL EQUIPMENT USERS

No. 4: May 1988

digital VAX

MAINTENANCE COSTS CAN BE REDUCED

DATA SECURITY — ARE YOU PREPARED?

DEXPO EAST REPORT

EARLY DAYS OF UNIX

Apollo Links to DECnet

Apollo has signed an agreement with Ki Research, of Columbus, Maryland, to supply Apollo with communications software that will provide Apollo workstations with advanced connectivity to DEC's DECnet family of communications products.

Under the agreement. Ki Research, which specialises in communications products that are DECnet compatible, will provide software to link and allow Apollo workstation users to emulate DEC terminals and access programs and files, and drive applications being hosted on the VAX system. This solution will extend current Apollo-DEC communications capabilities made possible through Apollo's TCP/IP communications protocol package, Domain/Access and VT100 terminal emulation. The new software product will give Apollo workstations DECnet Phase IV end node capabilities over Ethernet networks. A future Apollo product implementation will comply with DECnet Phase V, representing the convergence of DECnet and ISO.

CIRCLE 222 ON ENQUIRY CARD

Tally Converted to VAX/VMS

Transoft Corporation has announced that the Australian accounting package Tally is now available under VMS.

In an arrangement that demonstrates the maturing of the Australian software industry, Transoft Corporation approached the developers of Tally, South Pacific Computers, with the concept of converting and refining the Tally package for sale to the DEC VAX base.

One year ago Transoft recognised the need for an aggressively priced accounting package that would be attractive to purchasers of MicroVAX systems.

"The price range of the MicroVAX means that software products need to be more aggressive to gain sales", stated a spokesperson for Transoft. "Furthermore to be succesful in the VAX base a product has to be proven in the local market place and well supported. The temptation is to import a foreign accounting package and hope it meets Australian business needs. The obvious alternative to importation is to create a package from scratch. Whilst this approach addresses local conditions it comes with the restriction of limited research and development funds being stretched. The result is often an unrefined product being released due to the financial need to recoup the R&D investment."

Transoft believed a product could be released in the Australian market place, overcoming the above problems and still be aggressively priced.

The first step was to identify an accounting package that was locally developed and of a standard acceptable to corporate users. A leading accounting firm was employed to assess the software available. Secondly the recommended software package had to be evaluated for suitability to be converted to run on VAX. The Tally accounting system developed by South Pacific Computing was the preferred choice.

With sales over two thousand systems the Tally product was well accepted and refined. An agreement was made under which Transoft Corporation would convert and refine the Tally system as needed to meet VAX users needs. The several hundred thousand dollars in R&D Transoft invested was in addition to the two million dollars SPC had invested prior to the conversion.

The next phase of the project was to field test the VAX version of Tally. Several sites agreed to assist develop the system. "It was always difficult to differentiate a system "bug" from a customer enhancement. The test sites seemed to fully understand the advantages of assisting to develop a product. All test sites are now reference accounts. Having access to source code gives flexibility users are not always used to, Transoft continue still to customise the Tally system to a clients exact needs.

The unusual methodology used by Transoft Corporation in the conversion of Tally on to VAX has been shown to be worthwhile with several organisations distributing Tally and early sales being recorded.

CIRCLE 223 ON ENQUIRY CARD

Fortran Converter

IBM has announced a product, Fortran Translation Tool, which it states will convert CDC and DEC Fortran applications into IBM VS Fortran.

The Translation Tool translates source code statement-by-statement into IBM Fortran while running as a batch job under MVS or VM. The original statements are preserved as comments in the new program. If a statement cannot be translated, the program labels it with a code. A system editor assists in finding the output statements that need manual conversion.

This tool translates PDP-11, TOPS and Plus dialects of Fortran from DEC as well as VMS.

CIRCLE 224 ON ENQUIRY CARD

Applix/Alis

Applix has released V2.0 of its Alis office automation software which is available under VMS. The new icon-based user interface provides users with menu, window, application and document control. Users can choose graphic icons or text and can control the program's functions with a mouse or keyboard.

The new release also offers more support for preparation of large documents, including the ability to divide manuscripts into smaller sections that can be edited at separate locations on a network.

Alis V2. offers a command facility for writing command macros and support for colour in the document composer and graphics editor functions. The software also has additional font styles and sizes and expanded support for foreign languages.

CIRCLE 225 ON ENQUIRY CARD

MPS32 SSP

Floating point Systems has announced a 32-bit array processor featuring up to four computational processors and a peak speed of 72 million FLOPS in the MPS32 SSP.

It also offers directly addressable memory and can be configured with from 1 to 16 MegaWords of memory. It can be interfaced to DEC's Q, Uni and BI buses. Also available on the MPS32 SSP is Mpfortran which supports the use of data flow analysis to reduce the parallel programming effort.

CIRCLE 226 ON ENQUIRY CARD

386Ware

An upgraded version of the 386Ware has been announced which enables up to eight concurrent users on VAX to access personal computer software. The upgraded version includes a 1.2MB floppy disk drive, load balancing between servers and enhanced resolution for Lotus's 1-2-3 enhanced graphics adapter drivers. Also, the communication speed between the 386Ware and the VAX has doubled.

CIRCLE 227 ON ENQUIRY CARD

Wang InterOffice

Wang has released InterOffice which links into DEC's All-in-One product, allowing users of Wang's Office and All-in-One to exchange electronic mail and documents. InterOffice also allows All-in-One users to communicate with IBM DISOSS and PROFS users when InterOffice is used in conjunction with Wang's VS/PROFS and Office/DISOSS.

InterOffice was developed for Wang by The Boston Software Works Inc. of Boston and will be remarketed and sold exclusively through Wang's direct sales force. InterOffice comprises two software components and utilises the Wang Information Transfer Architecture (WITA) enabling the transfer of documents and word processing documents between different systems. The user does not have to use any special commands; messages and documents take the format of whatever system a user is working on. An All-in-One user would be unable to tell that a word processing document was written and sent from a Wang system. To date Wang has licensed Office to 5,500 sites.

CIRCLE 228 ON ENQUIRY CARD

V/MAX

VC/Max is an attached processor board available for the VAX range which is avialable in 'C', Fortran and Pascal compilers. It runs at $3^1/2$ to 4 MIPS and the floating point multiple time is 437 nanosec. Specific CPU bound programs are run on the V/Max processor instead of on the CPU, relieving the VAX of extensive processing loads. One or more V/Max can be installed on the one CPU.

CIRCLE 229 ON ENQUIRY CARD