A NEW DIRECTION

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Number 13 – SYSTEM 80

SYSTEM 80 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

This Newsletter is intended to update you on major System 80 activity which has taken place, and to inform you of additional significant improvements we can expect to see within the next few months.

Marketing Support and the Product Division have continued its aggressive program to define, prioritize and resolve System 80 concerns. We feel certain that this program has, and will continue to, build a solid base of satisfied customers as well as make a significant contribution in regaining System 80 booking momentum.

1. Workstation Response Time

- Up to a 50% response time improvement has been realized by the blank suppression changes released with 7.1 (December 1981)

- Workstation Paint Time Enhancement (PTE). This enhancement will :

    1) Double workstation/console transfer rate.
    2) Provide double buffering in the w/s.
    3) Suppress the cursor during screen paint time.

    We estimate this enhancement will improve the transfer/paint time by 30 – 45% in addition to the 50% improvement mentioned above. The Mississuage Access Centre has installed this enhancement and has realized a dramatic improvement in response time.

- The plan to implement the PTE has not been finalized for Customer upgrading. This plan will be finalized in May and transmitted to you at that time. The product cut-over for New Shipments will be in July of 1982.

2. Memory Management Enhancement SMC B7D

- This enhancement was broadcast to our Customer base in March 1982. As well as removing the need to re-IPL, it has shown throughput performance improvements in the range of 10 – 32%. You should insure your customers have installed this enhancement.

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3. Job Initiation Enahncements

- This enhancement will allow users to combine several jobs into a "Super Set" job stream and then "EXECUTE" any job within the "Super Set" from a workstation and save considerable job initiation time. This enhancement has been incorporated into standard Demos and has shown as much as a 30% improvement ob schedule time for a typical demo. The enhancement is ently being tested at selected Customer Sites.

well as the above enhancement, technical studies are under to assess and recommend additional enhancements to the tem 80 interactive environment. Plans for these follow-on ancements will be transmitted to you as they become ailable.

File Processing Enhancement

is enhancement improves performance when files are shared by ltiple programs. It is currently being field tested and will a available in May. The performance improvement realized by his enhancement depends primarily on job mix, however ignificant improvements (as much as 60%) have been realized in applications where shared files are processed sequentially.

Cache

This unannounced enhancement, which will be a Microcode and Memory combination is currently under preliminary testing and evaluation. These preliminary tests have shown a dramatic (up to 50%) general system performance improvement and is currently targeted for general release in the July timeframe. This enhancement will be announced shortly through regular Marketing channels.

oduct Stability

- In the past two months, system stability has improved 44% (from 36 to 52 hours MTBS). This is attributable, in a large part, to the K6 Rotation Program. Because of the success of this program, the number of Seed Kits has been increased from the original 52 to 144. Completion of this rotation plan is now targeted for July, 1982.

- In addition to the K6 Rotation Plan, a management action team comprised of both CSS and PD personnel has been in place since January. This team is closely monitoring specific sites and developing and implementing actions to correct known problems. To date several hardware and software problems have been resolved for all customers by this program.

- With the continuation of the above programs, we feel confident our product stability goals will be met and exceeded in the near future.

7. <u>Demonstration</u>

- The next release of the functional demonstration is Release 2.3 scheduled for distribution in May. This release contains several performance related improvements within the demos as well as several impressive new marketing type demos. (refer.to BSMSS bulletin #36 for details).

The combination of Workstation enhancements, Memory Management enhancements, Job initiation enhancements, Impressive New Demonstrations and improved Product Stability will be demonstrable at your Access Center. I would encourage you to see for yourself that our product has progressed impressively, then show our current customers, as well as new prospects, that we are listening and responding to their concerns.

We will continue to aggresively pursue improvements to the System 80 Product. Within the next few months, plans will be finalized for enhancements such as General System performance, further Job Initiation improvements, Data Management improvements, improved tuning tools, ESCORT improvements and improved functionality in Release 8.0. I will update you on these plans as they develop.

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