

Honeywell Series 60, Level 62

New Product Announcement

On April 2, 1980, the British and Italian subsidiaries of Honeywell Information Systems introduced the DPS 4 multiprocessor system as an upgrade for present Level 62 users. Fully compatible with the Level 62 small computer systems, the DPS 4 is priced at or below the Level 62, but with improved price/performance. The entry-level DPS 4 is equivalent to the largest Level 62 models, and is priced 40 percent lower, and the top-of-the-line DPS 4 offers 5.3 times the power. The entry-level DPS 4 system includes specialized processors for handling instruction execution, I/O, and disk files; 256K bytes of memory; 56 megabytes of disk storage; video console; two workstations; and a matrix printer.

Architecturally, the DPS 4 has a 32-bit bus connecting specialized processors. A DPS 4 system can have up to three CPU's, two I/O processors, two disk processors, and three multi-line communications processors. The machine architecture supports full multiprocessing, while the GCOS 4 operating system, based on the Level 62 operating system, supports multiprogramming of up to 15 job streams.

Main memory can range from 256K bytes to two megabytes. Currently, the system uses 16K-bit MOS/RAM technology; in the future 64K-bit chips will be used to expand the memory to four megabytes. Cycle time is 520 nanoseconds per 4-byte fetch.

Mass storage ranges from a minimum of 56 megabytes to a maximum of 3600 megabytes (supported by two disk processors, each handling six 300-megabyte disks). The data transfer rate with two disk processors is 1.2 megabytes per second.

For extended communications, the DPS 4 can attach as many as three multi-line communications processors, each with up to 32 lines, yielding a maximum of 96 communications lines.

The DPS 4 is available with software packages for applications in inventory accounting; purchase order control; general, purchase and sales ledgers; sales analysis; and sales order processing. A package for foreign exchange bank applications is under development. In addition, Level 62 applications software can be run on DPS 4 machines, which use a superset of the Level 62 instruction set. High level languages available are COBOL, RPG2, and FORTRAN. System prices start at under £30,000.□