6-1979

ACUTA eNews June 1979, Vol. 8, No. 6

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/acutanews
Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the Operations Research, Systems Engineering and Industrial Engineering Commons

http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/acutanews/370

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the ACUTA: Association for College and University Technology Advancement at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in ACUTA Newsletters by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
DEAR FRIENDS,

The big news this month is that former astronaut Captain James A. Lovell has accepted our invitation to deliver the keynote address at the Atlanta conference. Naturally we are all very excited at the thought of having such an international figure open our conference. Jim, of course, is now head of SISK Telephone Company.

Everything else seems to be going well for next month's conference. Connie has done a remarkable job on both the program and social arrangements. And the response to our request for vendor sponsorship continues to be extremely encouraging. Activities for the whole family will be in abundance, so please make every effort to build your vacation around the conference. Atlanta, and indeed, the whole state of Georgia has a lot to offer.

I had the pleasure of visiting our 1980 conference city, Lincoln, Nebraska and was royally treated as Ruth & Mike Michalecki's house guest. We discussed the ACUTA News in general and advertising policies in particular and I had the opportunity to view the highly impressive production facilities at the University of Nebraska, for myself. Believe me, we are extremely fortunate to have Ruth as newsletter editor and as host for the 1980 conference.

I was extremely impressed with the city of Lincoln, which deservedly earned the title "Green Survival City" this year—an award given to communities that have preserved and enhanced their environment through tree planting programs. Last year, Lincoln won the coveted "All-American City" Award, as the city where people would most like to live. Tree-lined boulevards and city streets are commonplace in Lincoln and the hotel which we selected for the conference, the new Lincoln Hilton, is located right downtown....

The local telephone company, Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph, is an independent company that serves more than 310,000 homes and 163,000 companies in Northeast Nebraska, making it the 7th largest independent telephone company in the United States. The warm response I received from LT&T argues well I'm sure, for their interest in and support of our 1980 conference.

Back now to the 1979 conference. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that our Business Meetings will provide the forum for open discussion on several important items. Please review the President's Message in past issues of ACUTA News to refresh your memory, and come to Atlanta, ready to offer your opinions and suggestions. If you cannot make it to Atlanta, convey your opinions to your Region Director or contact me directly. Please get involved in ACUTA----if you have something to say, let's hear it!

I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mal Reader

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * 

Mal Reader, practicing his State of ACUTA address in the Omni parking lot....

Well, it sure beats a DC-10! (Mal Reader in Georgia)
the user’s choice

several hundred in operation

PACX (Private Automatic Computer eXchange) is a sophisticated high speed data switching and port contention system designed to optimise the allocation and use of your resources.

PACX continuously scans all terminal channels. When a service request is received, the user is connected to an appropriate port in less than one second.

Plug-in port and terminal modules (some with integral short haul data sets) offer system expansion or reconfiguration without high cost or delay. As many as 510 terminals can contend for service from up to 254 ports.

Regardless of system loading, all channels remain completely transparent to speed, code and data format up to 9600 bps asynchronous or 19.2 Kbps synchronous. Ports on both local and remotely located computers can be assigned up to 64 different class designations, accessible on request from the terminal keyboard. Reallocation of resources, at any time, is achieved by reassigning port classes via the control panel. Complete system status is seen at a glance. Data suitable for statistical analysis is continuously generated. PACX puts control over data communications back where it belongs.

Shown here is Dual-PACX (up to 510 terminals and 254 ports). Standard PACX (up to 254 terminals and 126 ports). Mini-PACX (up to 48 terminals and 32 ports). Complete data is available upon request.

Gandalf Data, Inc. 1019 S. Noel, Wheeling, Illinois 60090 (312) 541-6060
Canada: Gandalf Data Communications Ltd., Gandalf Plaza, 9 Slack Road, Ottawa Ontario, Canada K2G 0B7 (613) 225-0565
U.K.: Gandalf Digital Communications Ltd., 4 Cranford Court, Hardwick Grange, Cheshire, England
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Bob Devinish poses this question:

The problem: They built the Medical Library next to the Medical School and Hospital about eight years ago. Now they have moved the Hospital together with much of the Medical School a mile and a half west. After about two years of renovation they will move the Medical School back to the old Hospital building.

Daily there are forty to sixty requests from the new Hospital for copies of printed material that is in the Medical Library. Written requests are carried by messenger four times a day (sometimes more frequently) from the Med School; the material is zeroxed and carried by messenger to the requester. If he starts early and is lucky, the faculty member gets his material late on the same day but more typically a day and a half is spent in turn around.

I need a rapid facsimile that will print a page in less than a minute and yet not cost too much. If it requires a high speed digital circuit between the two locations, I'll work on getting that, but I need something pretty soon that will give the medical faculty faster turn around on their library requests.

See you in Atlanta...

Recently I had a discussion with Dorothy Heinecke concerning the quality of radio maintenance being received from local maintenance service organizations associated with Motorola. She indicated this was a big problem with the majority of ACUTA members and had often times been the subject of discussion at ACUTA conferences or workshops. As one would expect from an organized person like Dorothy, she not only talked about it, but she talked with someone who can help those of you experiencing problems with maintenance on Motorola Radio equipment. The name of the Motorola representative you should contact regarding poor service or problems is:

David Nash, Section Service Manager
Motorola C & E, Inc
1309 E. Algonquin Road
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196
312-576-7291

It is my understanding that it doesn't matter where you are located, if you contact him, he will help solve your maintenance problems. Thanks Dorothy for your help! I really believe this will help you; I have a close relationship with our Motorola Sales Representative and also with the Service Manager, and I have no problems with maintenance, our service is super!

/ editor /

John W. Sleasman from Case Western Uni, Cleveland, Ohio shares this thought:

We had an interesting problem lately with our dormitory stations. It seems that two students separately wandered into an Ohio Bell Phone Center Store to pay their bills for toll calls. While they were there, they decided to buy Design Line

(letters to the Editor, cont'd.)

Telephones. Catch-22: You know who gets billed for equipment on the University telephone system. The last we know, Ohio Bell was still trying to get their phones back. This would probably not have occurred in a smaller city where the central office prefix would mean something to a service representative, but it does indicate a potential problem with cross checking under AT&T's new marketing orientation. I am told that the key is to insure that dormitory addresses are referenced 'forbidden' in the telco records -- something that apparently did not happen in our case....

Sincerely,
/s/ John W. Sleasman

ACUTA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

REGION 1:

Jack Cahalane, Director Telecommunications
Boston University
771 Comm Avenue, Boston, MA 02215
617-353-2097

Dr. Walter Arthur Gill, Director
Communication Media Center
Morgan State University
Cold Spring & Hillen Road, Baltimore, MD 21215
301-444-3502

REGION 2:

Julian Vainwright, Business Manager
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27834
919-757-6910

REGION 3:

James L. Kelch, Director Telecommunications
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, KY 40475
606-622-2698

REGION 6:

Chris Moore, Communications Coordinator
Oregon State University
P O Box 1086, Corvallis, OR 97330
503-754-3237

We welcome you to ACUTA and look forward to meeting all of you in Atlanta in August!

/.../
PARTY LINE

We are chock full of interesting bits of information this month. First things first though. . . .

Mal Reader honored us with an all too short visit and took Lincoln by storm. I don't believe I ever have three days vanish so fast. We managed to accomplish a lot, chose our site for the 1980 conference, selected our dates, investigated some advertising options for the newsletter and on top of all that, managed to have a great time. We are looking forward to 1980!

As promised in last month's newsletter, we are going to cover very briefly the highlights of the Midwestern State Telecommunications' Director's meeting held in Rapid City, South Dakota. One of the highlights for me was to spend a few days with Dorothy Heinecke and Bob Devenish. It is with special thanks to Dorothy's shorthand ability, that your editor brings you the following items of interest. . . .

Midwestern States Telecomm Director's Meeting:

1. Steve Robinson, Nebraska

Busy with converting parts of the state's outgoing agencies to PBX so they can utilize the University/State Network for their long distance needs. Added Bell's Dimension 400 in North Platte. He and local board selected location for another one. Currently investigating the SL-1 for the Military Departments in Lincoln. All items are through the local telcos. . . . Due to a couple of failures on the new GTFP# (handling both University, State & GSA) the local telephone company has developed a system whereby service to specific locations. It has built a tape (on file) that converts key center lines to B-1 service in case of a failure on the switch. This was done at telephone company expense.

2. Benham Sims, Kentucky

Started new job in December 1978. Immediately involved in a rate case on "overflow"charges on inward WATS. "An overflow call is an incoming call to the inward WATS which fails to complete because the subscriber does not have an available line to permit completion of the call. After a customer's first 50 overflow calls in a month, a charge of 10¢ will apply for each overflow call. One allowance of 50 overflow calls per month applies for each group of lines of the same customer, of the same class, and at the same premise". Needless to say, this is of great concern to Mr. Sims. They had a Centrex II cutover. For network calls, they pay 2¢ a call for recording and this applies for busies as well as no answers. Their detail recording failed to register where the call went and who made the call. Alternate routing was supposed to go from the network, to WATS and then to DDD. Charges for DDD jumped from $8,000 to $20,000 first month. Investigation revealed that the calls routed from the network, right to DDD over cause they have WATS completely. A mistake in programming, said telco. . . . The state is currently charging $22.50 for a Centrex station, includes the state's overhead. . . .

3. Al Talbott, Illinois

Al fascination all of us with a call placed on the Illinois In-WATS lines. However, it was placed with a great deal of difficulty and it seemed slow to me. On another page of ACUTA News, I have an article on the Illinois System, but I want to highlight some of the problems they have encountered. A recent threat on the operator's life while she was handling a diverted call, has caused them to shut the system down at 5 pm every day. They have enormous abuse and fraud and they see no solution. Without the loss of such calls, they will not achieve the savings they had planned. He estimated percent of fraudulent calls to be 25-30X of total traffic, out-of-state. Second problem is training the users and with the ever-changing state personnel, this is an on-going problem. He said they elected to use the Voice Recognition route because it would have required additional operators to handle the traffic and they had equipment monies, but not staff monies. . . .

Al has a budget of about 12.6 million, they plan on going big with interconnect; have 35 centrex systems, 250 PBX, approximately 90,000 lines. Their first interconnect was in 1970 and placed at Governor's State University. They have a 300 line electronic at Galesburg at the Mental Health Institute and they are now preparing bids for a 5,000 line electronic for a new state office complex in Chicago. Their data delivery system was separated from the Div of Communications in September 1978 and is under LaVern Whitt.

4. Larry Kunkel, Kansas

Larry says he is not doing to much, but that he is trying to set up a credit card control system. He plans on using the Kansas Medical Agency switchboard to handle the calls at night, but nothing definite. They still have about $40,000 a month in credit card calls and DDD. They are installing a 15 port teleconferencing system.

5. Dick Vogt, Wisconsin

Considering owning their own instruments, there is a 10¢ rebate per month if you own your own and Dick feels that he can reach a two-year pay-off period. Voice & data network is $5 million account annually. Pay 52¢ an air-line mile for full circuit. Calls under 5 minutes intra-state costs 5¢ per minute; 12¢ in surrounding states and 18¢ nationally. They have 15 lines to Washington, D.C., that he plans on converting to Western Union service within two months. He asked if there was any interest in a feasibility study on the use of satellite for communications. He said grant monies are available for such study among a group of states (about $60,000).

6. Tony Crandall, Iowa

Is just starting to organize an overall plan. He is impressed with the interest in the state, although most of the agencies still want to do their own thing. Had problems with recording toll calls, because of the privacy issue and political issues in state. They will probably bill each agency on a percentage based on usage from previous year. They are going to attempt to pull all the systems together and networks. Looking at microwave for state.

7. Al Lick, North Dakota

Just installed a Dimension 2000, package 8. They are planning another system. Unhappy with the previous user training program by Bell. This thought was echoed by many other states. Bell seems to be reducing the user training program. Only major problem with switch, was that it was installed in a non-air conditioned building, and that needs to be corrected post haste.

8. Clint Loomis, Minnesota

Clint says he still isn't convinced his state can achieve the kinds of pay-off WATS Box tells him they can. Plus he feels the added expense of
Directory Assistance charges for the state offices has been a pleasant source of savings for them. Usage pricing in Minnesota indicates service would be optional, not mandatory at this time. Pricing arrangements would be: Access line and set; number of calls placed; distance; duration of calls less than 5 minutes; time of day. They have no plans at present for discontinuing WATS.

Clint also told us about a radio-pager project that had a gross savings of over $6500 per year. It involved 23 tone-only pagers. They had a refusal of a rate increase and Bell has refused with a 10% increase request, across the board. Clint has ordered a 23 port conference bridge from Northwestern Bell. The first state owned PBX Focus II has been installed and they will be bidding a second system later this year. Bell is responsible for the PBX. Two were referred with a 10% increase request for PBX. The first one wasnt'...... They are also experiencing poor user training by Bell.

9. Gene Smith, Michigan

Problems with local message units, people are using WATS for personal calls do not show up as local calls. Local calls are billed at 64c. It has cost an additional $19,000 per month for the WATS lines to carry this added traffic. The pending Bell rate increase has no semblance to an across-the-board; the increase clearly varies from item to item with one item going from $6.60 to $30.00....


Really hit the nail on the head, when we were told that New York's problems are the same as anyone else's, just multiplied by 100.... Has 65 operators now, but plan on cutting to 24 when CSA completed. Their bill at New York Telephone alone is $270 million a year. TelPak charges are about $2 million a month, total electronic tandem network. Charge-back system is based on one established 8 years ago, with no changes since. Bell's SMDR tape costs 10,000 a month and they felt it didn't provide them with any useful information. They have 25 interconnect PBX systems now and looking for more. They do NOT have responsibility for the Universities and mental health agencies now, since they are outside their jurisdiction. They have asked the state legislature for new laws to change this. They bill state agencies manually now, three months in advance of their first bill so they can remain solvent. New York was much impressed with ACUTA goals and asked that we send him literature on both our organization and the upcoming conference.....

Fred Bartel, AT & T

Appeared before the group to discuss AT&T organization. Majority of questions from those present had to do with problems in service & billing. Fred said they realized they have some problems in these areas, but feel with the restructuring of their marketing area, it will improve. State government represents about 16% of the gross national product. Customer training is decreasing every year, no plans to improve situation as of now. Nothing new was presented to the group, same type of public relations message we have heard for a long time. Fred was very personable, but new at his present position so we also heard that he wasn't sure about some of the things he was asked to explain......

11. Michael Goodroad, South Dakota

Mike is the Director of the South Dakota Information and referral system. Budget is $230,000 most of which comes from the federal program, Title XX. They average 6.4 minutes per call, cost $2.76 per call. Calls involve anything from health care to tax help, from senior citizens to handicap. Very successful and serves a useful purpose, however, they are concerned with lack of adequate funding when the state is asked to pick up the entire tab....

12. Jim Potter, IHETS, Indiana

IHETS has 34 private institutions in SAVON, for a dialled tandem network of 71 locations. They are changing from step switch to Centrex II this fall. They will have 150 stations and 400 trunks on the switch... They added a 20 port Darome bridge. They have 4 pilot networks of multi-point circuits using Darome conveners. Teleprocessing has the capability of recording 2 hours of TV, then remotely controlled, it can be recorded and played back at a later time.....

13. Florida has the Sun-Com CCSA network, 112 band 5 (75 FDM & 37 MT). They run 5 million minutes a month. One million is interstate traffic. Average costs 14c per minute, average length of call is 3 3/4 minutes. Community colleges and county offices can use system. Using satellite for one year for public broadcast distribution. Switching to Telstar II; they have one up-link and nine down-links.

14. Bob Devenish, Wisconsin University

Bob has a new medical services building, has 3500 phones. Bob also has a new electronic switch, with the cut-over happening on March 3rd. Then on March 31st, they moved all the patients from the old hospital to the new, went exceptionally well, completed in 2 3/4 hours. I will let Bob tell you all about some of the neat features of his new switch in a later article for ACUTA....
"THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGER"

We are in the midst of a revolution in the field of Telecommunications. Technology has changed more in the past five years than in the preceding twenty and there is every sign that these changes will continue...and accelerate, in the coming years.

James Martin, in his book The Wired Society, has stated: "Whatever the limits to growth in other fields, there are no limits near in Telecommunications and Electronic Technology. There are no limits near in the consumption of information...communications media will be the cornerstones of the culture of our time."

As the field of telecommunications grows and changes, so must we. Our roles as telecommunications professionals must expand and evolve to meet the more sophisticated and increasing demands of our various colleges and universities.

This evolution...this revolution means that the way we think, the way we work, the way we live, will never be the same again.

This then, is the objective of the Eighth Annual ACUTA Conference...to help you, the Telecommunications Manager, recognize, define, and meet the challenge ahead.

---

ELECTRONIC MAIL FROM THE USER'S PERSPECTIVE:

......J. R. "Dick" Cavanaugh, Director
Mailgram - Western Union

What Electronic Mail is, and isn't!
What form it takes, recent developments in equipment and services, examples of applications from first time users to high volume users, what's in the future.....

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION:

......Barry Harbaugh, Staff Manager
Education - Southern Bell

What you know about computers and data processing would not fill a thimble??? Or, perhaps your knowledge of the subject is immense??? Either way, there will be something for you in this session. You'll get a comprehensive overview covering the historical growth, description of design elements of current data communications and processing systems, integration of voice and data and current and future data/graphics applications in higher education.....

WORD PROCESSING:

......Gerald A. Baugh, Marketing Administrator
Lanier Business Products, Inc.

What is Word Processing, How does it work??? What does word processing have to do with telecommunications??? The answers will be found here.....
UNDERSTANDING TARIFFS, REGULATORY TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS:

......Joseph T. Massey, President
JTM Associates

   How to really read and understand tariffs, review of the history of regulation in telecommunications, problems with regulation and how they affect the telcos, users and regulators...

NETWORKING AND ENGINEERING:

......Saleem Tawil, Communications Engineer
The University of Texas at Austin

   Everything you need to know about basic networks and switching: management of networks and network transmission systems.....

VOICE AND DATA - BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER:

......Deidre S. Searles, Marketing Communication Manager, Datapoint Corp.

   What convergence means to the communications manager, technology, applications, strategy, the management revolution, controlling the technology, systems approach and total information management.....

BASIC TELEPHONY FOR THE NOVICE MANAGER:

......Elwyn Hull, Manager-Telecommunications
The University of Utah

   If telecommunications management is not your prime responsibility, or if you're brand new in the field, this session will give you a sound footing in the fundamentals.....

"EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE -- ACUTA"

AUGUST 6 - 10, 1979
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
EMORY UNIVERSITY

MARK THESE VIP DATES:
MONDAY, AUGUST 6th:
1pm - 5pm registration
6pm - 8pm cocktail party
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7th:
9am -10am keynote address
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8th:
7pm - cocktail party
8pm - ACUTA banquet

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:

CONNIE GENTRY
PHYSICAL PLANT DEPARTMENT
EMORY UNIVERSITY
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30322
404-329-4320

"Our thanks to Ed Giles of Atlanta for the beautiful photos of Atlanta used on these pages!"
"STATE OF ILLINOIS NETWORK SYSTEM"

Portions of this article were reproduced from Telephone Engineer Management, Aug, 1978.

Illinois has become the first state in the nation to implement a computerized credit card telecommunications system with voice recognition capabilities. This permits employees to make calls by talking to a computer that understands spoken English. The computer responds to the caller in English, places the call through flexible route selection and records all billing information on the call.

The start up date of May 27th was the result of 6 years of study and evaluation by the Division of Communications for the state. They were responsible for the bid specs and for the supervision of the operation. Currently 250 card holders are using system, should reach 4000 soon and approximately 330,000 calls will be made.

To use system:
1. caller dials credit card IN-WATS number, this places caller in direct contact with the computer which asks for callers "ID". Caller reads his 8 digit number into the phone, computer reads the number back to the caller and asks for verification of number. If the caller answers yes, the computer verifies the number and asks the caller for the number he wants to call. The caller reads the destination number, one digit at a time, the computer repeats the number one digit at a time. Once the destination number is determined to be correct, the call is placed. If at any time the computer misinterprets a spoken digit, the caller may say "no" and the computer will respond with "sorry, please repeat the digit". Failing to get the numbers correct, the call will revert to an operator attended position for handling.

The word recognition system, manufactured by Dialog Systems of Belmont, Mass., functions much like a touch-tone decoder. It consists of a PDP 11/04 mini computer, a flexible disk for storage and a high speed vector processor. It can simultaneously decode any eight of the 20 voice input channels. It was programmed to understand and recognize the speech patterns of northern males & females, southern males & females, with the pitches, length and loudness of words changed by the processor to remove variations.

The system control equipment is a WATS Box, by Action Communications Systems of Dallas, Texas. It consists of an inward and outward phone line switching matrix controlled by Nova 1200 mini-computer with 32K of processor memory backed up by fixed disk. User has immediate access to system information, can change credit card in an instance, and allows control of system by time of day, geographic range and various other priorities. At present 20 inward & 20 outward lines are being used, but system can support 50 of each.

Currently $42,000 per month is spent on credit card calls. This will reduce to $23,500 per month through use of the flexible route network and Illinois fully expects to realize a yearly savings of $222,000.........

Editor's note: If any of our members in Illinois has experienced using this system, please let us know. It would be nice to hear the system evaluated by the users. We are grateful for the experience of seeing it demonstrated in S. Dakota.

**BITS & PIECES**

I have recently been visited by a vendor with a product that is most interesting to me and I'll bet it would be to you.

The product is called "LAM 1" and it is a Phone Traffic Information System. It provides a line activity monitor to give you management facts sorely needed for better cost control.

Some of the information it will provide is listed below:
1. total incoming calls
2. total unanswered calls
3. elapsed survey time
4. held calls abandoned
5. outgoing calls
6. all trunks busy-elapsed time

In addition, calls received by line, calls answered by line, answer delay, on hold times, and conversation times.

It is compact, lightweight, portable; needs no special environment, normal room conditions are ok. Easy to connect, just plug one cord into electrical outlet the other into your telephone plug or box and you're off and running. Works on any size phone system. Each LAM 1 unit can monitor up to 10 lines and by ganging them together, you can monitor any number of lines you want. You can get hourly figures without disturbing weekly totals. It comes with a printer.

We are ordering one for use in traffic studies for the various departments. I am going to attempt to tie on to the lines I want studied from our equipment room instead of doing the study at the various departmental offices. I am excited about the prospects of having data on which to base decisions on phone charges.

Will keep all of you informed.....

General Telephone of Wisconsin has implemented the second stage of a joint program with Wisc Bell to consolidate long distance operator facilities. See what you started with your consolidated operator services Bob Devenish!!!

From our President comes this joke of the month, (I mean our own Mal Reader, of course).

Mal was addressing the Bell Canada Ontario Regions Business Services Conference and he was relating an incident which occurred during his days at Flessy Canada at the cutoff of a small rural CDO in Val D'or Quebec some years ago. The local priest, while giving his blessing according to the customs, sprinkled incense over the power bay and blew half the fuses.....

And speaking of our Canadian friends, Telephony reports that the ingenuity of the people working for Alberta Government Telephones during the period of 1908-1960 is the main theme of a five part exhibit in the Man and Telecommunications Museum in Edmonton, Alberta Canada. Examples of rugged early test pieces of telephony and tools are on display. Apparently the workmen had to provide their own tools and made them from a variety of things available to them., ie., tin cans, toaster cords, snuff tins, black tape, etc.

Also, the Alberta Government Telephone Company is converting to the metric system in its plant.
The Weather Alert Radio

Weather is an ever present danger to man, made even more ominous by the fact that man, with all of his advanced technology, has not been able to control it. However, man has used his technology to help protect himself from the weather. He has developed sophisticated forecasting devices and developed systems for warning about weather conditions.

In the United States, the task of weather watching falls to the National Weather Service (NWS), a branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The National Weather Service is responsible for forecasting weather developments in all parts of the country, tracking storms as they develop, and for broadcasting weather forecasts and emergency weather alerts. The National Weather Service broadcasting network is projected to reach 90% of the population by scheduled completion in late 1979. The broadcasts continuously update weather reports on one of three frequencies: 162.400, 162.475, and 162.550 MHz. If a severe weather warning is necessary, the broadcast is preceded by one of two single tone “addresses”: one used for alerts of interest to the general public and one used for special advisory alerts of a less comprehensive nature and of interest to special groups such as schools. Slippery roads, frost warnings, and a rapidly changing weather forecast are examples of special advisories.

Motorola has developed the Motorola Weather Alert Radio in response to the growth of the weather broadcasting system. As a leader in the communications industry, and particularly in tone activated receiving devices, Motorola has developed a product which meets all of the high performance specifications that are expected of a Motorola product. The Motorola Weather Alert Radio is available in each of the three frequencies of the National Weather Service and also in a three-frequency model which will receive all National Weather Service stations. Models are available with an emergency power source for protection in the event of a power failure. All Motorola Weather Alert Radios are equipped with both National Weather Service tone addresses.

Each Motorola Weather Alert Radio is equipped with separate ON/OFF and volume controls which enable the user to turn the unit ON and OFF without the need for adjusting the volume. A switch enables the user to constantly monitor the channel, if desired, or to have tone activation of the receiver. Another switch resets the unit and provides for a battery test in units equipped with a battery. There are green and red light emitting diodes (LED’s). The green LED is illuminated as power is applied to the unit, and the red LED illuminates when the unit receives a severe weather message (even if the unit is already in the monitor mode). In addition, antenna and external speaker jacks are provided on the unit.

Because weather affects all of our lives, the Motorola Weather Alert Radio is appropriate for an almost endless number of users. Anyone who has a concern about the weather, and particularly severe weather warnings, may find this receiver useful.
"Portable Conference Telephone"

Every now and then I get inquiries from faculty people concerning the possibilities of hooking up "some sort of conference phone arrangement" so a class can converse with some prominent person. Very often the request comes on the spur of the moment--bad weather or the like has bot-lixed up travel plans at the last minute. (If I might name drop just this once--Hubert Humphrey was my most exciting case in point).

The scenario usually goes something like this: "Yes, it can be done. We use a Bell Portable Conference Telephone. Does your class room have a live phone jack in it? Well, is there a class room near by with a live jack? O.K., I'll get the phone company out first thing to get one in. No, this doesn't happen often enough for me to have a conference phone on hand--but I know where I can borrow one (with a little luck and some fast talk). Now don't worry, I'll be there at 7 p.m. and will show you how it works--etc., etc."

What a hassle! But it always seems to work and everyone comes away happy and sometimes even impressed. Because of this (the hassle and the success), I got with our Learning Resources folks a while back to see if we couldn't come up with some easier way to make conference phones readily available for class room use.

I didn't want to put a live phone jack in every class room on campus and my budget can't handle the cost of two or three conference phones that only get sporadic use. Yet, it seemed like such a good and potentially economical teaching tool that I felt certain something could be done.

Enter my friends at Learning Resources and their campus wide, cable T.V. System. It seems that just about every class room on campus has a cable T.V. outlet in it. What are the possibilities of somehow interfacing the portable conference phone with the T.V. System? As it turned out the chances were pretty good.

The Learning Resources people built two interfaces. One to connect an existing telephone line, when necessary, with the T.V. system's "head end". The other interface would allow the conference phone (without any internal alterations) to be plugged into a cable T.V. jack.

At the mutually agreed time the people at the T.V. head end either place or receive the telephone call. The call is then patched into the correct class room or rooms.

It all sounds very easy and now that it's done I guess maybe it is. Getting the electronics together was the hardest part. Where I can't adequately explain those electronics to you, if you'll give me a buzz I'll be glad to put you in touch with the person who built the devices.

Right now we're giving the "system" its first heavy work out. The idea is to have several conference phones available as part of the Learning Resources Center's equipment lending department. Hopefully, with some publicity the devices will catch on and their full potential will be more fully (and easily) utilized.

From our Mouth of the South comes these little bits of information this month.

The State University of New York College at Purchase restricted its Centrex telephone system and, in so doing saved nearly $160,000. The limiting modification is placed in the New York Telephone Company's switching area and prohibits direct placement of any calls into the New York City area for the college. Instead, college personnel now use rented FX lines to reach New York City numbers.....

The University of Miami reduced costs incurred from use of long distance telephone service thru installation of a system of computer controlled WATS. The University's computerized telephone service now groups electronically the entire university's demand for long distance services, allocates costs for users on an as-used basis and provides additional information as to the university's long distance costs. Annual savings resulting from this cost reduction technique have reached nearly $50,000.....

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill reduced yearly telephone toll charges by nearly $50,000 in taking more definitive steps to inform and educate the 6300 full time staff and faculty concerning ways to eliminate or curtail departmental telephone toll charges.

A free list of WATS (free) telephone numbers for more than 300 commercial enterprises and government agencies that regularly do business with the university was composed and distributed to all employees of the institution. Also listed was information pertaining to the institution's own toll-free system (telpak) to six metropolitan areas of the state. A reminder to dial direct when WATS, Telpak or WX services were not available (which saves from 28 to 61% per call) was also included.

The university's purchasing newsletter will be used as the medium to periodically inform the staff and faculty to update and expand the current telephone directory as well as to encourage employee participation in the program.....

Please write to: ACUTA NEWS, Uni of Nebraska Ruth Michalecki, Editor 211 Nebraska Hall Lincoln, Nebraska 68588

if you have any information to share on the following items:

1. Motorola or other radio maintenance.
2. Colorado Video System, Slow Scan TV.
3. Experiences with Darone Conference Bridges and/or ports. Experience with other such devices.
4. LAM 1 Traffic Monitor.
5. Sequential Call Distributor.

SEE ALL OF YOU IN ATLANTA.....
"WHAT IS TMC?"

TMC, Telecommunications Management Corporation, is an independent consulting firm specializing in Telecommunications Utilization and Management, and offering a full range of services including Equipment Analysis & Design, Computerized Network Analysis & Design, Preparation of Bid Specifications, Manufacturer/Vendor Interface, Department Organization & Efficiency, and Complete Implementation Services.

All contracted services include concise and complete Management and Financial Documentation, and thorough follow-through and follow-up services to insure the effectiveness of our recommendations.

"WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTING FIRM?"

TMC does not represent any Equipment or Facilities Manufacturer or Vendor. As Communications Consultants to your College, University, or Medical Center, our only function is to serve your best interests. This objective we pursue with all of the ability and energy at our command.

"DO YOU KNOW THE EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT?"

Our Education Specialist is a former University Telecommunications Manager who understands from 'Hands On' experience Telecommunications requirements and operation in an educational environment. Current clients in the education community include Boston College and The University of Virginia.

"WHAT DO WE DO IF WE ARE INTERESTED IN YOUR SERVICES?"

At your request, and at no cost to you, TMC will send our Education Specialist to your office for a mutual interview. From the results of the interview, TMC will prepare (for your review and analysis) a complete and detailed proposal of offered services and associated costs based upon your stipulated requirements. Upon acceptance of part or all of the proposal, the details will be incorporated into a contract. You will know what we will do and the associated cost to your institution before you enter into an Agreement.

CALL OR WRITE TO OUR EDUCATION SPECIALIST TODAY!

James J. McCullough / Member of ACUTA
Super Smart...Super Cheap

A Statistical Multiplexer for Only $1500

A four channel statistical multiplexer for only $1500, an eight channel unit for only $2500! Super prices with super performance—error-free data, double or better the throughput, down-line loading and built-in diagnostics.

Super smart Supermux 480's replace up to eight transmission lines with just one. Bandwidth is assigned dynamically without wasting any on idle terminals—double or better the throughput of dumb TDM's.

Transmission errors are eliminated too! Data is buffered, checked and, if necessary, retransmitted, all completely transparent to existing terminals and software. With Supermux, not a bit of data is lost, even with outages lasting ten seconds or more on a fully loaded 9600 bps line.

Microprocessor-controlled Supermux 480's mix dial-up and dedicated asynchronous inputs at speeds up to 9600 bps. Super features—built-in diagnostics, system status reporting, as well as reconfiguration of remote, unattended units—all standard.

Super Smart...Super Cheap...Supermux 480.

Infotron Systems Corporation
Cherry Hill Industrial Center, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
800-257-8352 609-424-9400

In Europe: Infotron Systems Ltd.
Systems House, Poundbury Road
Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2PG England
Telephone: Dorchester (0305) 66016 Telex: 417276

Infotron Systems
First in Performance and Reliability