XEROX
BUSINESS SYSTEMS
System Development Division

To: D. Liddle   Date: January 25, 1979

From: W. C. Lynch   Location: Palo Alto

Subject: **Status Report for January 79**   Organization: SDD/SS

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Cc: SS members

Introduction

This is the first status report of the Systems Software section since the recent SDD reorganization. This cover status report will attempt to summarize the monthly accomplishments, list important Systems Software section issues, and track the status of personnel and equipment, all in bullet form. Details, additional information, and items of lesser importance can be found in the attached Systems Software area status reports, and these should be freely consulted when necessary and desirable.

Any suggestions for improving this summary report without unduly lengthening it will be welcomed.

Accomplishments

Planning for Pilot 3.0 is nearly complete.

Design details for software booting and microcode swapping have been worked out.

The strategy for supporting the Mesa debugger running on top of Pilot has been worked out.

The SDD Architecture Board, which was established this month, has empaneled an I/O Interface Working Group chaired by Jim White and with heavy Systems Software participation.

Communications Software has been working closely with ASD to determine and work toward fulfilling their requirements.

Victor Schwartz and his group have succeeded in transferring files between the IBM System 6 and the IBM CMC II in both directions. The CE communications log on the System 6 was printed and read.

D0 microcode version 2.1b was made available.

Issues

Systems Software is seriously short of Altos. A D0 shortfall is expected within the month as work begins on Teak.

Microcode release management has become a much more serious problem with Carol Hankins' departure.

A microcode overlay strategy (e.g. for the RS232C variants) needs to be developed in view of the tightness of control store.

Mail service to our personnel in building 34 needs to be improved.

The Xerox-Wire controller is missing too many packets.

The requirements for Diagnostics must be negotiated with the new XBS service organization.

The Gateway software will not have a client for at least six months. This introduces testing risks.

IODU is critically short of both personnel and Altos.

Personnel and Equipment

Randy Gobbel started January 22.

John Ng started December 29.

Tommy Chang transferred to IODU from ED.

Carol Hankins resigned from Xerox.

Offers have been extended to Robert Ladner (Pilot- Common Software) and Alan Freier (IO-IODU)