

# DEC PDP-8 Family

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

DEC's PDP-8, one of the oldest and most successful computer series, is being de-emphasized, a victim of the almost universal swing to 16-bit computer systems. At some time in the future the durable processors may appear only as the CPU of packaged systems.

The currently active 8/A series was announced in 1974, 1975, and 1977, with memory expansion to 128K announced in 1977. As for the older PDP-8 models, the PDP-8/F, an end-user PDP-8 identical to the OEM PDP-8/M, has been discontinued. The two remaining members of the older PDP-8 line, the PDP-8/M and PDP-8/E, are available in limited quantities.

The PDP-8/E and -8/M are the older brothers of the newer 8/A's and are based on the KK8-E CPU. The 8/E is for users who wish to assemble larger systems with many and varied peripherals. The 8/M, the OEM version of the 8/E, is smaller than the 8/E. Both use the same processor, which consists of four boards (and hence requires four Omnibus slots). The major differences among the models lie not in the processors, but in the chassis and power supplies of each. The 8/E comes with one 20-slot Omnibus and room for an extra one if desired. In addition, its power supply is large enough to supply the needed current to the extra cards. The 8/M, on the other hand, has room for only one 20-slot Omnibus and hence a slightly smaller power supply. Both Omnibusses can be expanded, however, through the use ➤



Still alive and well, the PDP-8/M is the OEM-oriented member of the older line of PDP-8's. Shown here in its basic configuration, the 8/M package includes a 10.5-inch chassis, power supply, and 20-slot Omnibus, in addition to the KK8-E CPU and 8K words of 1.2/1.4-microsecond core memory. Like the PDP-8/E, the 8/M can be expanded, but only to 56 Omnibus slots, compared to the 74 that are possible using a PDP-8/E. The PDP-8/M shown here is priced at \$6,000 and includes an operator panel, the memory expansion and time-share control unit, and a serial line interface for a console terminal.

The PDP-8 computer family is probably the oldest minicomputer line still manufactured. Its origins date back to 1965, and current estimates indicate that more than 40,000 have been installed. The most recent addition to the line, the PDP-8/A series, is still being marketed, and the PDP-8/E and /M are available in limited quantities.

## CHARACTERISTICS

**MANUFACTURER:** Digital Equipment Corporation, 146 Main Street, Maynard, Massachusetts 01754. Telephone (617) 897-5111.

Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) is the world's largest manufacturer of minicomputer systems. DEC's product lines include general-purpose computing systems, laboratory monitoring and control systems, process control systems, industrial control systems, editing and typesetting systems, and business computing systems. DEC maintains 125 sales and service offices in over 30 countries and has manufacturing facilities in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan in addition to six facilities in the U.S. The company employs 25,000 persons worldwide and has installed more than 65,000 computer systems.

**MODELS:** PDP-8/E, PDP-8/M, 8A/205, 8A/400, 8A/420, 8A/425, 8A/600, 8A/620, and 8A/625.

**DATE ANNOUNCED:** The first PDP-8 minicomputer was announced in 1965. The PDP-8/E, the oldest member of the current product line, was announced in 1970 and was followed in 1971 by the PDP-8/M. The PDP-8/A line, now referred to as the 8A Series, was first announced in 1974 (8A/400), with later models introduced in 1975.

**DATE OF FIRST DELIVERY:** PDP-8's were initially delivered in May 1965, while the PDP-8/E was delivered in March 1971 and the PDP-8/M in December 1971. Deliveries of various models of the 8A Series began September 1974.

**NUMBER INSTALLED TO DATE:** Over 40,000 of all models.

### DATA FORMATS

**BASIC UNIT:** 12-bit word.

**FIXED-POINT OPERANDS:** 12-bit words standard, with optional 24-bit double-precision operands. Half-word (6-bit) byte swaps can also be handled.

**FLOATING-POINT OPERANDS:** 36-bit single-precision operands with a 24-bit signed fraction and signed 12-bit exponent or 72-bit operand with a 60-bit signed fraction and signed 12-bit exponent for double precision. Floating-point processor hardware is optional on all models; software subroutines are also available.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** One-word instructions. Memory reference instructions use the first three bits to specify the instruction and the last nine bits to specify the operand address. In order for memory reference instructions to access memory directly, each 4K memory module is logically divided into 32 pages of 128 addresses each for page ➤

*REFERENCE EDITION. This is a mature product line, and no significant further developments are anticipated. Because of its importance, coverage is being continued, but no future update is planned.*

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▷ of the BA8-A expander—the 8/E to 74 slots and the 8/M to 56 slots.

Prices for the PDP-8/E range from \$6,750 for a very basic system with processor, 8K words of core memory, programmer console, teletypewriter interface, power supply, and chassis to about \$24,000 for a system with processor, 16K words of core memory, bootstrap loader, floppy disk, cartridge disk, DECwriter II, interfaces, cabinet, power supply, and OS/8 operating system.

Prices for the 8/M span a smaller range, owing to its OEM-centered marketing: \$6,000 to \$8,000 for a processor, various memory combinations, operator panel or programmer console, power supply, and chassis.

### THE PDP-8/A SERIES

The PDP-8/A line was introduced in May 1974 as a one-board CPU for OEM's and introduced again in November 1974 and September 1977 in more conventional configurations with memory, chassis, and power supply is offered in an extensive line starting with the 8A/205 and extending to the 8A/625 packaged systems. It is based on either the KK8-E CPU or the KK8-A CPU, a slower, more densely packaged version of the KK8-E CPU. There is one restriction, however: the KK8-A cannot support additional Omnibus slots. All KK8-A-based models are restricted to the number of slots in the basic systems.

The market target for the 8/A originally consisted of OEM's and system builders, but recent models are clearly end-user-oriented. Specifically, the PDP-8/A is intended for use in systems with performance requirements that fall between the larger 16-bit computers and the small, slower, microcomputer-based products. The one-board PDP-8/A provides a low-cost computer usable with most conventional peripherals for systems that require no more than 32K words of memory space. While most minicomputer systems are pursuing large memory addressability, the PDP-8 addresses its intended market segment merely by staying the same.

Standard configurations start with the 8A205, a small-system package that consists of a 12-slot chassis and is expandable to 32K words of RAM, and 1K words of PROM. (These maximum memory configurations would leave no current for any other controllers or options, and therefore are not realistic applications.) The 8A/205 is a semiconductor-only machine and cannot be expanded beyond the 12 slots.

The 8A/400 is a core-only system that includes a 12-slot chassis, a 25-ampere power supply, and 8K words of 1.5-microsecond memory. A KM8-E memory expansion and time-share control are also provided in the basic system, permitting memory expansion to 32K words.

The 8A/420 and 425 differ only in that the 420 utilizes core memory and the 425 utilizes MOS. The 8A/420 and 425 are virtually identical to the 8A/400 in components and differ only in chassis and power supply. A 20-slot chassis and a 50-ampere power supply are provided instead of the 8A400's 12-slot box and 25-ampere power supply.

▶ addressing. Seven of the nine bits are used to specify relative address within page; one bit is used to specify current page or page zero within the module, and one bit is used to specify whether direct or indirect addressing is used.

Through direct addressing, a memory reference instruction can reference any of 128 addresses on its own page or any of 128 addresses on page zero of its own 4K module; through indirect addressing, any location in memory can be referenced.

For manipulation and/or testing of data, a group of "Operate" instructions is available that specify shift, clear, complement, and test (and skip) operations on the accumulator and its associated link bit. The first three bits specify an Operate-type instruction the fourth bit specifies one of two groups of commands, and bits 5 through 11 are predefined by position to indicate particular functions. These seven 1-bit indicators can be turned on in each Operate instruction, with each 1-bit flag referred to as a "micro-instruction" (not to be confused with microprogramming).

For I/O instructions, the first three bits specify I/O, the next six bits select a device, and the last three bits specify the operation to be performed.

INTERNAL CODE: Binary.

### MAIN STORAGE

TYPE: Core and MOS RAM, ROM, and PROM (UV-erasable).

CYCLE TIME: Core and MOS RAM—1.2 microseconds for a read cycle and 1.4 microseconds for a write cycle when used in the 8A/600, 8A/620 or 8A/625; 1.5 microseconds for both read and write cycles in the 8A/205, 400, 420 or 425.

CAPACITY: The capacity of the basic PDP-8 is 4096 words. The addition of a KM8-E or KM8-AA extends the capacity to 32,768 words. Core memory modules are available in 8192- or 16,384-word modules. MOS RAM is available in 16K- or 32K-word modules. The capacity of each system is dependent on both the power supply and chassis used. (See Report M13-100-101, *Minicomputer Add-On Memory*, for non-DEC alternatives.)

CHECKING: None.

STORAGE PROTECTION: None.

### CENTRAL PROCESSORS

GENERAL: All of the PDP-8 processors are single-address, fixed-word length, parallel machines using two's-complement arithmetic on 12-bit binary numbers with an accumulator and multiplier-quotient architecture and direct accumulator-to-device and device-to-accumulator I/O transfers.

There are two distinct processor versions of the same fundamental architecture. The KK8E, a four-board CPU, is used with models 8/E, 8/M, 8A600, 8A620 and 8A/625; and the single-board KK8A, the newest processor model, is used in the 8A/205, 8A/400, 8A/420, and 8A/425.

The PDP-8/E, -8/M, 8A/600, 8A/620, and 8A/625 have provisions for an optional Extended Arithmetic Element (EAE) that permits double-precision fixed-point operations plus hardware fixed-point multiply/divide. The EAE contains extension hardware that can operate on 24-bit signed numbers rather than the conventional 12-bit operands. The EAE adds 26 instructions to the basic repertoire.

The FPP8-A Floating Point Processor (FPP) is available for use with all PDP-8's. This unit provides the capability of operating with 24-bit fixed-point, 36-bit floating-point (24-bit mantissa and 12-bit exponent), or operands (60-bit mantissa and 12-bit exponent).

Four types of real-time clocks are offered for the PDP-8. These units vary in the timing source, using internal line frequency, a selected crystal frequency, or programmable intervals. The line frequency version marks off 16-milli-

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## PERIPHERALS/TERMINALS

DEVICE	DESCRIPTION	MANUFACTURER
<b>MAGNETIC TAPE EQUIPMENT</b>		
TM8E-E	Transport; 9-track, 45 ips, 800 bpi, 10.5-inch reels, 8 drives per controller, requires 4 slots; 36 KBS	DEC
TM8E-F	Transport; 7-track, 45 ips, 800 bpi, 10.5-inch reels, 8 drives per controller, requires 4 slots; 36 KBS	DEC
TM8-MA	Transport; 9-track, 12.5 ips, 800 bpi, 7-inch reels, 2 drives per controller, requires 4 slots; 10 KBS	DEC
<b>LINE PRINTERS</b>		
LA35-CE	DECwriter II; Printer; 132 positions, 96 ASCII characters; variable forms width, switch-selectable speeds; 10, 15, or 30 cps	DEC
LA8-PA	DECprinter; 132 positions, 96 ASCII characters, variable forms width, top-of-form control; 180 cps	DEC
LE8-V	Drum; 132 positions, 64 ASCII characters, variable forms width, top-of-form control; 300 lpm	Dataproducts
LE8-W	Drum; 132 positions, 96 ASCII characters, variable forms width, top-of-form control; 230 lpm	Dataproducts
LA120-B	DECwriter III; Printer; 132 positions; 96 ASCII characters; variable forms width; 180 cps	DEC
LA180	132 positions, 96 characters; 7 x 7 matrix; 180 cps	DEC
<b>PAPER TAPE EQUIPMENT</b>		
PC8-E	Reader/Punch; 8-level, rack mount or tabletop; fanfold tape; 300/50 cps	
<b>TERMINALS</b>		
LA36-HE	DECwriter II; 132 columns; 96-character ASCII upper/lower case keyboard; 14-key numeric keypad, variable forms width, switch-selectable speeds; 10, 15, or 30 cps	DEC
LA38-GA	DECwriter IV; 132 columns; 96-character ASCII keyboard; 4 character sizes, six line spacings	
VT55-AA	DECscope; 80 characters x 24 lines, 96-character ASCII keyboard, full-duplex operation, direct cursor addressing, 19-key numeric keypad, escape sequence optional, switch-selectable data rates; 75 to 9600 bps	DEC
VT100-AA	Upper and lower video terminal; 80 characters x 24 lines or 132 characters x 14 lines	DEC

➤ The 8A/600 is an MOS system including a 12-slot chassis, a 25-ampere power supply, and 8K words of memory.

The 8A/620 and 8A/625 are essentially identical, except that the 8A/620 has core memory and the 8A/625 has MOS memory.

What distinguishes the 600's from the 200's and 400's is the CPU. The 8A600's use the KK8-E CPU in place of the KK8-A, making this model group equivalent to the older PDP-8/E and 8/M, but housed in the newer cabinetry. The KK8-E CPU also has some functional advantages over the KK8-A. First, the KK8-E is a faster CPU (1.2 microseconds compared to 1.5 microseconds). Second, the older CPU can be expanded to larger configurations. The KK8-A-based systems (8A205, 400, 420, and 425) cannot be expanded, whereas the KK8-E can drive an extra expansion box for a total of 74 Omnibus slots.

A third advantage of the KK8-E is the availability of the KE8-E Extended Arithmetic Element, which provides

➤ second intervals; the crystal model measures fixed intervals determined by a crystal oscillator (1, 50, 500, or 5000 interrupts per second); and the programmable internal model ticks off intervals specified by 12-bit constants loaded under program control. The fourth clock, a 100-Hertz real-time clock, is found with other options on the DKC8-AA module; it is usable with the KK8-A-based systems only. The line frequency clock is available only on the PDP-8/E and -8/M, while the crystal-controlled and programmable clocks can be used with all models.

Power failure/auto restart, bootstrap loader, and memory extension control are offered as separate options on the PDP-8/E and 8/M. These three options are combined on a single board in PDP-8/A systems. In addition, the memory extension control, which permits addressing memory locations above 4K, also contains a time-share control which provides monitor and user modes for time-shared operations, plus background/foreground real-time operations.

Another combination of options, available on the PDP-8/A's only, is the DKC8-AA input/output options board for all KK8-A-based systems. This board contains a 100-Hz real-time clock, a programmer console control, a 12-bit parallel I/O interface, and an asynchronous serial line interface with switch-selectable speeds to 9600 bits per second.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PDP-8 PROCESSORS

Model	PDP-8/E	PDP-8/M	8A205	8A400	8A420
CPU	KK8-E	KK8-E	KK8-A	KK8-A	KK8-A
Cycle time, microseconds	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.5
Omnibus	20-slot; expandable to 74 slots	12-slot; expandable to 56 slots	12-slot; nonexpandable	12-slot; nonexpandable	20-slot; nonexpandable
Memory	Core, ROM	Core	MOS	Core	Core
Maximum memory, words	32K	32K	32K	32K	128K
Power supply, current @ 5 VDC available	9.4	10.6	9.7	15.5	40.5
Features included	Async. controller, memory extension control, programmers console	Async. controller, memory extension, control, programmers console	Extended option board	Extended option board	Extended option board
Basic system price	\$6,600 (8K)	\$5,450 (8K)	\$4,200 (16K)	\$3,700 (8K)	\$5,100 (8K)

▷ hardware multiply and divide operations plus other instructions. Only the PDP-8/E, -8/M, 8A/600, 8A/620, and 8A/625 can use this option.

One small disadvantage of the KK8-E is that the CPU requires four slots, three more than the slightly slower KK8-A CPU. In a system where the KK8-A's reduced performance can be tolerated, saving these three slots can save a lot of money.

**HISTORY**

DEC's venerated PDP-8 family officially began life in 1965 with the first shipment of the original PDP-8. Actually, however, the architecture and basic concepts behind the PDP-8 started with the PDP-5 in 1963.

The PDP-5 was based upon a 12-bit word length, and was intended for dedicated laboratory/process control applications, with typical system prices of about \$28,500. The PDP-5 was manufactured with hand-wired production techniques making it impractical to produce in large quantities. As it was, about 100 PDP-5's were produced. The enthusiastic market demand for the PDP-5 delighted DEC, and plans were immediately made for a mass-producible version—the PDP-8. The PDP-8 was not originally called a minicomputer, but was certainly the first of the popular, low-cost, small-scale machines that would soon revolutionize the computer industry.

The PDP-8 was announced less than two years after the PDP-5, and was identical to the PDP-5 except that an internal register for a program counter was built into hardware instead of being implemented at memory location 0 as in the PDP-5. The PDP-8 was widely recognized as 1) the first mass-produced computer, 2) the first popular minicomputer, and 3) the first computer selling for less than \$20,000 (CPU only; typical system costs were somewhat higher).

The PDP-8 (and its "crowd pleaser" transparent cnassis) was followed a year later by the PDP-8/S—the first OEM computer—and the Laboratory Instrumentation Computer (LINC-8). The LINC-8 grew out of a project ▷

▷ **REGISTERS:** All models of the PDP-8 Family have six major registers. Four are 12-bit registers: one accumulator (AC); one general-purpose register (MA) for use as temporary storage or an extension of the accumulator if the Extended Arithmetic Element is employed; a program counter (PC); and a memory buffer (MB) register to transfer data between other registers and memory. A three-bit instruction register (IR PDP-8/E only) containing the op-code of the current instruction and a one-bit link (L) carry register for accumulator overflow are also provided.

Eight autoindexing registers are implemented in locations 8 through 16 of each 4K-word memory module. When any of these locations is addressed indirectly by a memory reference instruction, the contents are automatically incremented by one and then used as an address. When referenced directly as memory, these locations function as any others.

**ADDRESSING:** All PDP-8's have four addressing modes; direct (128 locations); indirect (one level); indirect indexed, using the auto-index registers in memory; and program-relative.

**INSTRUCTION REPERTOIRE:** All processors have 6 memory reference instructions, 4 interrupt system control instructions, 3 flag processing instructions, and 41 operate instructions for logic control, etc. Models 8/E, 8/M, 8A600 and 8A620 can support the optional Extended Arithmetic Element which provides six additional shift instructions, four arithmetic instructions (including multiply/divide, and six double-precision instructions.

**INSTRUCTION TIMING:** All times presented are for full-word, fixed-point operands in *microseconds*.

	PDP-8/E, 8/M	PDP-8/A
Load/store	2.4	3.0
Add/subtract	2.4/4.8	3.0/6.0
Multiply/divide	167/386	209/483
Compare & branch	2.4	3.0

**INTERRUPTS:** One hardware interrupt and a single-line interrupt structure with software polling of up to 64 I/O devices to determine the origin and priority of each interrupt.

Two operating modes, user and executive, are possible if the extended memory control is present. User mode is the only standard mode of operation, with executive mode being an option requiring a hardware modification on the processor board. In executive mode, full access is available to all ▷

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## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PDP-8 PROCESSORS (Continued)

Model	8A425	8A600	8A620	8A625
CPU	KK8-A	KK8-E	KK8-E	KK8-E
Cycle time, microseconds	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2
Omnibus	12-slot; nonexpandable	12-slot; expandable to 74 slots	20-slot; expandable to 74 slots	20-slot; expandable to 74 slots
Memory	Core, MOS	Core, ROM	Core	MOS
Maximum memory, words	128K	32K	128K	128K
Power supply, current @ 5 VDC available	39.7	16.0	41.0	40.2
Features included	Extended option board	Extended option board, memory management	Extended option board, memory management	Extended option board, memory management
Basic system price	\$5,600 (8K)	\$4,870 (8K)	\$5,950 (8K)	\$6,450

▷ to produce a PDP-8-like system that had both the PDP-8 and the original MIT Lincoln Lab instruction sets. The LINC-8 was a specialized system with a relatively narrow market appeal (about 100 were delivered). It was succeeded by the PDP-12, a laboratory system retaining many of the LINC-8's best features. The PDP-12 is no longer an actively marketed product.

The PDP-8/S (S for "Serial") took more than five times as long to execute a typical instruction as did the original PDP-8. The "S" used serial rather than parallel internal logic and was widely advertised as the first computer selling for less than \$10,000.

The next developments in the PDP-8 family were an integrated-circuit version of the processor—8/I—for end users, and then a low-cost 8/L ("Low") IC version for OEM's, built with a limited I/O configurability and a correspondingly less powerful power supply.

It was not until 1970 that the PDP-8 Series received its next major enhancement, with release of the PDP-8/E ("Expanded") OEM or end-user processor that employs the design also used in the current PDP-8/M (OEM-oriented). During the period between the release of the 8/I and the 8/E, work was under way on the more powerful DEC PDP-11 family, and it seemed to many in the computer industry that the PDP-8's lifespan would be terminated. But DEC did not share that view, and the latest addition—the PDP-8/A Series—keeps the PDP-8 family current with improvements that reflect the latest technological advances.

The most recent venture for the PDP-8 is word processing. A version of the Datasystem 310 designated the 310W was recently introduced as DEC's entrance into this rapidly developing market.

Among the packaged PDP-8 systems available from DEC are the Typeset/8 for graphic arts and typesetting applications (\$95,000 to \$150,000), the Datasystem 310 small general business system (\$12,000 and up), and the CLASSIC educational computer system (\$8,900).

▶ programmable machine functions. In user mode, (invoked for time-sharing or foreground/background multiprogramming), direct I/O access is defined to unauthorized user programs.

Automatic push-down stacks are implemented in software to facilitate sharable (re-entrant) routines. The size of the push-down stacks is limited only by the size of available memory.

**PHYSICAL SPECIFICATIONS:** All PDP-8 chassis are 10.5 inches high and 19 inches wide. Chassis depth of the PDP-8/E is 21 inches, while the PDP-8/M chassis is 15.8 inches deep. Chassis for models 8A205, 8A400, and 8A600, are 10.5 inches deep, and chassis for models 8A420, 425, 8A620, and 625 are 23 inches deep. The weight of each model is given in the table below.

All 8/E and 8/M modules are quad modules, while the 8A modules are both hex and quad modules.

A standard cabinet is 72 inches high, 21 inches wide, 25 inches deep, and weighs 120 pounds. A short cabinet is 50 inches high, 21 inches wide, 25 inches deep, and weighs 90 pounds.

Power requirements for all PDP-8's are 90 to 132 VAC, 59 to 61 Hertz or 180 to 264 VAC, 49 to 51 Hertz. Maximum power consumption and heat dissipation figures are provided in the following table.

Unit	Power Consumption, watts	Heat Dissipation, BTU/hr.	Weight, pounds
PDP-8E	460*	1560*	100
PDP-8M	440*	1500*	66
8A/205	400	1365	55
8A/400	550	1880	55
8A/420	1100	3760	120
8A/425	1100	3760	120
8A/600	550	1830	55
8A/620	1100	3760	120
8A/625	1100	3760	120
RK05	200	2400	110
LA36	300	1020	102
VT55	300	1020	43
RX8 (dual)	200	680	60

\*Estimated.

The operating environment tolerances of all PDP-8's are the same: 41 to 122 degrees Fahrenheit at 10 to 90 percent noncondensing relative humidity.

The above operating environment figures are for the basic CPU, memory, and internal options only. Environmental requirements for system I/O devices vary considerably and generally impose stricter tolerances.

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➤ The trend toward 16-bit (and, more recently, 32-bit) minicomputers has dampened the demand for PDP-8's. However, there are still certain applications in which the PDP-8 family's price/performance characteristics make it the best choice. This choice is further enhanced by the vast quantity of fully developed software for these systems.

### USER REACTION

Datapro contacted six PDP-8 users through the yearly minicomputer user survey. Applications mentioned included business data processing, data communications, data base management and text and word processing. The average system had been installed for 35 months.

In-house personnel, contract programming houses, and proprietary software packages were all sources of applications programs. Memory size ranged from 8K to 128K words, and on-line disk storage varied from 1.2 to 18 megabytes. Up to six interactive terminals and six remote terminals per system were reported. Hardware reliability and overall reliability were mentioned as strong points of the system.

The results of the survey are tabulated below.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	WA*
Ease of operation	2	3	1	0	3.2
Reliability of mainframe	4	2	0	0	3.7
Reliability of peripherals	3	2	1	0	3.3
Responsiveness of maintenance service	3	2	0	1	3.2
Effectiveness of maintenance service	3	3	0	0	3.5
Technical support	2	1	2	0	3.0
Operating systems	2	1	1	0	3.3
Compilers and assemblers	0	1	1	0	2.5
Applications programs	1	1	1	0	3.0
Ease of programming	1	1	2	0	2.8
Ease of conversion	0	2	1	0	2.7
Overall satisfaction	3	1	1	0	3.4

\*Weighted Average on a scale of 4.0 for Excellent.

The overall satisfaction rating of 3.4 is unchanged from the previous years rating, indicating a continued satisfaction with most aspects of the system. The two lowest ratings, for compilers and assemblers and for ease of programming, are sharp drops from previous ratings and may merely reflect the fact that in these areas the PDP-8 suffers by comparison with newer products that are now available. The durability of the line, plus the total sales of over 40,000 units, attests to the success of the PDP-8. □

### ➤ INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL

**OMNIBUS:** A synchronous bus is provided with each processor. (One is standard in the PDP-8/E, with a second Omnibus as an option.) The Omnibus permits plugging memory/processor options or I/O devices into any available slot location, eliminating the need for special back-panel wiring. The maximum programmed data transfer rate is 74,000 words/second on the 8A/205, 400, 420, E, and M; and 87,800 words/second on the 8A/620 and 625.

**DIRECT MEMORY ACCESS:** A standard 12-channel DMA (data break) feature is provided for high-speed block data transfers between memory and higher-speed peripheral/terminal devices on a cycle-stealing basis, and is

an integral part of the Omnibus. Any peripheral controller with a DMA interface can operate directly to memory. In conjunction with the DMA feature, multiple external devices can directly increment multiple memory locations, and external data can be combined (add/subtract) direct to memory locations with processor intervention. The maximum DMA data transfer rate is 666,600 words/second on the 8A/205, 400, 420, 425, E, and M; and 833,000 words/second on the 8A/620 and 625.

**CONFIGURATION RULES:** The key to configuring the PDP-8/E and 8/M is the Omnibus, which consists of prewired slots that permit physical attachment of I/O devices and/or memory/processor options, and the capacity of the power supply included with each configuration. Neither the number of Omnibus slots nor the capacity of the power supply can be exceeded.

Each Omnibus has 20 slots in it, and when an additional Omnibus is added, one slot position in each is occupied by the interconnection cables. In a basic 8K-word 8/E, one Omnibus is included, with 10 slots used for the processor, console interface, and basic 8K words of core memory; this leaves 9 slots for attachment of additional devices or optional features.

The 8/E and 8/M can be further expanded in 19-slot increments to a total capacity of 58 or 77 slots using a BA8 expander box. The first memory board occupies four slots, with each expansion board occupying three slots. Each 256-word bootstrap ROM, the programmable clock, floating-point hardware, and the extended arithmetic option require two slots. Power failure/automatic restart, the fixed interval real-time clock, and the bootstrap loaders each use one slot. The asynchronous line interfaces, I/O interfaces, and general-purpose interfaces use one slot, whereas the synchronous line interface uses two slots.

The 20-slot 8A/620 and 625 use the same 4-board CPU (KK8-E) as the PDP-8/E and -8/M. In both models the CPU occupies four slots, the memory expansion and time-share control occupy one slot, and the 8K or 16K memory module occupies two slots, leaving 5 slots in the 8A600 and 13 slots in the 8A/620 and 14 slots in the 625. Unlike the PDP-8/E, and -8/M, memory expansion modules require two slots apiece. Both models can be expanded through one BA8-C expansion chassis, providing 19 additional slots.

The Models 8A/205 and 8A/400 each have a 12-slot Omnibus, and models 8A/420 and 425 each have a 20-slot Omnibus. All models initially lose a total of four slots to the CPU (one slot), memory expansion control (one slot), and core memory (two slots for 8K or 16K), and MOS memory (one slot), leaving eight slots for system expansion on the 8A/400 and nine slots on the 8A/205. Models 8A/420 and 425 have 20-slot chassis, providing 16 and 17 slots, respectively, for expansion. None of these models can be expanded beyond the 12- or 20-slot capacities.

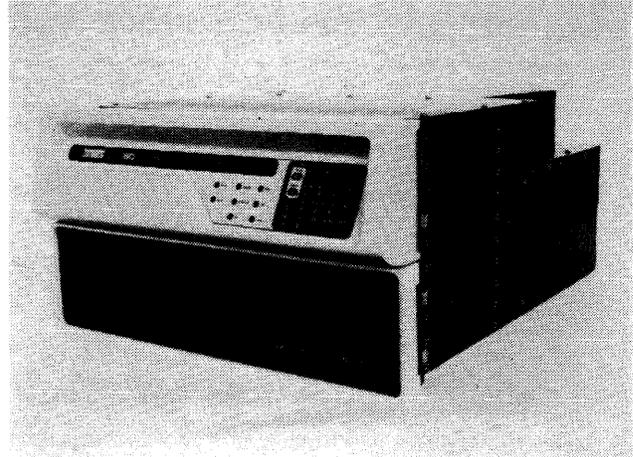
The number of slots provided by each CPU/memory configuration and the number of slots required by each option are included in the descriptions found in the Equipment Prices section of this report.

### MASS STORAGE

**RX28 FLOPPY DISK:** The recently announced RX28 (RX02) is a double density flexible disk drive with a per drive capacity of 256K 12-bit words. Up to two drives per controller and 8 controllers per processor can be configured. Average access time is 263 milliseconds. A track-to-track move takes at least 6 milliseconds. Rotational speed is 360 rpm, yielding an average rotational delay of 83 milliseconds. Data transfer rate is 62K 12-bit words per second. The surface of the diskette is divided into 77 tracks, each with 26 sectors. The RX28 floppy disk drive is manufactured by DEC. The floppy disks are standard (IBM-compatible) and are available from many sources.

**RL01 CARTRIDGE DISK DRIVES:** The RL01 5.2-megabyte (2.6 million 12-bit words) cartridge disk drive is a top-loading drive employing a removable cartridge. Features provided in the RL01 include an embedded servo, allowing

## DEC PDP-8 Family



The 8A/400 (left) and the look-alike 8A/625 (right) are packaged in similar chassis, but differ markedly. The 8A/625 is based on the KK8-E processor, the same four-board unit used in the older PDP-8/E and PDP-8/M while the 8A/400 is based on the slower KK8-A processor, the true one-board PDP-8A. The 8A/400 has six fewer available slots in the basic configuration, and cannot be expanded. The 8A/625 can contain up to 74 slots through the use of expander boxes. Maximum memory capacity for the 8A/400 is 32K words and for the 8A/625, 64K words. Purchase price for the units with 16K words of memory is \$4,760 for the 8A/400 and \$6,450 for the 8A/625.

- control information to be dispersed on each data track for data integrity. Disk rotational speed is 2400 rpm, and average rotational delay is 12.5 milliseconds. Average head positioning time is 55 milliseconds. Data transfer rate is 512K bytes per second.

**RK8 CARTRIDGE DISK SUBSYSTEM:** Includes an RK05J cartridge disk drive with one removable IBM 5440-type cartridge and a controller for up to eight drives. The RK05J drive records data at 256 words per sector, 16 sectors per track, and 203 tracks per surface. Formatted capacity is 1.6 million 12-bit words. Average rotational delay is 20 milliseconds, and average head-positioning time is 50 milliseconds. Data transfer rate is 120K words per second. The RK05J cartridge disk drive can be intermixed with the RK05F double-density drive on the same controller. The RK05J disk drive is manufactured by DEC.

**RK05F CARTRIDGE DISK DRIVE:** A double-density version of the RK05J cartridge disk drive having 406 tracks per surface. It uses a nonremovable cartridge and has a capacity of 3.2 million words. The RK05F drives can be intermixed with the RK05J drives on the same controller, although there must be at least one RK05J drive in the subsystem. To the operating software, one RK05F appears as two logical RK05J's. Hence, a maximum subsystem using RK05F's has three RK05F drives and one RK05J drive. The RK05F disk drive is manufactured by DEC.

In addition to the disk products offered by DEC, more than 15 manufacturers currently supply DEC-compatible disk drives. These units are either DEC-equivalent units or IBM 2315, 5440, or 3470 equivalents. A detailed summary of these products is presented in Report M13-100-201, *Minicomputer Disk Storage*, and Report M13-100-251, *Minicomputer Floppy Disk Storage*.

#### INPUT/OUTPUT UNITS

See Peripherals/Terminals tables on the third page of this report. A number of vendors manufacture direct replacement line printers for the PDP-8 series, as outlined in Report M13-100-401, *Minicomputer Printers*. Finally, non-DEC punched card and punched tape units can be located in Reports M13-100-501 and M13-100-601, *Minicomputer Punched Card Units* and *Minicomputer Punched Tape Units*.

The DR8-EA Twelve-Channel Discrete Line I/O Interface is used to provide control and interfacing between the PDP-8 and up to 12 external circuits or devices. It permits 12-bit parallel I/O transfers via programmed I/O or interrupt mode. This unit is especially useful in the design of

specialized systems with nonstandard I/O devices, since it provides data interfacing and buffering, control signal decoding, and interrupt capabilities to these devices. It requires one slot and is limited to eight per system.

The DB8-EA Interprocessor Buffer permits two PDP-8's to transfer up to 50K words per second through programmed I/O (maximum of eight per system).

#### COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL

The following units are provided to control various communication interfaces.

The KL8-JA Asynchronous Serial Line Interface provides full- or half-duplex control of one local RS-232C or 20mA current-loop line. Data rates range from 110 to 9600 bits per second and are switch-selectable. Modern control disciplines can be added to the KL8-JA through addition of the KL8-M Model Control Interface. This add-on unit allows the system to interface one Bell 103 or 202 or equivalent modem.

The KL8-A Four-Channel Asynchronous Interface provides partial modem controls on three channels and full modem controls on the fourth. The unit features 15 switch-selectable data rates from 50 to 9600 bps and can be used with both 20-milliampere and EIA RS-232C interfaces.

The DP8-EA Synchronous Modem Interface controls Bell 201 or equivalent modems. Its strap-selectable interfacing includes RS-232C/CCITT, 20-milliampere current loop, and logic levels. Character length is strap-selectable for six-, seven-, or eight-bit characters. The interface operates in full- or half-duplex modes on data break (DMA) channels. Data rates are strap-selectable to 71K bits per second. Sync codes can be specified by straps on the board. The DP8-EB is similar and provides an interface for a Bell 300 or equivalent modem. Up to four DP8-E's can be connected in a system.

The KG8-E Redundancy Check Unit provides hardware-generated LRC, VRC, and industry-compatible CRC characters to multiple output data streams. It also checks the same data on multiple input streams. The unit occupies one slot.

#### SOFTWARE

Many of the software products described in this section, although still available from DEC, are not undergoing further development and are described for reference purposes. Only those software products being actively marketed and developed are listed in the Software Prices section of this report. ►

## DEC PDP-8 Family

► **OPERATING SYSTEMS:** There are three operating systems available to PDP-8 users: OS/8, RTS/8, and COS-310. The first two are directed toward OEM and end-user applications; the third, the COS-310 Data Management System, is available only as a bundled package with the PDP-8/A-based Datasystem 310. This business system is marketed by DEC's Business Products Group and is covered in detail in Report M11-385-101.

In addition, the recently introduced WPS-8 word processing system qualifies as an operating system. This package is a stand-alone text processing system for office and business use.

OS/8 is a comprehensive magnetic tape or disk executive system for batch and interactive operation on an 8K-word (or larger) PDP-8 system with one or more tape drives or a minimum of 64K words of disk storage. OS/8 provides standard dynamic I/O handling for a maximum of 15 I/O devices, as well as modular program development support for FORTRAN II and IV, BASIC, FOCAL, BATCH, six different levels of assembly language, and PIP (Peripheral Interchange Program). Modules in more than one language can be combined to form a composite programming system. Also supported under OS/8 are a symbolic editor, dynamic debug programs, and absolute and relocatable program loaders.

OS/8 is the software basis for nearly every specialized package PDP-8 system offered by DEC except the Datasystem. Examples of these numerous offerings are briefly summarized below.

The CLASSIC (CLASSroom Interactive Computer) system (see Report M11-385-301), a classroom education system designed to introduce and accustom students to computers is marketed by the Educational Products Group.

The Typeset/8 Storage and Edit Systems, for the graphic arts and typesetting industries, are marketed by (naturally) the Typeset Group.

The LAB/8-E Laboratory Control System contains application software which performs peak signal analysis, signal averaging, and other highly specialized laboratory computational and control functions. The application software is offered on several media and runs either in stand-alone fashion or under OS/8. Laboratory peripherals, analog/digital (A/D) input/output, a programmable clock, and point-plot or storage displays are supported by OS/8 BASIC and FORTRAN IV.

RTS/8 (Real-Time System for PDP-8 family) allows concurrent running of up to 127 fixed-priority tasks. The RTS monitor controls scheduling, startup and suspension of tasks, and intertask communications. It can also support foreground/background operation. RTS/8 is oriented toward I/O and data collection involving real-time operations. As such, it supports time-driven operations (clocks), power-fail features and most standard I/O and process interfaces. RTS/8 exists as a small run-time module, whose tasks are created at development time using OS/8.

RTS/8 supports only assembly language modules in the foreground, but FORTRAN and BASIC modules can be run under OS/8 by expanding the system to 16K words of memory.

The monitor occupies less than 700 words in main memory, and tasks require an additional 10 words each. The RTS/8 system modules support most standard DEC peripherals. Minimum system requirements are simply any PDP-8 series CPU, 4K words of main memory, a console terminal, and an input medium.

A monitor console routine (MCR) in the RTS/8 system permits the user to exercise on-line control, inspect, and debug the system. Functions that can be performed through the MCR include: request task execution, suspend task execution, execute task at a specified time, examine memory, enter value into memory, enter date, enter time, print task status, and return to OS/8. Single functions or strings of functions can be entered and performed.

Languages supported under TSS/8 include BASIC, FORTRAN, ALGOL, Assembly Language, FOCAL, and QUICK-POINT. All languages are available simultaneously to users of the system.

WPS-8 uses a menu-driven editor to create and update documents stored on floppy disks. The system features dynamic floppy disk allocation and allows up to 200 documents to be stored on one disk. Editing provisions include the ability to cut and paste blocks of text, boilerplate insertions for library files, operations by grammatical units (sentence, paragraph, character, tab position, etc.), use of shorthand expressions, deletion and rubout of either characters or words, and key-initiated transposed character swapping. Format controls include automatic centering of text on a line and pagination controls (discretionary or semi-automatic).

The WPS-8 system requires two special hardware units not found in the standard price list. These items, the VT52-WA and the LQP8, are part of the packaged system that makes up the 310W Word Processing System. The VT52-WA is a CRT display with a special keyboard for word processing applications, while the LQP8 is a letter-quality printer based on a Diablo mechanism. These two peripherals, plus the WPS-8 software, are included in the WP310 upgrade kit.

A remote communications package, WPS-8/RCP, enables a WPS-8 system to communicate with a host computer system. Transmission is in serial, asynchronous, RS-232C-compatible mode using standard ASCII codes.

**LANGUAGES:** The following are PDP-8 supported languages.

*PAL8* is an 8K two-pass assembler designed to run under the OS/8 operating system. The first pass reads the input file and sets up the symbol table. The second pass reads the input file and uses the symbol table to generate the object file in binary. The binary file is an absolute binary tape that can be loaded into memory via either the Absolute Loader or the Binary Loader. An optional third pass produces octal and symbolic listings and a listing of the symbol table. PAL8 can handle I/O from any OS/8 devices supporting ASCII text, and has pseudo-operations and options not available in the other PDP-8 assemblers. It is loaded and saved via the OS/8 Monitor and Absolute Loader. It will accept input generated by the Editor and generates output acceptable to the Absolute Loader and CREF.

MACREL/LINKER is a superset of PAL8 assembler and absolute loader programs. MACREL is a macro assembler that produces relocatable code, and LINKER is a linking loader. Additional features of the MACREL assembler include program control macros, conditional assembly directives, program sectioning directives, user defined functions, and provision for user-written macros.

*FORTRAN* is available in three versions for the PDP-8. The 8K paper tape *FORTRAN II* system consists of a one-pass compiler, the SABR Assembler, the Linking Loader, and a library of subprograms. The language itself enables the programmer to express his problem using common English words and mathematical statements. The FORTRAN source program may be initially prepared off-line or by using the appropriate Editor program. The computer translates the programmer's source program into symbolic language (SABR). The symbolic version of the program is then assembled into relocatable binary code. Minimum requirements for running FORTRAN II include a PDP-8 series computer with 8K words of memory, a teletypewriter, and a high-speed reader and punch.

*OS/8 8K FORTRAN* is an expanded version of 8K paper tape FORTRAN II that runs under the OS/8 operating system. Its additional features include Hollerith constants, implied DO loops, chaining, mixing of SABR and FORTRAN statements, and device-independent I/O.

*OS/8 FORTRAN IV* provides full standard ANSI FORTRAN IV under the OS/8 operating system. The compiler accepts a single FORTRAN source-language program or subroutine as input, examines each FORTRAN statement for validity, and produces a list of error diagnostics plus a ►

## DEC PDP-8 Family

► **RALF** assembly-language version of the source program, along with an optional annotated source listing. A job of one or more subroutines is executed by compiling and assembling the main program and each subroutine separately, then combining them with the loader.

**OS/8 FORTRAN IV** requires a minimum hardware configuration of a PDP-8 with 8K words of mainframe memory, a console terminal, and at least 128K of mass storage. Additional equipment that can be utilized when present includes an extended arithmetic element, a floating point processor, up to 32K words of mainframe memory, LAB/8-E peripherals, and any I/O device supported by the PDP-8 series.

**PAL III** (Program Assembly Language, version III) is a two-pass assembler (with an optional third pass) designed for the PDP-8 series minicomputers. During the first pass of the assembly, all user symbols are defined and placed in the symbol table. In the second pass, the binary equivalents of the input source language are generated and punched. The third pass (optional) produces an assembly listing. The binary output tape is then loaded by the Binary Loader for execution.

**PAL III** requires a PDP-8 with 4K words of memory and a teletypewriter console. The assembler can also use either the high-speed paper tape reader, the high-speed paper tape punch, or both. The symbol table can be changed by the programmer to reflect the specific machine configuration.

**MACRO-8** is also a 4K two-pass paper tape assembler that is similar to PAL III but contains several additional features. These features include link generation, literals, Boolean operators, double-precision integer output, floating-point input, a text input facility, and user-defined macros.

The **4K PAL-D Assembler** operates under the PDP-8/I Disk Monitor System and the PDP-8 Time-Sharing System. PAL-D is compatible with PAL III, except for memory reference instructions, and is also compatible with MACRO-8 in respect to Boolean operators, linkage generation, literals, and its text facility. It does not have the user-defined macros, floating-point constants, nor double-precision numbers of MACRO-8.

**SABR** (Symbolic Assembler for Binary Relocatable programs) is an 8K one-pass assembler that produces relocatable binary code with automatically generated page and field linkages. It supports an extensive list of pseudo-operations, which provide several facilities including external subroutine calling with argument passing and conditional assembly.

**SABR** differs from DEC's other 8K assembler, PAL8, in the following ways:

- SABR produces relocatable binary code; PAL8 produces absolute or location-dependent binary code.
- SABR is page- and field-independent; PAL8 is page-dependent.
- SABR programs are loaded with the 8K Linking Loader and use run-time linkage routines provided by Loader; PAL8 does not require any run-time routines.

**SABR** requires a PDP-8 with 8K words of memory and a teletypewriter. A high-speed paper tape reader/punch is recommended.

**OS/8 SABR** is a modified version of the 8K SABR assembler. It can be used as the automatic second pass of the FORTRAN II compiler, called separately to do assemblies of FORTRAN-compiled files, or used as an independent assembler with its own assembly language. In addition, SABR statements can be used in an OS/8 FORTRAN II program to expand the capabilities of the FORTRAN II language.

**FLAP** and **RALF** are assemblers that translate PDP-8 processor and Floating-Point Processor (FPP) operation codes in a source program into binary codes in two or three passes. The first pass assigns numeric values to the symbols and places them in the symbol table. The second pass generates the binary coding. The third pass generates the

program listing. **FLAP** or **RALF** is used to assemble programs using the RPP instructions and capabilities.

**FLAP** is designed to run on an OS/8 system with a Floating Point Processor (FPP) without any supporting programs. It generates absolute binary output, which is valid input to the OS/8 Absolute Loader. **RALF**, an extension of **FLAP**, is part of the OS/8 FORTRAN IV system. It accepts assembly-language files or FORTRAN compiler output and generates relocatable binary modules that can be loaded by the relocatable loader.

**BASIC** is a language designed for use in scientific and business environments to solve both simple and complex mathematical problems. DEC provides four versions of **BASIC** for the PDP-8.

**4K BASIC** for EduSystem 10 is the most elementary **BASIC**. It is directed primarily toward use in an educational environment and requires a minimum of 4K words of memory.

**8K BASIC** is an extended version of 4K **BASIC** that has additional facilities including one- and two-dimensional subscripting, faster execution time, user-coded functions, use of the LE8 high-speed line printer and high-speed reader/punch, and specification of input and output devices from any part of a program. Minimum requirements to support 8K **BASIC** include a PDP-8 with 8K words of memory. The high-speed reader/punch and the LP08 line printer is supported.

**OS/8 BASIC** which runs under OS/8, has greater capabilities than 8K **BASIC**, with such features as chaining, string manipulation, and file-oriented input/output. LAB8/E functions are also supported, enabling the user to solve a range of real-time and pseudo real-time problems using **BASIC**.

**Industrial BASIC** combines the mathematical and decision-making ability of Dartmouth **BASIC** with a real-time executive to perform industrial control applications such as analog and digital input and output, time-based scheduling, and servicing of external interrupts. File handling and editing capabilities have also been implemented. Minimum system requirements for **Industrial BASIC** are 8K words of main memory, an industrial control subsystem (ICS-8), a real-time clock, and either a dual DECTape or a cartridge disk. **Industrial BASIC** is available to both OEM's and end users.

**FOCAL-8** is a high-level programming language designed for students, managers, and technicians who do not have the time to learn complex languages and yet need problem-solving capabilities. It consists of 12 commands, which are all the programmer (user) needs. These commands are: TYPE, ASK, SET, GO or GOTO, IF, DO, RETURN, QUIT, FOR, COMMENT or CONTINUE, ERASE, ERASE ALL, and MODIFY.

The minimum system requirement for running **FOCAL-8** is a 4K PDP-8 with an ASR 33 teletypewriter.

**UTILITIES:** The following are PDP-8 utility programs.

**OS/8 Extension Kit** is composed of OS/8 Batch, a text editor, and a **BASIC** compiler. Batch executes and monitors frequently run production jobs, large or long-running programs, and programs that require little or no user interaction. In addition to normal editing functions, **TECO** capabilities include character string search and replacement, temporary storage buffers, choice of decimal or octal radix, and a number of I/O techniques. **TECO** commands also provide for conditional execution, branching, program control, and multi-file processing.

**BITMAP** is an OS/8 utility program that constructs a table (map) showing the memory locations used by specified binary files. **BITMAP** runs on the standard OS/8 configuration and requires the OS/8 software package. It uses 8K words of memory to map programs that use up to 16K, but requires 12K words to map programs using more than 16K of memory. ►

## DEC PDP-8 Family

► **BOOT** is an OS/8 program used to bootstrap from one PDP-8 system to another and to bootstrap from one device to another, which is accomplished by typing commands on the keyboard. **BOOT** can run from OS/8, COS-310, or any other PDP-8 operating system (e.g., CAPs-8).

**BUILD** is the OS/8 system generation program; it allows the user to: 1) create an OS/8 monitor system from elements on cassettes or paper tapes; 2) maintain and update device handlers in an existing OS/8 system; 3) add DEC-supplied device handlers to a new or existing system; and 4) add user-written device handlers to a new or existing system. Simple keyboard commands are used to manipulate the device handlers which make up the OS/8 peripheral configuration, and **BUILD** allows the user to easily insert devices that are not standard on the system.

**CAMP** (Cassette and Magnetic Tape Positioner) is used to position cassettes, magnetic tapes, and other devices. **CAMP** can position these devices to the beginning of a storage medium or another selected position on a given tape.

**CREP** (Cross Reference Program) assists the programmer in writing, debugging, and maintaining assembly-language programs by providing the ability to pinpoint all references to a given symbol. **CREP** operates on output from the PAL8, SABR, and RALF assemblers.

**PIP** (Peripherals Interchange Program) is the OS/8 system program that is used to transfer files between devices, to merge and delete files, and to list, zero, and compress directories. **PIP** accepts up to nine input files and performs output to a single file. Since **PIP** performs file transfers for all types of files (ASCII, Image or SAVE format, or binary) there are no assumed extensions. All extensions for either input or output files must be explicitly specified in the commands to **PIP**.

**MCPIP**, a variant of **PIP**, is an OS/8 program used to transfer files between standard cassettes or magnetic tapes and other OS/8 system devices, delete such files, and transfer file directories. **MCPIP** can read or write any standard cassette file on a DEC cassette or magnetic tape. Specifically, it can read or write any file created by or to be used by the CAPS-8 system or by the OS/8 system (using any OS/8 device handler). **MCPIP** can also read or write any magnetic tape file that is in standard cassette file format (i.e., a file created by **MCPIP** or by CAPS-8). **MCPIP** can be run on any OS/8 system equipped with at least 8K words of memory and TA8 cassette drives or TM8 magnetic tape drives. **MCPIP** supports any OS/8 system device.

**RESORC** (Systems Resources) is an OS/8 program that is used to determine what device handlers are present on a given OS/8 system. Other information about the device handlers is also available through the use of the **RESORC** options.

**SRCCOM** (Source Compare) is an OS/8 utility program that compares two source files line by line and prints all of the differences. Usually, the two files being compared are different versions of a single program. In that case, **SRCCOM** prints all of the editing changes that have occurred. Used in this manner, **SRCCOM** can be a valuable debugging tool.

**DDT** (Dynamic Debugging Tool) and **ODT** (Octal Debugging Tool) are a pair of debugging routines included in the system software package for the PDP-8. These routines allow the programmer to run his binary program on the computer and use the teletypewriter keyboard to control program execution, examine registers, change their contents, and make other alterations to his program.

**RTAPE** and **WTAPE** are two DECTape read and write subprograms available for the 8K FORTRAN and 8K SABR systems. These subprograms are furnished on one relocatable, binary-coded paper tape, which is loaded into field 0 by the Linking Loader. **RTAPE** or **WTAPE** allow the user to read and write any amount of memory-image data onto DECTape in absolute, non-file-structure data blocks. They can be called from any 8K FORTRAN or SABR program. The arguments are the same for both subprograms and are formatted in the same manner. They specify the

following: DECTape unit number (from 0 to 7); number of the DECTape block at which transfer is to start; number of words to be transferred; and core address at which the transfer is to start.

**DIRECT** is an OS/8 program that produces listings of OS/8 device directories. These directories can be of several types, depending upon the options specified in the **DIRECT** command line. The standard directory listing consists of file name, file name extension, length (decimal) in blocks written, and creation date.

**EPIC** is the Edit, Punch, and Compare utility program for OS/8. It assists users in reading and punching paper tape files and patches, editing arbitrary files, and comparing files in any format. After **EPIC** is loaded, a command entered from the console selects the function desired.

**FOTP** is an OS/8 program used to transfer files from one device to another, delete files from a device, and rename files. It is faster than **PIP** and performs some functions not available in **PIP**, such as transferring files longer than 256 blocks and performing multiple-file transfers and deletions without requiring multiple accesses to the directory.

**FOTP** copies files in image mode, word for word and character for character, without making any changes in the file. Thus, it can be used to copy memory-image and binary files as well as ASCII files, without specifying options to identify the types of files.

**LIBSET** is the FORTRAN Library Setup Program. It creates a library of subroutines from the relocatable binary output of SABR. These library files can then be scanned by the Linking Loader.

The *Linking Loader* is the PDP-8 system program used to load and link a user's program and subprograms into any field of memory. It can be called automatically to load or load and start a FORTRAN or SABR program, or independently to load or load and start a relocatable binary file stored on a device. It can load programs over itself, and has options to obtain storage map listings of memory availability.

The Linking Loader can load any number of user and library programs into any field of memory. Typically, several programs are loaded into each field. Any common storage reserved by the programs being loaded is allocated in a specified field, and the space reserve for common storage is subtracted from the available loading area in field 1. The program reserving the largest amount of common storage must be loaded first.

The Run-Time Linkage Routines necessary to execute SABR programs are automatically loaded into the required areas of every field by the Linking Loader as part of its initialization. The user needs to know nothing more about these routines than the particular areas of memory they occupy.

**SS BIN** (Self-Starting Binary Loader) reads binary-format paper tapes from either the high-speed or low-speed reader and, if a starting address has been specified, automatically starts the program at the completion of loading. **SS BIN** itself is a read-in mode (RIM) format program and is loaded with the RIM Loader or the hardware bootstrap, generally as the first part of a two-part tape. (The second part of this tape is the object program or data to be loaded, which is physically separated from **SS BIN** by leader/trailer codes.) **SS BIN** occupies 156 locations of the memory field into which it has been loaded.

The *Symbolic Editor* (**EDIT**) allows users to create and modify symbolic source program tapes from the teletypewriter keyboard. As the program is typed on the keyboard, it is entered into memory, where it can be checked, corrected, and modified. When modification is complete, the Editor will produce a source program tape suitable for assembling or compiling into an object binary tape.

**EDIT** occupies about 1000 memory locations, leaving all but the last page for the source program. On a 4K machine, this allows about 60 lines of heavily commented text, or about ►

## DEC PDP-8 Family

► 340 lines of text without comments. The source program is stored in the text buffer area of memory. When the text buffer is full, the teletypewriter bell rings. At that time, the buffer may be enlarged or the contents of the buffer may be punched onto paper tape. If punched, the buffer can then be cleared, and the user can continue placing the rest of the source program into memory and punching it out until the entire source program is on one tape ready for compilation or assembly. Text can also be entered into memory via the high-speed paper tape reader.

*OS/8 TECO* (Text Editor and Corrector) is a useful text editing and correction program that runs under the OS/8 operating system. OS/8 TECO can be used to edit such ASCII text as program listings, manuscripts, correspondence, and the like. Because TECO is a character-oriented editor rather than a line editor, text editor with TECO does not have line numbers associated with it. Further, it is not necessary to replace an entire line of text in order to change one character.

**APPLICATIONS SOFTWARE:** DEC's extensive and numerous applications programs are generally sold as an integral part of the specialized end-user systems available from each of four market groups: Typeset Group, Education Systems Group, Business Products Group, and the newly created PDP-8 Group, which incorporates the products formerly sold by the Industrial Products Group, Engineering Computational Group, and Laboratory Data Products Group. In addition, more than 1600 application and utility programs are maintained by the Digital Equipment Computer Users Society (DECUS).

### PRICING

**POLICY:** PDP-8 systems, purchased as end-user equipment on a package basis, include installation and set-up charges in the package prices. In addition, these systems are generally covered by a 90-day warranty. Maintenance contracts are negotiated separately. Any modifications to the system (additional I/O, memory, etc.) are subject to DEC's OEM policies. Discounts of up to 20 percent on both unit volume and dollar volume are available to end users.

Systems purchased for OEM purposes do not include warranty or installation. These must be purchased separately under one of three plans:

- System installation and 30-day on-site warranty priced at the greater of \$300 or 3 percent of list price.
- System installation and 30-day on-site warranty priced at the greater of \$500 or 5 percent of list price.
- Installation and 30-day on-site warranty for certain specified units, priced at the standard field installation charge plus maintenance for one month.

PDP-8/A modules are warranted on a return-to-factory basis for three months from the date of delivery.

For OEM customers, discounts of up to 35 percent for most electronic subassemblies and up to 28 percent on other hardware items are available, while discounts for software products can go as high as 56 percent.

Prices for field installation of options are the sum of all the individual field installation charges (FIC's), or \$75 minimum, plus a one-time travel charge from the nearest DEC Service Center if the straight-line distance exceeds 100 miles. Installation prices for areas considered remote (not normally serviced by DEC or its subsidiaries) must be quoted individually.

Return-to-factory warranties and services can be obtained from seven locations in the United States and Canada. These locations are: Chicago, Illinois; Sunnyvale, California; Kanata, Ontario; Maynard, Massachusetts; Houston, Texas; Santa Ana, California; and Princeton, New Jersey.

Software prices usually include a one-year Software Performance Report coverage.

**EQUIPMENT:** The following system illustrates typical PDP-8 systems and include all controllers, cabinets, and cabling. Also see Reports M11-385-101 and M11-385-301 for other systems based on the PDP-8 computers.

**PDP-8/E SYSTEM:** Includes a PDP-8/E CPU with 32K words of core memory, KE8-E extended arithmetic element, KP8-E power fail/restart, KM8-E memory expansion and time-share control, FPP8-FY floating-point unit, DK8 real-time clock, dual RL01 5 million-word disk subsystem, dual RX28 double density floppy disk subsystem, 180 cps line printer, expansion box, the OS/8 and RTS/8 operating software, and the FORTRAN compiler. Purchase price for this configuration is \$40,200.■

## EQUIPMENT PRICES

		Purchase Price	Monthly Maintenance
<b>PDP-8/E AND PDP-8/M COMPUTERS</b>			
	Includes KK8-E CPU with 1.2-microsecond core memory, programmer console, chassis, power supply, memory expansion and time-share control, and a 20-slot quad module chassis. (Available chassis slots are indicated after the description.)		
PDP8E-DE	With 8K words of memory, 9 slots available	\$ 6,750	84
PDP8E-DS	With 16K words of memory, 6 slots available	8,750	127
PDP8E-FK	With 8K words of memory, 10 slots available	6,600	84
PDP8E-FS	With 16K words of memory, 7 slots available	8,600	127
PDP8M-DK	With 8K words of memory, 9 slots available	6,000	84
PDP8M-DS	With 16K words of memory, 6 slots available	8,000	127
PDP8M-MK	With 8K words of core memory, 11 slots available	5,450	84
PDP8M-MS	With 16K words of core memory, 8 slots available	7,450	117
<b>PDP-8/A COMPUTERS</b>			
	8A's includes KK8-A CPU, operator panel, memory expansion and time-share control, auto/restart, boot-strap loader, chassis, and power supply. (Available chassis slots are indicated after the description.)		
	8A/205 includes 1.5-microsecond MOS memory, 12-slot chassis.		
8A/205-BM	With 16K words of memory, 9 slots available	4,200	47
8A/205-BP	With 32K words of memory, 9 slots available	5,100	59
	8A/400 includes 1.5-microsecond core memory, 12-slot chassis.		

## DEC PDP-8 Family

### EQUIPMENT PRICES

		<u>Purchase Price</u>	<u>Monthly Maintenance</u>
<b>PDP-8/A COMPUTERS (Continued)</b>			
8A/400-BM	With 8K words of memory, 8 slots available	3,960	44
8A/400-BP	With 16K words of memory, power fail/restart and bootstrap loader, 12-slot chassis, 8 slots available	4,760	49
8A/400-FM	With 32K words of memory, 6 slots available	7,115	64
8A/420 includes 1.5-microsecond core memory, 20-slot chassis.			
8A/420-BM	With 8K words of memory, memory expansion, and time-share control, power fail/restart and bootstrap loader, 20-slot chassis, 16 slots available	5,460	49
8A/420-BP	With 16K words of memory, memory expansion, and time-share control, power fail/restart and bootstrap loader, 20-slot chassis, 16 slots available	6,260	54
8A/420-FM	With 32K words of memory, 14 slots available	8,615	69
8A/425 includes 1.5-microsecond MOS memory, 20-slot chassis.			
8A/425-BH	With 16K words of memory, 17 slots available	5,600	52
8A/425-BM	With 32K words of memory, 17 slots available	6,500	64
8A/425-BP	With 64K words of memory, 15 slots available	11,000	99
8A/600 includes 1.2-microsecond core memory, 12-slot chassis.			
8A/600-BM	With 8K words of memory, 5 slots available	4,870	54
8A/600-BP	With 16K words of memory, 5 slots available	5,690	69
8A/600-FM	With 32K words of memory, 3 slots available	8,025	—
8A/620 includes 1.2-microsecond core memory, 20-slot chassis.			
8A/620-BM	With 8K words of memory, 13 slots available	5,950	54
8A/620-BP	With 16K words of memory, 13 slots available	6,700	59
8A/620-FM	With 32K words of memory, 11 slots available	9,525	74
8A/625 includes 1.2-microsecond MOS memory, 20-slot chassis.			
8A/625-BH	With 16K words of memory, 14 slots available	6,450	57
8A/625-BM	With 32K words of memory, 14 slots available	7,350	69
8A/625-BP	With 64K words of memory, 12 slots available	11,850	104

#### PROCESSOR OPTIONS

KC8-EA	Programmer console for PDP-8/E; requires 1 slot	740	—
KC8-ML	Programmer console for PDP-8/M; requires 1 slot	885	—
KC8-AA	Programmer console for PDP-8/A; includes cables; requires DKC8-AA option board	725	8
KC8-AB	Remote programmer console for PDP-8/A; includes cables; requires DKC8-AA option board	885	8
KE8-E	Extended Arithmetic Element for PDP-8/E, -8/M, -8A600, -8A620, and -8A625; includes hardware divide, registers, and extended instruction set; requires 2 slots	1,500	5
FPP8-A	Floating-Point Processor for PDP-8/A; provides 24-bit fixed-point, and 36-bit or 72-bit floating-point arithmetic operations; requires 2 slots	3,000	16
FPP8-AB/FB	FORTRAN IV accelerator package; includes FPP, OS/8 operating system, and OS/8 FORTRAN IV paper tape binaries	2,500	16
FPP8-EA	Floating-Point Processor and Expander Box; includes FPP8-A mounted in expansion box, for PDP-8/E and -8/M; includes cables; requires 3 slots in processor plus 1 in expansion box	5,000	25
KP8-E	Power Fail/Restart Detector for PDP-8/E and -8/M; requires 1 slot	350	2
KM8-E	Memory Expansion Control and Time-Share Control for all PDP-8's; required for systems greater than 4K words of memory; requires 1 slot	425	2
KM8-AA	Extended Option Board for PDP-8/A; includes memory expansion control for systems greater than 4K words, time-share control, power fail/restart and bootstrap loader for paper tape, cartridge disk, and floppy disk; requires 1 slot	685	8
KT8-AA	Memory Management and Control for up to 128K words	1,875	10
DKC8-AA	I/O Option Board for PDP-8/A; includes 100-Hertz real-time clock, programmer console control, 12-bit parallel I/O interface, asynchronous serial line unit, 110 to 9600 bps; requires 1 slot	645	8
DK8-EA	Line Frequency Clock for PDP-8/E and PDP-8/M; requires 1 slot	330	2
DK8-EC	Fixed-Interval Real-Time Clock for all PDP-8's; 1, 50, 500, or 5000 interrupts per second; requires 1 slot	385	2
DK8-EP	Programmable Real-Time Clock for all PDP-8's; requires 2 slots	815	3
M18-E	Bootstrap Loader; provides 32 words of diode ROM memory, user-programmable, for paper tape, DECtape, cartridge disk, cassette tape, or floppy disk; requires 1 slot	650	5

#### MEMORY

##### Core Memory

MM8-EJ	8K words for PDP-8/E and -8/M; requires KM8-E memory expansion control; requires 3 slots, 1.2/1.4-microsecond cycle time	1,925	42
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## DEC PDP-8 Family

## EQUIPMENT PRICES

		<u>Purchase Price</u>	<u>Monthly Maintenance</u>
<b>MEMORY (Continued)</b>			
MM8-AA	8K words for all PDP-8/A models except 8A100; 1.5-microsecond cycle time on 8A600 and 8A620 systems; requires KM8-E or KM8-AA expansion control; requires 2 slots	1,875	10
MM8-AB	16K words of core memory; same specifications as MM8-AA above; requires 2 slots	2,500	15
1.2/2.4 Microsecond MOS RAM Memory			
MS8-CA	16K words for any 8A; requires 1 slot	1,900	—
MS8-CB	32K words for any 8A; requires 1 slot	2,900	—
<b>MASS STORAGE</b>			
RL8A-AK	Cartridge Disk Drive with removable 5-megabyte RL01 cartridge; maximum of 4 drives per controller	5,100	58
RX28-BA	Dual Double Density Floppy Disk Drive and Controller; one dual drive per controller, maximum 8 controllers per system; requires 1 slot	3,900	45
8/E, 8/M only			
RK8J-EA	Removable Cartridge Disk Drive and Controller; 1.6 million words, 8 drives maximum; requires 3 slots	8,600	64
<b>MAGNETIC TAPE EQUIPMENT</b>			
TD8-E	Dual DECtape Drive and Controller; one dual drive per controller, maximum 4 per system; requires 1 slot	4,175	42
TM8-M	Tape Transport and Controller; 9-track, 12.5 ips, 800 bpi, master subsystem, can have one TS03-SA slave transport, maximum 1 per system; requires 4 slots	7,100	75
TS03-SA	Tape Transport and Controller; slave subsystem for use with TM8-MA above	3,850	50
TE10W-E	Tape Transport for use with TM8W-E subsystem above; maximum of 7	12,000	89
TM8E-FA	Tape Transport and Controller; 7-track, 45 ips, 800 bpi, master subsystem, can have up to 7 TU10W-FE slave transports, maximum 1 per system; requires 4 slots	15,970	101
TE10N-FE	Tape Transport for use with TM8W-FA subsystem above; maximum of 7	11,100	74
<b>PUNCHED CARD EQUIPMENT</b>			
For use with all PDP-8's <i>except</i> 8A100			
CM8-FA	Optical mark reader and control; requires 1 slot, 300 cpm	8,970	61
<b>PAPER TAPE EQUIPMENT</b>			
For use with all PDP-8's			
PC8-E	Paper tape reader/punch and control; requires 1 slot, 300/50 cps	5,415	45
<b>LINE PRINTERS/PLOTTERS</b>			
LA8-P	Printer and controller; 132 columns, 96-character set, variable form width; requires 1 slot, for all PDP-8's; 180 cps	3,770	55
LE8-V	Printer and controller; 132 columns, 64-character set; requires 1 slot, 300 lpm	11,800	127
LE8-W	Printer and controller; 132 columns, 96-character set; requires 1 slot, 300 lpm	14,050	127
XY8-E	Plotter Control Interface for Calcomp Series 500, 600, 700, and 800; Houston Instruments Model 6400, DP-1, and DP-10; for PDP-8A's; requires 1 slot	700	8
		700	8
VK8-A	Provides electronics necessary to construct a custom CRT/KBD printer terminal controlled by PDP-8/A	950	15
<b>TERMINALS</b>			
LA36-CE	DECwriter II for use with all PDP-8/A's; 96-character set; upper/lower case keyboard; requires asynchronous line unit; 20 mA interface; 10, 15, or 30 cps	2,100	19
LA36-HE	Same as LA36-CE except with EIA interface	2,200	19
LA38-GA	DECwriter IV Printer for use with all PDP-8's; 96-character set; upper/lower case keyboard; up to 30 cps	1,600	16
LA120-BA	EIA interactive hardcopy terminal; 7 x 7 dot matrix; up to 180 cps	2,600	25
LA180-EA	DECprinter I for use with all PDP-8's; 132 columns; 96-character set; serial EIA interface; 180 cps serial printer	3,770	55
LA8-PA	Same as LA180-EA except with parallel interface	3,770	55
VT55-AA	DECscope; 80 characters x 24 lines, 96-character ASCII keyboard plus 19-key keypad; requires asynchronous serial line unit, 20-milliampere interface; 75-9600 bps	2,100	20
VT55-AE	DECscope; similar to VT55-AA with EIA interface	2,100	20
VT100-AA	DECscope; 80 character x 24 lines or 132 character by 14 lines, 96-character ASCII keyboard plus 19-key keypad; up to 19,200 bps	1,900	17

## DEC PDP-8 Family

### EQUIPMENT PRICES

		<u>Purchase Price</u>	<u>Monthly Maintenance</u>
<b>DATA COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
KL8-JA	Asynchronous Interface for all PDP-8's; 20-milliampere or EIA interface, double-buffered, full-duplex, maximum 17 per system; requires 1 slot, 110 to 9600 bps	535	11
KL8-M	Modem Control for KL8-JA interface; for Bell 103A, E, F, G, and H, 113B, 202C and 202D, or equivalent modems; requires 1 slot	535	5
KL8-A	4-Channel Asynchronous Interface for all PDP-8/A's; partial modem controls on 3 channels and full modem controls on 1 channel, 20-milliampere or EIA interface; requires 1 slot, 50 to 9600 bps	1,065	18
H312-A	Null Modem Adapter for local EIA devices connected directly to EIA devices, for all PDP-8's	140	—
H313-A	20-Milliampere to EIA Adapter, for all PDP-8's	330	5
DP8-EA	Synchronous Interface for all PDP-8's; bipolar (EIA) or TTL levels; requires 2 slots, for Bell 200 series or equivalent modems, maximum of 4 per system; up to 71,000 bps	900	11
KG8-EA	Redundancy Check Option for use with DP8 interfaces; provides VRC, LRC, and CRC checks; requires 1 slot	200	5

### EXPANSION SUBASSEMBLIES

H9300-BE	12-Slot Expansion Box for PDP-8/E and -8/M; includes power supply	2,000	NA
BA8-CC	20-Slot Expansion Box for 8A600, 8A620 and 8A625; includes power supply	3,530	NA
BA8-CE	20-Slot Expansion Box for PDP-8/E and -8/M; includes power supply	3,530	NA

### CABINETS

H960-BC	Cabinet; 71.5 inches high; includes end panels, power control, and fan	1,575	—
H961-AA	Option Cabinet; 71.5 inches high; includes power control and fan	1,225	—
H967-BA	Cabinet; 50 inches high; includes end panels, power control, and fan	1,820	—
H967-AA	Option Cabinet; 50 inches high; includes power control and fan	1,450	—
861-C	Cabinet Power Control, 115 VAC, 60 Hertz	515	—
861-B	Cabinet Power Control, 230 VAC, 50 Hertz	515	—

NOTE: All equipment listed is for 115-volt, 60-Hertz operation; versions for 230-volt, 50-Hertz operation are available at no extra charge.

### SOFTWARE PRICES

		<u>Purchase Price</u>
QF015-A	OS/8 Operating System, license and binaries	\$440
QF006-A	OS/8 Extension Kit, license and binaries; adds OS/8 BATCH, TECO text editor, and OS/8 BASIC to OS/8 system; requires OS/8	220
QF008-A	FORTRAN IV, license and binaries; includes FORTRAN IV compiler, assembler, library, and run-time system; requires OS/8	770
QF028-X	RTS/8 Real-Time Operating System and OS/8 Macrel/Linker; license and sources; includes executive, swapper, console monitor, mass storage drivers, OS/8 support program, clock handler, power fail/auto restart, and process control interface drivers; requires OS/8	900
QF019-A	OS/8 Macrel/Linker assembly language; requires OS/8	350
QF026-A	OS/8 Device Extensions for RL01, RX02, and KT8-A; requires OS/8	140