Hewlett-Packard 3000 Series

New Product Announcement

In August 1980, Hewlett-Packard reduced the price of their most powerful business computer, the HP 3000 Series III, by 14 percent. The new U.S. list price is $92,000, down from $107,330. The $92,000 HP 3000 Series III includes the CPU, 256K bytes of fault control memory, 16 asynchronous terminal ports, a system CRT console, a 1600 bpi magnetic tape drive, and a 50-megabyte disk drive. Software provided includes the MPE-III operating system, IMAGE data base management system, QUERY inquiry language, KSAM file access method, and V/3000 forms and data entry subsystem.

In addition to the HP 3000 Series III price reduction, HP is offering the COBOL II/3000 compiler at no cost to purchasers of any of the HP 3000 family of computers. This offer, which is good through October 31, 1980, is intended to introduce customers to COBOL/3000, a microcode assisted implementation of ANSI COBOL. Normal one-time, right-to-use fee for this software product is $3,000.

Hewlett-Packard has also announced a new materials management applications software system for use on the HP 3000 Series. HP Materials Management/3000 has been designed to be used and administered by manufacturing people. The new menu-driven system, which is a successor to the company's earlier HP MFG/3000, can be installed and tailored without the need for traditional programming languages, thus relieving the burden on professional staffs. An easy-to-use applications monitor automates the customer interface and makes it possible for most implementation and day-to-day operations to be carried on by manufacturing managers and their materials control people. HP Materials Management/3000 interacts with its users entirely through CRT terminals.

Applications can be tailored, without programming, to match the requirements of a particular manufacturing environment, and vendor support of Materials Management/3000 is not compromised nor affected by such user changes since customer modifications are treated as data and not as program code. Virtually all of the customizing users generally want to perform is included in an innovative new "applications dictionary." This gives the owner the ability to customize definitions of the data items, to define what business forms shall appear on the various terminal screens for entry or report of information, to define the menu of selections available to different users, to determine how printed documentation will be presented by the system, to set security limits on the information different users may enter or retrieve, and to change any of these from time to time.

The system includes ten modules: Master Production Scheduling, Rough Cut Resource Planning, Parts and Bills of Material, Routings and Workcenters, Material Issue and Receipts, Inventory Balance Management, Work Order Control, Purchase Order Tracking, Material Requirements Planning, and Standard Product Costing.

The services of an HP manufacturing industry specialist are available to every Materials Management/3000 installation to assist in planning the implementation of the system. This specialist continues to be the key HP contact for later supporting service. Hewlett-Packard also provides customer training, which includes complete instruction on using the customizing features. After installation, users may receive software updates, error corrections, enhancements, and manual updates. The package runs on every member of the HP 3000 family.

The predecessor system, the HP MFG/3000, offered four manufacturing modules and cost $18,500; Materials Management/3000, with its ten modules, software, and manuals, is priced at $25,000 in the U.S. Right to copy is $5,000 for each additional HP 3000 computer, and standard customer support service is $320 per month.