XEROX

To: Wendell Shultz, D. Liddle

Copies to: SD Managers, D. DeSantis, E. Harslem, S. Wallace, J. Wick

From: Charles Irby

Subject: July Status Report for Common Software

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Management Review Committee Demo

Preparation for the demo is proceding at an acceptable, if somewhat chaotic level. We still have no date for the demo and thus must assume the worst and prepare for July 22. The IBM unit has been down quite a lot and has prevented the operators from praticing and learning as much as we had hoped. We have worked out the details of, practiced, and timed several vignettes for the demo. A Dover and a Sequoia have been installed in the demo room.

User Interface Specification

Dave Smith (mostly), Ralph, and I helped Eric Harslem's group by reviewing sections of the Janus-1 Functional Specification. This activity is progressing well, even though Ralph's and my participation has been limited, with another release to SD expected on July 22. Our group will carefully review this draft.

Some enhancements were made to the Desktop program as a result of trying to teach it to two Parc secretaries for the MRC demo. The program was also made more reliable and its performance was improved.

Data Management

Work is progressing well on the format and interface to higher level file directories. Several design memos were produced. In addition, our data management people are helping with the Pilot File System design.

Graphics in Diamond

Jack Newlin is making reasonable progress in implement the graphics facilities of Diamond. Dave Smith is learning the Desktop software so that he can change the window management scheme to more accurately reflect the Janus Functional Spec.

Training

A memo suggesting several games to be used to train basic concepts and motor skills was written and sent to the Applications Software Group. It is hoped that these games can be developed as part of the training of new junior programmers now coming on board. Also, some specific recomendations for other training material were made. We need to review

staffing for this job.

Work Plan

Since the D0 Enginerring Models have slipped, the Pilot Functional Spec has slipped, some of our people have been loaned to the Pilot group, and the MRC Demo preparations have taken much of our time, Wendell has asked that I publish an update to the Common Software Work Plan. This will be done within the next month, if possible.

Formulae Editor

Good progress has been made by Scott McGregger, our summer student, on implementing the formulae editor in Mesa. He is working under the guidance of Ralph Kimball and is implementing the formula editor as a formula frame within Bob Ayers' Desktop program. We expect demonstrable results soon.

Janus Display Study

Carlo Enfante from OSD visited Ralph and I regarding the display study requested by Hal Lazar's office. We are reviewing his draft and explored several alternatives with him. He has agreed to construct for us a few prototype of an 11 X 14 inch tube with resolution able to vary from Alto to Troy resolution. This will give us a good evaluation tool and can be ready by roughly the end of the year. We would like the D0 EMs to be equipt with these displays. It is not clear what needs to happen officially to cause all this to happen.

128K Altos

I have been interacting with Ted Strollo to explore the possibility of our getty Altos equipt with 128K of memory (the display bitmap and fonts are in the second 64K bank). I gave copies of the schedules and costs to Liddle, Shultz, and Simonyi. I gave the details of the technical scheme to Rich Johnsson to review. In my opinion, we should try hard to get some of our machines retrofitted with 128K of memory before October. In addition, the machines used for Early Bird in Dallas should also be so equipt.