The Prentice Bulletin

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THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

CVRS UPGRADED

Ten more lecture theatres to be equipped

The Prentice Centre is extending the already highly successful Central Video Replay System (CVRS) which it developed and introduced two years ago.

Before its introduction, video facilities in lecture theatres had been provided by VCRs which were either delivered on request or permanently stationed in lecture theatres. Unfortunately the equipment was vulnerable to theft, interference and environmental hazards such as chalk dust. Lecturers also had problems operating a variety of different equipment.
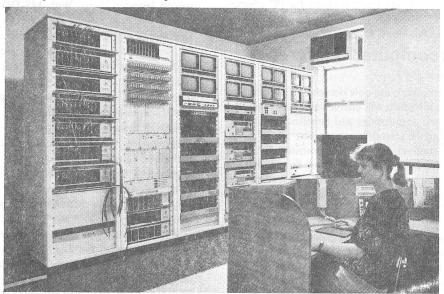
CVRS however consists of a central control station in the Undergraduate Library, staffed by an operator from 8 am to 10 pm, a highly developed computer controlled switching system (Macintosh of course) a campus-wide network of modern optical fibres and a standard control panel in each theatre. The video tapes are controlled by the operator back at the control station and the output piped to the desired location at the designated time. The operator is ideally placed to assist the user, determine and rectify minor problems and, if necessary, quickly call upon the technical staff of the Centre for major assistance.

CVRS uses modern optical fibres instead of the conventional broadband coaxial copper cables and manual systems of yesteryear. CVRS offers the same capabilities as centralised coaxial cable systems, but is cheaper, easier to maintain, more secure and less subject to electrical interference, copper cables being very susceptible to electrical interference, easy to tap into and expensive over long distances. The system also distributes video programs received from the university's satelite receivers.

The Centre developed CVRS under contract to the University and now plans to market it to other organisations. Further development is already in hand which could lead to systems suitable for wider application.

CVRS, as presently configured, has the potential to transmit video images to 120 remote viewing stations from 16 VCRs at the replay centre. At present however, it is only serving 40 lecture theatres and four library viewing stations.

The upgrade will add a further ten sites to the system—Goddard 612, Michie 643 & 722, Priestley 208, Min & Met 105, Hartley Teakle 324, Gordon Greenwood 225 & 226, Forgan-Smith B7, and Computer Science 718.

Prentice Centre CVRS in the Undergraduate Library sends video images to lecture theatres

Top Virus Buster Now Available

Centre signs site licence with Leprechaun!

From $79.95 DOWN!!!

The Prentice Centre has arrived at a new site licence agreement with Messrs Leprechaun Software Pty Ltd.

Under the terms of this agreement the Virus Buster software, acknowledged leader in the prophylaxis of computer viruses, will be made available at heavily discounted rates to the University community.

Virus Buster is available as any of the single Regular, the Network or the Advanced package. Each package contains three major products—Buster, The Doctor and Watchdog.

The regular package is capable of defensive measures only; the advanced package, however, is capable of both detecting and removing viruses. The Network package, as its name suggests, is capable of detecting and defeating viruses over a Novell LAN.

Contact the **Technology Shop** on **365 3943** for further details about our extremely competitive pricing for staff, students and departments and sections.

Handy Hint

Installing a 'screen saver' on a PC is thoroughly worthwhile. In essence, they are programs which black out the screen after a user-determined waiting period and then display soothing or interesting patterns. Their use need not be merely esoteric, since they will protect any screen from the damage, i.e. etching, likely to result from a continuous display of the same image. Numerous proprietry, shareware or public domain programs are available with motifs ranging from undersea scenes to Lissajou figures. Talk to **Workstation Support** on **365 4018**.

Computing and Audio Visual Services and Products

New SAS Licences and Specials

The SAS System is a comprehensive software system for data analysis and report writing. The Prentice Centre now has SAS/IML and SAS/FSP licences available for purchase by University Departments in addition to the SAS Base, SAS/STAT and SAS/GRAPH licences.

SAS/IML software consists of the SAS IML procedures which implement a programming language called Interactive Matrix Language. This is a multi level, interactive programming language with which it is possible to examine the smallest factor or reach out to large operations processing thousands of values. IML variables can hold anything from a single character to thousands of elements. IML has high level operations to perform the more common tasks but if there is a need to customise something, it can be done by using IML.

SAS/FSP procedures combine the convenience of interactive, full screen facilities for data entry, editing and data retrieval with the programming capabilities of base SAS software. SAS/FSP software allows browsing and editing SAS data sets, browsing external files and creating form letters and reports. Sophisticated data entry and data editing applications are easily installed.

For September only, the Prentice Centre is offering huge reductions to SAS licences. The licences are valid until the 18 December 1991. Prices are:

SAS Base software with SAS/STAT ....$30.00 (normally $50.00)
SAS/GRAPH ....$15.00 (normally $25.00)
SAS/IML ....$15.00 (normally $25.00)
SAS/FSP..$15.00 (normally $25.00)

We also have the full range of SAS documentation in stock and can now supply the latest version (6.04) on either 1.2MB 5.25" or 1.44MB 3.5" floppy disks.

Telephone us now on **365 4018** for full details on these SAS specials.

October Course Schedule

Course	UQ Price	Ext Price	Date	Time
October				
Introduction to SAS	free	$300	October 7–11	1–4pm
Introduction to WORD (PC)	$80	$240	October 9–12	9–12am
Introduction to WordPerfect	$80	$240	October 15–18	9–12am
Advanced MSDOS	$60	$180	October 15–17	1–4pm
Advanced WordPerfect	$60	$180	October 21–23	9–12am
Introduction to Macintosh	$40	$120	October 22–23	1–4pm
Introduction to MSDOS	$60	$180	October 28–30	1–4pm
Special Topics in WordPerfect (Tables)	$20	$60	October 31	9–12am
Special Topics in WordPerfect (Equations)	$20	$60	November 1	9–12am

Bookings and Payment

To enrol in any course, telephone **365 3765**. Bookings are to be confirmed by payment within three days. Payment is to be made by any of Interdepartmental Requisition Form, cash or personal cheque. The UQ Price is available to University staff and postgraduate students. Undergraduate students and external clients must pay the Ext Price. A $20 cancellation fee will apply to UQ staff and students for PC courses ($60 for all other registrations).

Please address all correspondence to *Course Bookings, Prentice Centre.*

Fourth Australian Supercomputer Conference

2–5 December 1991

Supercomputers, the world's most powerful computers, are now becoming cost effective tools for business and commerce. This major conference will enable senior management to appreciate the nature of supercomputers, their applications and benefits. It will also present recent technological advances relevant to the scientific community.

The Fourth Australian Supercomputer conference (4ASC) promises to be a significant event. Keynote papers will be presented by invited speakers from Australia and the USA. 4ASC will have two distinct streams, **Scientific/Research** and **Commercial/Industry**. 4ASC is being held in Queensland (University Park Hotel, Bond University Campus) at the initiative of the Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development. It will be hosted by the four TECHQUAD (technology quadrangle) universities of south-east Queensland—Griffith University, The University of Queensland, Bond University and Queensland University of Technology.

Events associated with the conference include a panel session on supercomputing in business, a supercomputer expo, and a two day supercomputing workshop.

Interested? Mark the dates in your diary and contact 4ASC (PO Box 1280, Milton Qld 4064) for more information.

MS-DOS version 5.0
— many new features

Upgrades to the new MS-DOS version 5.0 are now available in the Prentice Centre's Technology Shop.

If you have used earlier versions of MS-DOS, you will find many improvements and new features in version 5.0. These features include changes to the way MS-DOS uses memory as well as new commands and programs.

New MS-DOS version 5.0 features include:

- **Better use of memory** so programs can run faster and more efficiently. Anyone running MS-DOS with Microsoft Windows version 3.0 will certainly see an improvement with MS-DOS version 5.0.
- **Added data security.** MS-DOS version 5.0 includes two new commands, unformat and undelete. These commands undo a format or delete operation, restoring a disk or file to its original state.
- **Online Help** for all MS-DOS commands and MS-DOS Shell.
- **A new full-screen text editor** to create and modify text files easily.
- **Improved directory command** that enables directory listings to be sorted by filename, type of file, the date and time that files were created, and file size.
- **Doskey**, a program to recall, edit, and carry out commands already used. Doskey will create macros to make it easy for you to perform a series of tasks without having to type several commands.
- **An improved MS-DOS shell** that you can use to manage programs and switch between them. With MS-DOS Shell, you can view the directory structure of any disk, view the contents of several directories, and navigate through your files and directories quickly.
- **The ability to create large disk partitions** of up to 2 gigabytes.
- **MS-DOS QBasic**, an improved Basic programming environment that includes extensive online Help.
- **The ability to access more than two hard disk drives**.
- **Support for 2.88-megabyte floppy disks**.

The Technology Shop is selling MS-DOS version 5 upgrades for $135. Come to the Technology Shop on Level 2 (Ground floor), Prentice Building (number 42 on campus maps) or telephone 365 3943 for enquiries.