## All About Minicomputers

For nearly a decade, minicomputers have received more attention than any other single subject in the fast-moving world of electronic data processing. Today, these compact yet surprisingly powerful computers are being delivered at an ever-increasing rate for use in a steadily broadening spectrum of applications. Here are just a few of the reasons:

- Innovations in technology and manufacturing are resulting in the availability of minicomputers with steadily lower price tags and/or increased capabilities.
- Economic pressures are forcing computer users to strive to achieve maximum performance at minimum cost.
- Increasing software consciousness on the part of both minicomputer makers and users is spurring software development along avenues undreamed of only a few years ago.
- Increasing emphasis upon distributed processing, in which large, centralized computers are augmented or replaced by multiple smaller computers located wherever there is data to be processed, is causing even the largest computer users to take a hard new look at the minicomputers.


One of the traditional application areas for minicomputerslaboratory experiment control-is illustrated here with equipment from one of the traditional suppliers of minicomputersDigital Equipment Corporation. In this experiment relating to the development of artificial hearing, tiny electrodes implanted in the inner ear of the man (deaf from birth) are stimulated under control of a PDP-8/F. The device in his lap is a keyboard, which enables him to respond and "control" the experiment. Without the low-cost minicomputer, many such experiments would have to share a larger computer, with the associated logistics problems, or do without computer control.

> This report is designed to aid you in understanding the rapidly proliferating minicomputers and selecting the one that can best satisfy your requirements. You'll find detailed comparison charts covering the characteristics of 189 current minicomputers from 54 manufacturers, as well as the collective experience of 699 users with a total of 2,182 minicomputers.

The low prices and impressive capabilities of the current minicomputers are naturally attracting the attention of the businessmen, scientists, educators, and government officials who have the responsibility for deciding what types of information processing equipment will be used in their operations.

But what, exactly, is a minicomputer? Where are they being used? What are the significant features and drawbacks of these machines? How do users rate their performance? How can you tell whether a minicomputer will fit into your own information processing plans? And, if so, which of the many available models represents the best overall choice for you?

This report is designed to answer these questions and bring you up to date on the rapidly advancing state of the art in minicomputers and microcomputers. The current offerings of 54 manufacturers are summarized in the accompanying comparison charts, and the experience of 699 minicomputer users is analyzed and tabulated.

## PROFILE OF A MINICOMPUTER

There is some disagreement within the industry as to just what constitutes a minicomputer. Some insiders reserve the minicomputer designation for machines whose mainframes sell for less than $\$ 20,000$ (or some other arbitrary figure), and-in keeping with the current fashion terminology-use "midicomputer" for the machines that range from $\$ 20,000$ on up to about $\$ 50,000$ in purchase price.

Throughout this report, we'll simplify the picture by using the single term "minicomputers" for the whole class of stored-program digital computers which are suitable for general-purpose applications and are priced below $\$ 50,000$. Excluded from this survey are the larger general-purpose data processing systems which are described in detailed reports in the Computer section of DATAPRO 70, as well as the purely business-oriented systems which are described in our companion report, All About Small Business Computers (70C-010-30).

Although the currently available minicomputers exhibit a wide variety of characteristics and capabilities, there are enough similarities and common traits to make it $\Sigma$

## All About Minicomputers

$\Sigma$ possible to define a "typical minicomputer" whose characteristics are reasonably representative of most of the machines on the market today.

The typical minicomputer is a parallel, binary processor with a 16 -bit word length (though 8 -bit, 12-bit, 18 -bit, 24 -bit, and 32 -bit word lengths are also fairly common). It uses integrated circuits and is housed in a compact cabinet suitable for either tabletop use or mounting in a standard 19 -inch rack. It weighs less than 50 pounds, consumes less than 500 watts of standard 115 -volt electric power, and requires no special air conditioning. It offers from 4,096 to 32,768 words of magnetic core or semiconductor storage with a cycle time of 0.8 to 1.5 microseconds. Parity checking and storage protection are available as extra-cost options.

Today's typical minicomputer uses a one-address instruction format and has two accumulators, a single index register, and a multi-level indirect addressing facility. The add time for 16 -bit operands is 1 to 3 microseconds. Hardware multiply/divide instructions are optional, as are power-failure protection and a real-time clock or timer. Floating-point arithmetic requires the use of software subroutines.

Input/Output operations in the typical minicomputer are facilitated by an optional direct memory access (DMA) channel, which accommodates I/O data rates of up to about $1,000,000$ words per second. The typical complement of standard peripheral equipment consists of a teletypewriter, disk storage unit, magnetic tape drive, card reader, paper tape reader and punch, line printer, and an assortment of interfaces for communication and control applications.

Software support for today's typical minicomputer is limited to a symbolic assembler, a BASIC or FORTRAN compiler, a simple batch-mode operating system or real-time monitor, and a modest assortment of utility routines. And the list purchase price of the basic system, including 4,096 words of main storage but no input/output devices, is likely to be well under the $\$ 5,000$ mark, with liberal discounts available to quantity purchasers. By all previous standards of value in the computer field, it's a truly impressive little package of computing power for the price.

## THE MINICOMPUTER INDUSTRY

Estimates of the current worldwide market volume for U.S. minicomputer manufacturers range from about $\$ 800$ million to $\$ 1.4$ billion a year. These figures include peripheral equipment and software; minicomputer mainframes alone are believed to account for about $\$ 200$ to $\$ 400$ million. Precise figures are nearly impossible to obtain because of the widespread differences of opinion as to what constitutes a minicomputer.

Despite their rapid proliferation, minicomputers still represent only a small slice of the $\$ 14$ billion total U.S.
market for computer-related products and services, but the minicomputer segment is expected to continue its rapid growth. The U.S. Department of Commerce projects a worldwide minicomputer market dollar volume of $\$ 1.8$ billion by 1977.

Digital Equipment Corporation, the company that started the minicomputer boom in the mid-sixties with its highly successful PDP-8 line, is still the undisputed king of the minicomputer field. DEC has delivered more than 47,000 computers to data and currently commands roughly a 35 percent share of the minicomputer market with its continually expanding product line.

Ranking next in minicomputer revenues, but well behind DEC, are Hewlett-Packard, IBM, and Data General. HP was another pioneer in the minicomputer field and currently offers a broad range of mini-based systems oriented toward specific applications, as well as general-purpose minicomputers. IBM, the undisputed leader in most other segments of the computer field, is currently playing a much smaller role in the minicomputer market; its only "pure" minicomputer is the System/7, a fast 16-bit machine, introduced in 1970, that is supported only for "sensor-based" applications in data acquisition and control. Data General, established in 1969, quickly earned a reputation as a supplier of reliable, low-cost minicomputers and has already delivered more than 12,000 of them.

In the second echelon of minicomputer makers are aggressive, innovative young companies such as Computer Automation, Digital Computer Controls, General Automation, Interdata, Microdata, and Modular Computer Systems. Minicomputers are also being built by divisions of large, well-established companies such as Harris, Honeywell, Lockheed, Raytheon, Texas Instruments, Varian, and Westinghouse. And then there are dozens of comparatively small, unproven companies whose survival will depend upon their ability to back up their imaginative hardware ideas with effective marketing, production, software, and customer support.

In all, approximately 60 companies are now marketing minicomputers in the United States. The current offerings of 54 of these companies are summarized in the accompanying comparison charts.

Minicomputers builders are gradually realizing that the buyers for their wares generally fall into three basic categories:

- Original equipment manufacturers, who incorporate the minicomputers into their own products or systems and are primarily interested in adequate performance at minimum cost.
- Knowledgeable end users, who demand the availability of peripheral equipment, software, and manufacturer support that will enable them to implement their own applications.


## All About Minicomputers




#### Abstract

At the sophisticated end of the minicomputer applications spectrum, the Hewlett-Packard family of 3000CX Mini Data Centers provides powerful capabilities for distributed processing, data base management, time-sharing, etc. Language processors supported include COBOL, RPG, FORTRAN, and BASIC, with a common file handling arrangement to add flexibility in programming and information handling.


$\Sigma$ - Comparatively unsophisticated end users, who want complete systems programmed and installed on a "turnkey" basis.

Just a few year ago, nearly all minicomputer sales were to buyers in the first, or OEM, category. Now most of the minicomputer builders are placing increasing emphasis upon the end-user market, which is potentially far more lucrative-but also far more costly to enter and support.

## MINICOMPUTER TRENDS

During the past year, new models were introduced by nearly all of the major minicomputer makers, including Computer Automation, Data General, DEC, Digital Computer Controls, General Automation, Harris (formerly Datacraft), Hewlett-Packard, Interdata, Modcomp, Systems Engineering Laboratories, and Varian. As any veteran observer of the minicomputer field would expect, the great majority of these new models maintain program and hardware compatibility with earlier models from the same manufacturers, while featuring significantly increased performance and/or reduced price tags. What's more, most of the recent arrivals continue the clear-cut industry trend toward the use of semiconductor memory and LSI (large-scale integrated) circuitry.

Many of the recently announced minicomputer systems are, in fact, special "packaged" configurations that consist of previously available minicomputer processors together with specialized peripheral equipment and software designed for specific types of applications. Examples include the various DEC Datasystems, which use the company's popular PDP-8 or PDP-11 minicomputers in systems designed for business data processing; the General Automation DM-100 systems, which adapt GA's SPC-16 mini to data management applications; and the Harris Series 100 systems, which use the company's

24-bit Slash/4 computer in configurations oriented toward communications and control functions.

Having solidified their position as a cheaper alternative to the larger general-purpose computers for many types of applications, the minicomputers are in turn being threatened by a newer and still cheaper class of computers called "microprocessors." A microprocessor can be defined as a single LSI chip or set of chips that performs the basic arithmetic and logical functions of a computer central processing unit. When equipped with memory and input/output control circuitry, the microprocessor becomes a "microcomputer," which can offer capabilities quite similar to those of the smaller minicomputers.

Intel Corporation pioneered the microprocessor concept in 1971 and remains the leader in the field. But microprocessors received such rapid acceptance that numerous other companies quickly announced competitive products, including such leading electronics firms as Fairchild, Motorola, National Semiconductor, RCA, Rockwell, Signetics, and Texas Instruments. Detailed specifications of the current microprocessors and microcomputers can be found in DATAPRO REPORTS ON MINICOMPUTERS, a companion looseleaf information service.

For the next few years, at least, it appears that the microcomputers will be slower than the commercially available minicomputers. Moreover, the present microcomputers are aimed almost exclusively at the large-quantity OEM market rather than at one-of-a-kind user applications. Therefore, instead of displacing large numbers of minicomputers, the microcomputers can be expected to open up vast new application areas where even the cheapest minicomputers have been economically unjustifiable. Thanks to the advent of the microcomputers, the day when there will be a computer in every car and every household may not be too far away.
$\Sigma$ Another evident design trend is toward increasing use of microprogrammed logic, which can make it comparatively easy for the manufacturer, OEM, and/or end user to tailor a minicomputer's capabilities to fit his particular needs. Current systems that feature useraccessible microprogramming include the HewlettPackard 21MX Series, Interdata 8/32, Microdata 3200, and Varian V70 Series.

Semiconductor main memories are being used, as either standard or optional equipment, in most of the recently introduced minicomputers. Both the MOS and bipolar LSI memory technologies are in evidence, but the trend is clearly toward the cheaper MOS approach. Some minicomputer builders are still exhibiting an understandable reluctance to turn away from the traditional (and highly reliable) core memories. But it is now quite clear that the continuing demand for higher performance at lower cost will force most minicomputer makers to switch from core to semiconductor memories within the next few years. And the industry-wide trend toward the use of LSI technology for logic circuits is certain to continue for the same reason.
Running counter to the trend toward ever smaller and cheaper minicomputers is a concurrent trend toward a class of "super minicomputers" whose power and flexibility rival those of far more costly medium-scale computers. Most of these systems feature large main storage capacities, fast semiconductor memory, advanced memory management facilities, multiprogramming operating systems, and other "big computer" software facilities, at mainframe prices ranging from about $\$ 15,000$ upward. Among the high-performance minicomputers that adhere to the "traditional" 16 -bit word length are the DEC PDP-11/45 and PDP-11/70, the Data General Nova 830 and Eclipse Series, and the Varian V75. Meanwhile, the increased computational power and flexibility made possible by the use of a 32-bit word length are being stressed in such recently announced systems as the Interdata $8 / 32$ Megamini and the SEL 32/50 and 32/55.

Peripheral equipment designed specifically for use with minicomputers continues to proliferate. Nearly all of the major minicomputer builders are striving to expand their own produc tlines and reduce their dependence upon outside suppliers of disk storage and input/output devices. Moreover, literally hundreds of independent firms are now offering an incredible variety of disk drives, cassette tape units, printers, card readers, CRT displays, and many other products whose capabilities and prices are oriented toward the minicomputer buyer's needs and budget. Here again, the careful buyer can get more for his money than ever before.

Software, which had long received only cursory attention from the predominantly hardware-oriented minicomputer makers, is rapidly becoming the principal distinguishing factor between competitive product lines. Efficient compilers for programming languages such as FORTRAN, BASIC, and COBOL are becoming available
for most of the popular minicomputers from the manufacturers and/or proprietary software houses. The quality and power of the minicomputer operating systems are steadily increasing, with full-fledged multiprogramming systems now available from numerous vendors. Meanwhile, the minicomputer makers are beginning to focus their attention on more specialized software that opens up new markets for their equipment, such as data management systems and emulators for the IBM 2780 and other popular remote job entry terminals.

The developers of proprietary software and systems are increasingly designing their wares around minicomputers. As a result, minicomputer-based systems are now available, from both the minicomputer manufacturers and independent "systems houses," to handle a wide range of specialized applications in both the scientific and business fields.

Among the most popular minicomputer-based systems are the in-house time-sharing systems. Hewlett-Packard has long been the leader in this area, but now DEC, Data General, General Automation, and other suppliers are also offering economical systems designed to distribute the problem-solving capabilities of a minicomputer among a number of simultaneous users seated at individual teletypewriter or CRT terminals. Many companies are discovering that these in-house timesharing systems can satisfy their computational needs at a substantially lower cost than the commercial time-sharing services.

## MINICOMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Most of the currently installed minicomputers are being used in industrial control and laboratory instrumentation. These are the areas where it all began. The minicomputer boom started when it became apparent that the impressive recent advances in semiconductor and magnetic technologies had made it possible to construct general-purpose computers at a lower cost than the single-purpose, hardwired controllers which were formerly used in these specialized applications. The added flexibility of stored-program computer control was a welcome bonus that helped to ensure the rapid acceptance of the minicomputers.

During the past decade, the capabilities of the minicomputers have been steadily increasing while their costs have been decreasing in equally rapid fashion. The proliferation of these small, economical, and surprisingly fast computers has led to an ever-widening range of applications for them.

Among the largest current markets for minicomputers are industrial control, research, engineering and scientific . computation, data communications, and education. Specific applications in which minicomputers are already being widely and successfully used include:

## All About Minicomputers

> Process control

- Numerical control of machine tools
- Direct control of machines and production lines

Automated testing and inspection

- Telemetry
- Data acquisition and logging
- Control and analysis of laboratory experiments

Analysis and interpretation of medical tests
Traffic control
Shipboard navigation control

- Message switching
- Communications controllers for larger computers
- Communications line concentrators
- Programmable communications terminals
- Peripheral controllers for larger computers
- Control of multistation key-to-tape/disk systems
- Display control
- Computer-aided design
- Typesetting and photocomposition
- Computer-assisted instruction

Engineering and scientific computations

- Time-sharing computational services

Business data processing

## MINICOMPUTERS FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

Conventional business data processing applications, which represent by far the largest potential market for the minicomputers, turned out to be a rather elusive target. Theoretically, the minicomputer's capabilities and economy should make it an ideal solution to the information processing needs of nearly every small business. In retail stores of all kinds, a minicomputer could handle the bookkeeping, inventory control, labeling, billing, payroll, and a variety of other useful functions-and it could do all this at roughly the cost of a single clerk. Yet minicomputers-as distinguished from electronic accounting machines-are really just beginning to make a significant impact in the business world.

The problem, of course, is software. Despite claims to the contrary, programming for the minicomputers is no easier than programming for the larger, general-purpose data processing systems. In fact, the minicomputers' short word lengths, limited storage capacities, and lack
of sophisticated software aids tend to make the programmer's job even more difficult. As a result, it is common in minicomputer applications for programming costs to far exceed the cost of the hardware itself.

Even if small businessmen were willing to pay the price of the software required to solve their problems, they would find it hard to get from most of the current builders of "classical" minicomputers. In general, the manufacturers have oriented their marketing efforts toward the comparatively sophisticated engineering and scientific markets, which are equipped to design the systems and write the programs required to accomplish their goals with a minimum of assistance from the manufacturer. In fact, the majority of minicomputers are still being sold in quantity, on an OEM (original equipment manufacturer) basis, to other companies which incorporate them into a wide variety of devices and systems for various end-user markets. It's no secret that mass production is the key to success for the minicomputer builders, and OEM sales represent the quickest route to maximum volume with a minimal investment in marketing, software development, and customer support. As a result, the businessman who is interested in buying a single minicomputer won't receive much encouragement or aid from many of the manufacturers.

But help for the businessman is definitely on the way, in the form of three significant trends.

First, numerous manufacturers have introduced mini-computer-based systems designed primarily for business data processing applications. Many of them are included in this report, and you can find the details on dozens of other business-oriented systems in Datapro's companion report, All About Small Business Computers.

Second, the larger minicomputer builders are directing an increasing proportion of their marketing efforts toward the end-user market. It has become clear that their potential for growth and profitability will be severely limited until they can supply the peripheral equipment, software, and service required to support individual user installations in the same manner as IBM and the other major computer makers. Therefore, DEC, Varian, Hewlett-Packard, Data General, and other manufacturers are strengthening their support staffs and developing peripheral devices and software facilities that equip their computers to serve in a variety of specific applications, including business-oriented ones.

Third, the availability of the minicomputers has led to the emergence of a new group of computer entrepreneurs: "systems houses" that use the minicomputers as the central components of integrated hardware/software systems designed to handle specific applications. Dozens of companies have entered this business within the past few years. They offer packaged systems to handle a wide range of applications, such as general accounting, billing, order processing, inventory control, payroll, text editing, hospital data processing, credit

## All About Minicomputers



This pair of photographs illustrates the diversity of replies one is likely to receive to the question "Okay, minicomputer manufacturers, what have you done for me lately?" On the left is the powerful (in either minicomputer or full-size computer terms) Interdata $8 / 32$ Megamini. On the right is Digital Equipment's microcomputer in a box, the PDP-11/03. This range of equipment makes it difficult to draw a tight border around what is a minicomputer. The ready acceptance of new
authorization, stock brokerage accounting, and many more. The systems houses are accelerating the minicomputer boom by penetrating new markets and making it easier for unsophisticated users to get started in EDP.

These trends, together with the increasing emphasis on distributed processing and the steadily decreasing price tags of the minicomputers themselves, make it clear that minicomputers will have an ever-increasing impact in the business data processing world. At the same time, enough problems remain to be solved to make it safe to predict that the widely-discussed day when there will be a computer in every store is still quite a few years away.

## USER EXPERIENCE

To determine the current level of user satisfaction with specific minicomputer systems and with minicomputers in general, Datapro Research Corporation recently conducted an extensive user survey. A Reader Survey Form was mailed to a sample of 8,200 subscribers to D.ATAPRO 70 and DATAPRO REPORTS ON MINICOMPUTERS in June 1975.

By August 1, usable responses had been received from 699 users with a total of 2,182 installed minicomputers and small business computer systems. The average number of systems installed in each respondent's organization was 3.12.

The users were asked to answer a number of questions designed to characterize their method of acquisition and their applications environment. They reported that their minicomputers are being used in a predictably broad spectrum of applications, which can be categorized as follows:

technology and innovation in using it that is being displayed by the whole field of minicomputer manufacturers can be matched by no other field. Even software, once a major distinction between full-size, "fully supported" computers and minis, is responding to the same treatment, although somewhat more slowly. Now if they could only figure out a way to get a 100-megabyte disk drive into a shoebox . . .

No. of Users $\%$ of Total

| Business data processing | 415 | 59 |
| :--- | ---: | :--- |
| Scientific/engineering <br> computations | 130 | 19 |
| Real-time control | 134 | 19 |
| Data communications | 171 | 24 |
| Data base management | 80 | 11 |
| Other applications | 145 | 21 |

The percentage figures add up to well over $100 \%$ because many of the respondents were using their systems in multiple applications. The comparatively high incidence of business data processing usage is due in part to the inclusion in our survey of small business computer systems such as the IBM System/3, Burroughs B 1700, Honeywell Model 58, and NCR Century Models 50 through 151.

The users were asked how they acquired their systems, and the overall results were as follows:

$$
\text { No. of Users } \quad \% \text { of Total }
$$

| Outright purchase | 370 | 53 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Rental from manufacturer | 290 | 41 |
| Third-party lease | 55 | 8 |

The great majority of users of "classical" minicomputers such as those produced by DEC and Data General had purchased their machines outright, while users of small business computers from companies such as IBM and NCR were predominantly oriented toward rental from the manufacturer. The figures make it clear that third-party leasing is not widely practiced in the minicomputer field at this time.

## All About Minicomputers

$\Sigma$ The users were also asked who writes the programs for their applications, with the following overall results:

|  | No. of Users | \% of Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| In-house personnel | 589 | 84 |
| Computer manufacturer's personnel | 101 | 14 |
| Used "ready-made" programs from manufacturer | 144 | 21 |
| Used proprietary packages | 87 | 12 |
| Contract programming house | 83 | 12 |

Here again, the percentage figures total more than $100 \%$ because numerous respondents called upon two or more sources for their applications programs.

Of the 699 survey respondents, 91 reported that they were using remote batch terminals and 305 said they were using interactive terminals with their systems. Here's a breakdown of the totals:

| Type of Terminal | No. of Users | Total No. of Terminals in Use | Average No. of Terminals per Use |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Batch | 91 | 1,733 | 19.0 |
| Interactive | 305 | 4,241 | 13.9 |

The users were asked to report the extent of their usage of various types of "independent" peripheral devices from sources other than the minicomputer manufacturers. The overall results were as follows:

|  | No. of Users |  | \% of Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Using independent disk | 239 |  | 34 |
| drives | 141 | 20 |  |
| Using independent tape <br> drives | 65 | 9 |  |
| Using independent main <br> memory | 122 | 17 |  |
| Using other types of <br> independent peripherals |  |  |  |

Finally, and most importantly, the users were asked to rate their minicomputers and the associated software and vendor support by assigning a rating of Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor to each of 12 factors. The resulting user ratings of 57 popular minicomputers from 27 vendors are reported in Table I. All ratings are expressed in terms of Weighted Averages, which were calculated by assigning a weight of 4 to each user rating of Excellent, 3 to Good, 2 to Fair, and 1 to Poor, and then dividing the sum by the number of users who rated each factor.

Prospective buyers should note that the small sample sizes for some of the minicomputer models make it unwise to draw firm conclusions from the indicated ratings. Rather, the ratings should be used as guides to potential product strengths and weaknesses that may call for further investigation in selecting the most suitable
equipment for your needs. A minicomputer user's degree of satisfaction may depend heavily upon his specific application the overall system in which the minicomputer is incorporated, and the quality of support and service provided by the vendor's nearest branch office. Also, as this survey clearly shows, many minicomputer users get their software, technical support, and/or peripheral equipment from sources other than the minicomputer makers.

The ratings assigned by all of the responding users can be combined to form the following overall picture of user satisfaction with the current minicomputers:

## Weighted Average User Ratings

| Ease of operation | 3.3 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Reliability of mainframe | 3.5 |
| Reliability of peripherals | 3.1 |
| Responsiveness of maintenance service | 3.0 |
| Effectiveness of maintenance service | 2.9 |
| Technical support | 2.6 |
| Manufacturer's software: |  |
| Operating system | 3.1 |
| Compilers and assemblers | 3.0 |
| Applications programs | 2.6 |
| Ease of programming | 3.1 |
| Ease of conversion | 2.9 |
| Overall satisfaction | 3.0 |

Thus, it is clear that minicomputer users in general are fairly well pleased with their equipment and the associated software and maintenance service. The only significant weaknesses are in the areas of applications programs and technical support-and these are precisely the areas that have been neglected by many of the minicomputer vendors until quite recently.

## MINICOMPUTER CHARACTERISTICS

The key functional characteristics of 189 commercially available minicomputers from 54 manufacturers are presented in the accompanying comparison charts. Nearly all of the information in the charts was supplied and/or verified by the 54 manufacturers during July and August 1975; their close cooperation with the Datapro Research staff in the preparation of these charts is greatly appreciated.

The chart entries and their significance to potential minicomputer users are explained in the following paragraphs, together with some useful guidelines for selecting the most suitable minicomputer for your application.

## Data Formats

Probably the single most important distinguishing characteristic of a minicomputer is its word length; i.e., the number of bits (binary digits) that can be stored in or retrieved from main storage during a single cycle. In $\Sigma$

TABLE I. USER RATINGS OF MINICOMPUTERS

| Manufacturer and Model | No. of User Replies | No. of Computers Represented | Average Length of Time in Use, Months | Average Memory Size, $K$ Words or Bytes | Weighted Average User Ratings* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic Four (all models) | 8 | 8 | 10 | 38 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 2.4 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 3.6 |
| Burroughs: <br> B 1700 Series | 22 | 38 | 16 | 61 | 3.9 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| L Series | 8 | 10 | 40 | 8 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| TC Series | 3 | 16 | 6 | 34 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 3.0 |
| Burroughs Totals | 33 | 64 | 19 | 52 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 3.5 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Computer Automation Alpha 16 \& LSI-2 | 5 | 7 | 19 | 16 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Control Data 1700 | 3 | 5 | 42 | 22 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 2.3 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Data General: |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2.8 |  | 2.5 |  | 2.9 | 2.8 |  | 2.9 |  | 3.0 |
| Nova 2 Series | 12 | 76 | 12 | 19 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 3.0 2.7 |
| Nova 800 Series | 18 | 177 | 23 | 32 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 2.7 |
| Nova 1200 Series | 17 | 126 | 26 | 21 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Other models | 6 | 9 | 28 | 39 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| Data General Totals | 53 | 388 | 22 | 33 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.9 |
| Datapoint: <br> Datapoint 1100 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Datapoint 2200 | 12 | 40 | 22 | 14 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 2.6 | 3.0 |
| Datapoint Totals | 15 | 43 | 18 | 14 | 3.7 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 3.2 |
| Digital Computer Controls D-116 | 4 | 7 | 22 | 19 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.3 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 2.5 |
| Digital Equipment Corp: PDP-8 Series | 30 | 120 | 46 | 26 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| PDP-11/04 thru 11/20 | 28 | 44 | 22 | 19 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 3.1 |
| PDP-11/35 thru 11/50 | 48 | 86 | 14 | 54 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 3.2 |
| PDP-15 Series | 6 | 7 | 51 | 23 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 2.3 | 3.2 | 3.8 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| Other models | 3 | 12 | 66 | 20 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 |
| DEC Totals | 115 | 269 | 27 | 35 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.2 |
| Digital Scientific META 4 | 5 | 6 | 33 | 26 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Four-Phase Systems (all models) | 11 | 24 | 19 | 65 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| General Automation: SPC-16 Series | 15 | 21 | 15 | 56 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| System 18/30 | 8 | 11 | 35 | 24 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| Other models | 4 | 9 | 39 | 40 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Gen. Automation Totals | 27 | 41 | 24 | 44 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| Hewlett-Packard: HP 2000 Series | 13 | 19 | 24 | 40 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 3.3 |
| HP 2100 Series | 13 | 313 | 30 | 32 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.9 |
| HP 21MX Series | 3 | 17 | 8 | 17 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.7 |
| HP 3000 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 122 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 3.6 | 2.8 | 3.4 |
| Hewlett-Packard Totals | 34 | 356 | 22 | 50 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 3.1 |
| Honeywelt: <br> Honeywell Model 58 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Honeywell Model 58 Honeywell 316 | 4 3 | 5 9 | 32 38 | 10 9 | 3.8 3.0 | 3.3 3.7 | 3.5 3.3 | 3.3 2.0 | 2.8 | 2.3 2.0 | 3.0 3.0 | 3.3 3.0 | 3.0 3.0 | 3.0 2.7 | 2.5 3.0 | 2.8 3.0 |
| Honeywell 700 Series | 5 | 8 | 12 | 36 | 2.8 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 1.8 | 1.0 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 3.0 2.5 |
| Other models | 3 | 4 | 52 | 53 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.3 |
| Honeywell Totals | 15 | 26 | 17 | 24 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.9 |
| IBM: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| System/3 (all models) | 115 | 133 | 26 | 37 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 3.5 | 3.1 | 3.4 |
| System/7 | 35 | 49 | 22 | 19 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.5 |
| System/32 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 22 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.7 |

*Weighted Average User Ratings are calculated on a scale of 4 for each user response of Excellent, 3 for Good, 2 for Fair, and 1 for Poor.

TABLE I. USER RATINGS OF MINICOMPUTERS (Continued)

| Manufacturer and Model | No. of User Replies | No. of Computers Represented | Average Length of Time in Use, Months | Average Memory Size, K Words or Bytes | Weighted Average User Ratings* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \|r |  |
| IBM (continued): |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| System/360 Model 20 | 26 | 40 | 70 | 16 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 3.2 |
| IBM 1130 | 33 | 39 | 79 | 16 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 2.3 | 3.2 |
| IBM 1180 | 10 | 14 | 72 | 40 | 3.1 | 3.9 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 2.3 | 3.2 | 2.0 | 3.4 |
| IBM Totals | 224 | 281 | 44 | 30 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 3.2 |
| Intel (all models) | 4 | 73 | 8 | 25 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| Interdata: Interdata 7/16 | 9 | 13 | 9 | 38 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 2.0 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Interdata 7/32 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 19 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 1.5 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 3.0 |
| Interdata Model 70 | 5 | 4 | 25 | 55 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 3.4 | 2.0 | 2.8 |
| Other models | 7 | 20 | 30 | 45 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.4 |
| Interdata Totals | 24 | 43 | 17 | 63 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 1.9 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 3.1 |
| Lockheed System 111 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 27 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.0 |
| Microdata: 1600 Series | 3 | 102 | 19 | 60 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| REALITY | 8 | 10 | 11 | 44 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 3.1 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.8 |
| Microdata Totals | 11 | 112 | 13 | 49 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| Modcomp (all models) | 3 | 3 | 17 | 70 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.0 | 3.0 | - | 3.7 |
| NCR: Century 50 \& 100 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Century 50 \& 100 | 6 | 6 | 44 | 24 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.8 |
| Century 101 \& 151 | 19 | 20 | 23 | 49 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.4 |
| NCR 399 | 3 | 3 | 41 | 12 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.0 | -- | - | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.3 |
| NCR 725 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 143 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 3.0 | - | 3.5 |
| Other models | 3 | 4 | 51 | 64 | 3.0 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 4.0 | - | 4.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.5 |
| NCR Totals | 33 | 36 | 29 | 40 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 2.5 |
| Prime Computer (all models) | 3 | 16 | 17 | 96 | 3.7 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 3.3 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 2.7 |
| Oantel (all models) | 2 | 4 | 7 | 36 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 3.5 |
| Singer System Ten | 13 | 34 | 20 | 59 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 3.1 |
| Sweda-Litton 1200 Series | 2 | 2 | 48 | 12 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 4.0 | 3.5 |
| Texas Instruments: 960A | 2 | 1 | 18 | 8 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.5 | - | 3.0 |
| 980 Series | 6 | 9 | 18 | 65 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.5 |
| Texas Instr. Totals | 8 | 10 | 17 | 49 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| UNIVAC: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9200 | 8 | 8 | 44 | 14 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| 9300 | 12 | 12 | 46 | - | 3.0 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 2.8 | 2.1 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.0 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.7 |
| UNIVAC Totals | 20 | 20 | 45 | 14 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 2.1 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.8 |
| Varian Data Machines: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 620 Series | 2 | 4 | 13 | 24 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 1.0 | 3.0 |
| $\checkmark 70$ Series | 3 | 2 | 15 | 48 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 1.0 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.5 |
| Varian Totals | 5 | 6 | 9 | 38 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 2.8 |
| Wang Laboratories: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2200 Series | 10 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 2.0 | 3.8 | 2.6 | 3.0 |
| Other models | 2 | 4 | 30 | $\overline{-}$ | 3.5 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 2.0 | - | - | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| Wang Totals | 12 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.1 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 2.0 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 3.2 |
| All Other Manufacturers | 18 | 180 | 21 | 45 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.2 |
| GRAND TOTALS | 699 | 2,182 | 32 | - | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.0 |

*Weighted Average User Ratings are calculated on a scale of 4 for each user response of Excellent, 3 for Good, 2 for Fair, and 1 for Poor.

## All About Minicomputers

general, the longer the word length, the greater the efficiency and accuracy of a computer's internal oper-ations-and the higher its price tag. Most of the minicomputers currently on the market have a 16 -bit word length; this size neatly accommodates two 8-bit characters and has been shown to yield an attractive balance between economy and performance for many applications. Other widely used models have word lengths of $8,12,18,24$, or 32 bits. The 8 -bit minicomputers are suitable for many functions where low cost is more important then high precision or sophisticated instruction repertoires-and they can be particularly effective when extensive manipulation of 8 -bit bytes must be performed.

For most minicomputers, the fixed-point operand length is the same as the word length. Some machines, however, have "extended precision" facilities which enable them to handle arithmetic operands two or more words in length. For many applications, extended precision arithmetic is a valuable feature that helps to overcome the limitations upon number range and accuracy which are otherwise imposed by the short word lengths used in most minicomputers. Some of the 8 -bit minicomputers are really byte-oriented machines, designed for efficient processing of variable-length operands composed of one or more 8 -bit bytes.

Instruction length is one word in most computers, but some are capable of using instructions which are two or more words in length. In most two-word instruction formats, the first word defines the operation to be performed and the second word contains the address of the required operand. The use of two-word instructions greatly increases the number of storage locations that can be directly addressed. This in turn simplifies pro-gramming-but the simplification is usually gained at the expense of two words of storage space to hold each instruction and two memory cycles for each instruction retrieved for processing.

## Main Storage

The storage type used in most of the current minicomputers remains magnetic cores. Though semiconductor memories began to appear in commercially available minicomputers late in 1970, many minicomputer makers are still using core storage because of its demonstrated ability to satisfy all reasonable requirements for performance, reliability, and economy. It is clear, however, that the demand for higher performance at lower cost, together with continuing improvements in semiconductor technology, is accelerating the trend toward the use of semiconductor memories.

In addition to, or in place of, their standard, alterable main storage units, some minicomputers use read-only memories for one of two functions: to provide fastaccess, indestructible storage for vital programs, or to hold the microprograms which define the instruction repertoires of some machines.

The cycle time for a storage device is the minimum time interval that must elapse between the starts of two successive accesses to any one storage location. Main storage cycle times for the minicomputers shown in our charts span the range from approximately 0.2 to 3 microseconds. Though cycle time ranks with word length as one of the most significant individual indicators of a computer's performance potential, it is definitely not safe to assume that the computer with the fastest cycle time will be the best overall performer in a particular application. Other parameters that have an important effect on a minicomputer's performance include the flexibility and power of its instruction repertoire, the number of storage cycles it requires to execute each instruction, its input/output capabilities, etc.

Our comparison charts show the amount of main storage available for each computer in terms of the minimum capacity and maximum capacity, expressed in words. In the great majority of cases, storage is available in all the usual binary increments of capacity. Thus, if a computer has minimum and maximum storage capacities of 4,096 and 32,768 words, respectively, it's safe to assume that capacities of 8,192 and 16,384 words are also available.

The indicated price differentials between similar computers equipped with 4 K and 8 K words of storage make it clear that main storage is one of the costliest elements of the current minicomputers. Therefore, it's important to choose the right storage capacity; for nonmultiprogramming systems, that usually means enough storage to hold your largest program and all associated subroutines and data, but not too much more than that. It's also wise to make sure that your computer's main storage capacity can be expanded if necessary, preferably by simply plugging in an additional storage module.

Parity checking is a standard feature of some minicomputers and an extra-cost option for others. In still other cases, the manufacturers maintain-with some justifi-cation-that the reliability of modern magnetic core and semiconductor memories is so high that parity checking is an unnecessary luxury unless absolute accuracy is a must. Parity checking requires the addition of one more bit to each main storage location. This added bit is set to the appropriate value ( 0 or 1 ) whenever a word is written into main storage and checked each time the word is read out; the technique permits detection of most, though not all, read and write errors.

Storage protection is a feature that prevents unauthorized writing in certain areas of main storage. The protection can be accomplished by hardware means, software means, or a combination of both. Though unnecessary in simple dedicated systems, an effective storage protection scheme is an essential element in multiprogramming and time-sharing environments.

## Central Processor

Although there are many variations in their internal architecture, the great majority of currently available minicomputers use parallel, binary processors with $\Sigma$

## All About Minicomputers

$\Sigma$ single-address instructions and fixed word lengths of 8 , $12,16,18,24$, or 32 bits.

In single-address computers, the number of accumulators can have a significant effect upon internal flexibility and processing power. An accumulator is a register that holds one operand and permits various arithmetic and logical operations to be performed upon it (e.g., a second operand might be added to the operand contained in the accumulator, with the sum replacing the first operand in the accumulator). In computers with multiple accumulators, instructions involving operands in two of the accumulators can often be executed more rapidly than instructions which require the retrieval of an operand from main storage.

Indexing is an important form of address modification in which the contents of a special register called an index register are added to the machine address contained in an instruction prior to its execution. An effective indexing scheme is particularly desirable in minicomputers, since it can help to compensate for their limited direct addressing capabilities. The number of index registers serves as an indication of a computer's programming flexibility and efficiency. Prospective buyers should note, however, that there are wide variations in the indexing schemes used in current minicomputers. It is important to determine whether the index registers are separate hardware registers or simply reserved locations in main storage, whether special instructions are provided for loading, incrementing, and testing the index registers, and how much additional time (if any) indexing adds to the instruction execution times. It should also be noted that many of the current computers use "general registers" which can serve as either accumulators or index registers.

The number of directly addressable words of main storage is an important characteristic that may require some explanation if you're investigating minicomputers for the first time. The problem is that the short word lengths impose serious limitations upon the number of bits that can be assigned to hold the address part of each instruction. A typical 16-bit minicomputer instruction might consist of three parts: operation code, address mode field, and the address itself. If 6 bits are assigned to hold the operation code (permitting up to 64 distinct operations) and 2 bits are used to designate the addressing mode (permitting specification of indexing and/or indirect addressing), then only 8 bits are left to hold the address field. Since these 8 bits permit direct addressing of only 256 distinct memory locations, it is clear that other means will need to be employed to access most regions of the computer's main storage. The most common solutions to the problem are the use of multi-word instructions, indexing, and/or indirect addressing.

Indirect addressing is an address modification technique in which the address part of an instruction specifies a storage location that contains another address rather than the desired operand itself. This second address may


Another of the many faces of the world of minicomputers is illustrated by the Datapoint 5500 processor running a software package called Datashare. The combination supports up to 16 users simultaneously and provides each with the apparent full facilities of the computer. Not too many years ago, time-sharing was considered the province of large, highly specialized computer systems.
in turn be either the address of the desired operand or another indirect address; the latter case is called multilevel indirect addressing. Indirect addressing permits the use of an entire word to hold an operand address. It can also simplify programming and speed up execution times in some applications by making it possible to change the effective address of numerous instructions by altering the indirect address in a single storage location. Each level of indirect addressing, however, usually requires one additional storage cycle of execution time.

Microprogrammability is a trait that enables the vendor and/or the user to tailor a minicomputer's internal processing capabilities to suit his particular needs. In place of conventional hardwired logic, a microprogrammed computer uses sequences of microinstructions, usually stored in a special read-only memory (ROM) unit, to define the effects of each instruction in its repertoire. In some cases the microprograms can be altered by the user himself, while in others they are accessible only to the vendor. Microprogrammability can greatly increase the flexibility of a minicomputer, but its presence may involve a trade-off in terms of reduced performance or increased price.

Although it is undeniably dangerous to make inferences about a computer's overall performance capability on the basis of instruction execution times, our charts show the basic add time to give a first-level indication of fixed-point arithmetic speeds. In general, the indicated add times are the times required to retrieve a one-word operand from main storage and add it to another operand already contained in an accumulator, with no indexing or indirect addressing. Comparisons based on add times can easily be misleading, however, because of differences in word lengths and instruction repertoires. $\Sigma$
$\Sigma$ Hardware multiply/divide facilities are standard in some minicomputers and optional in others. When no hardware facilities are present, multiplication and division must be performed by means of programmed subroutines at a significant reduction in execution speeds. Many minicomputer applications, however, impose little or no need for multiplication or division operations, and in these cases the hardware facilities would be superfluous.

Hardware floating point facilities are not included in the standard instruction repertoires of most of the currently available minicomputers, despite the fact that floating point arithmetic is highly desirable, if not essential, in many scientific applications. Where available, these facilities can dramatically reduce the execution times for certain programs by eliminating the need for timeconsuming floating point subroutines.
Hardware byte manipulation is the ability to conveniently process information expressed in the 8 -bit character codes which are rapidly becoming an industry standard. Obviously, most of the 8 -bit minicomputers are effective byte manipulators, and many of the 16 -bit machines offer special instructions that permit either half of a word to be addressed and processed as an 8-bit byte.
Immediate (literal) instructions in some minicomputers permit savings in both storage requirements and execution times. An immediate instruction uses its address field to hold the operand itself rather than the address of the operand, thereby saving both the storage space that would normally be required to hold the operand and the time required to access it.

Power failure protection is a vital feature in many real-time applications. This facility provides for a safe shut-down of the computer, without destruction of the contents of its main storage or hardware registers, whenever a power failure occurs. Power failure protection is often combined with an automatic restart capability that enables the computer to get back into operation without human intervention when the power supply is restored.

A real-time clock or timer is another essential element in most "time-conscious" systems. A real-time clock enables the program to determine the time of day, while an interval timer usually indicates the amount of time that has elapsed since the occurrence of some significant event. In many cases the timer can trigger an interrupt signal when a predetermined interval of time has elapsed.

## Input/Output Control

I/O word size is the "width" of a computer's input/ output data channels in terms of the number of bits of data which are transferred in parallel. In most cases this is the same as the machine's basic word length. I/O word size can have an important effect upon the cost and complexity of interfacing non-standard peripheral devices to a minicomputer. The machines with an 8 -bit

I/O word size can interface conveniently with most of the input and output devices on the market today.

A direct memory access channel (DMA) permits direct transfer of I/O data between main storage and a peripheral controller. When a DMA channel is used, the I/O data bypasses the computer's main hardware registers, and the $I / O$ operation proceeds independently of program control once it has been initiated by the program. In minicomputers that lack a DMA channel, I/O data transfers are generally carried out under direct program control, with each word being transferred by way of the processor's registers. Generally speaking, the DMA channel has two significant advantages over pro-gram-controlled I/O: it can accommodate higher I/O data rates, and it causes far less interference with internal processing operations. Regardless of the type of I/O control they employ, most minicomputers can accommodate multiple I/O devices and include appropriate facilities for addressing the desired device.

Maximum I/O data rate, expressed in words per second, is a measure of each computer's potential ability to transfer data to and from peripheral devices or other external sources. In machines equipped with a DMA channel, the maximum I/O rate frequently equals the cycling rate of the main storage unit. These maximum I/O rates, however, can be quite deceptive in the case of minicomputers. In general, their storage capacities are limited, their capabilities for simultaneous input/output operations are restricted, and fairly complex programming is associated with $\mathrm{I} / \mathrm{O}$ operations. For all these reasons, $I / O$ data rates approaching the indicated maximum rates can usually be handled only in short bursts, if at all.

An effective program interrupt facility is a requirement for virtually all applications of a real-time nature. An interrupt is a signal that causes a temporary suspension of normal program execution so that the particular condition that caused the interrupt can be dealt with. Interrupts fall into two basic categories: internal and external. Internal interrupts are usually triggered by conditions such as a memory parity error, an illegal instruction, or a power failure. External interrupts usually indicate that a particular peripheral device requires attention or has completed an I/O operation. An interrupt usually results in automatic storage of the current contents of the instruction counter, followed by a transfer of control to a software routine that determines the cause of the interrupt and initiates the appropriate action.

The number of external interrupt levels provides a reasonable indication of the power of a minicomputer's interrupt system. It shows the number of different external devices whose interrupt signals can be identified by the processor-though it should be noted that this identification process may require a fairly complex and time-consuming sequence of instructions. Many of the minicomputers offer additional external $\Sigma$

## All About Minicomputers

interrupt levels as extra-cost options, and in these cases our charts show the available range, from minimum to maximum.

## Peripheral Equipment

The comparison charts summarize the standard peripheral devices that are available for each minicomputer in addition to the almost universally available teletypewriters.

Users who are accustomed to larger general-purpose computer systems will find that the term "standard peripheral device" often has a somewhat different meaning when used by a minicomputer manufacturer. Since comparatively few of the minicomputer makers produce their own peripheral equipment, the indicated availability of a given type of device may simply mean that an appropriate interface is available to couple the computer with a peripheral unit supplied by some other manufacturer. Therefore, prospective buyers should ask these questions about each item of peripheral equipment they will need:

- Has it actually been installed and used with the computer of interest?
- If so, what has the users' experience been?
- What software support is available?
- Who will provide service for the device, and under what conditions?

The charts indicate the availability of three important types of disk storage units. Floppy disk (diskette) drives provide relatively low-cost data storage on flexible Mylar disks which are housed in thin plastic envelopes; the diskettes are readily interchangeable and convenient to use, but their storage capacity is limited (typically to about 300,000 characters). Disk pack or cartridge drives, the most popular types of random-access storage in larger computer systems, store considerably larger quantities of data in interchangeable packs (usually containing from 6 to 12 disks on a common vertical spindle) or cartridges (usually containing a single disk). Non-interchangeable disk storage units store the data on nonremovable disks, which reduces operating flexibility but tends to result in higher reliability and a lower cost per character stored.

Disk storage can greatly expand the scope of practical applications for a minicomputer by augmenting its limited main storage capacity. Cost, however, can be a serious problem, since a high-performance disk unit can easily cost more than the minicomputer itself.

Magnetic tape units of two basic types are commonly used with minicomputers. Cassette or cartridge drives use magnetic tape housed in Philips-style cassettes or various types of cartridges to provide relatively low-cost, low-speed input and output capabilities. By contrast,

1/2-inch tape drives use standard 1/2-inch-wide computer tape, housed on reels and recorded in industrycompatible 7 -track or 9 -track formats, to provide higher input/output speeds at a substantially higher cost.

Punched card input speed and line printer speed, where these well-known types of peripheral devices are available from the minicomputer vendor, are expressed in cards per minute ( cpm ) and lines per minute ( lpm ), respectively.

Data communications interfaces make it possible to link a minicomputer to remote terminals, other minicomputers, and/or larger computer systems. The charts indicate whether the minicomputer vendor offers one or more communications interfaces; space limitations preclude a full description of the available interfaces and the supporting software.

Other standard peripheral devices, such as plotters and display units, are briefly identified on the charts. Space does not permit listings of the extensive lines of real-time interfaces and analog/digital and digital/analog converters offered by many of the minicomputer builders. Moreover, it should be noted that nearly every minicomputer vendor makes Teletype ASR and or KSR teletypewriters available; the ASR models include low-speed paper tape readers and punches.

## Software

This section of the comparison charts summarizes the major software items offered by the manufacturer of each minicomputer. In addition to the items listed in the charts, most manufacturers also offer utility routines to handle input/output operations, mathematical functions, program loading, and diagnostic operations. Software packages for specific applications, however, are still quite rare. Prospective buyers should carefully note whether the software they will require is included in the basic price of the computer or offered at extra cost.

An assembler is the one essential software item that is available for nearly every minicomputer. The assembler simplifies machine-language programming by permitting the use of mnemonic operation codes and symbolic addresses. Most assemblers also provide pseudoinstructions which control the assembly process and allocate storage space for constants and data.

One-pass and two-pass assemblers each offer certain advantages. A "pass" generally means a scan of the full source program during the assembly process. A one-pass assembler saves assembly time, but certain programming restrictions are imposed by the fact that all storage must be allocated at the beginning of the assembly process. A two-pass assembler builds a symbol table during the first pass and generates the machine-language object program during the second pass; this technique tends to be slower but more powerful. Both one- and two-pass assemblers are available for some machines.

## All About Minicomputers



The Data General Eclipse family of minicomputers carries on the company's tradition of providing a lot of computer for the dollar. With a main memory capacity of up to 256 K , the $\mathrm{S} / 200$ on the left will support applications once reserved for the big guys. The $S / 100$ on the right is intended for OEM sales, so you will see it in a lot of different skins in the future. These computers, along with the business-oriented Eclipse C/300, use the latest architectural concepts to achieve those favorable price/performance ratios.

A macro assembler is an assembler with the added capability to substitute a predetermined sequence of machine instructions for each "macro instruction" that appears in the source program. Macro facilities can simplify programming by making it easy to include subroutines to handle input/output, evaluation of functions, and other frequently encountered operations.

A compiler converts source programs written in a proce-dure-oriented language such as FORTRAN into machine-language object programs. Although compilers can greatly reduce programming time requirements for many applications, they are not as widely used with minicomputers as with larger computers for two principal reasons. First, most minicomputers have been used in specialized applications where relatively few programs are required but where high operational efficiency (which is difficult to achieve with compilers) is important. Second, the compilation process itself requires more storage space than many of the minicomputers provide. The trend toward ever more diversified applications for the minicomputers, however, is leading to steadily increasing use of compilers. Most of the available compilers are batch-oriented, but a few are designed for interactive, conversational-mode operation.

FORTRAN is by far the most widely implemented compiler language for the current minicomputers. FORTRAN has been the most popular scientific programming language for more than a decade, and it has been successfully used for many business applications as well. There are many different versions of the FORTRAN language, but conversions of FORTRAN programs from one version to another are usually comparatively simple.

Other compilers, for programs written in languages such as ALGOL, BASIC, and COBOL, are listed on the charts where available.

An operating system facilitates the operation of a computer by handling functions such as: (1) scheduling, loading, and supervising the execution of programs; (2) allocating storage and I/O devices; (3) initiating and controlling I/O operations; (4) analyzing interrupt signals and dealing with errors; (5) handling communications between the system and its human operator; and (6) controlling multiprogramming or time-sharing operations. Most of the current minicomputer operating systems are real-time monitors, designed primarily for use in a dedicated real-time environment. Facilities for multiprogramming and/or communications control, however, are becoming fairly common.

## Pricing and Availability

The comparison charts show the prices of basic systems equipped with the minimum available amount of main storage and with 8,192 words, but no peripheral equipment. The indicated prices for each machine include all of the features listed as "standard," but none of the "optional" features. Because of the wide variations in availability and pricing of optional features and peripheral equipment, comparisons such as these can provide only a first-level indication of the overall pricing relationships among competitive minicomputers. And, of course, prices have been falling steadily and are likely to continue to do so. Therefore, the only completely reliable source of detailed, up-to-date pricing information is the manufacturers themselves.

If you'll need two or more minicomputers, it's also worth noting that most of the manufacturers offer sizeable discounts from their list prices on orders for multiple computers. Discounts of up to 40 percent are not unusual on large orders.

Date of first delivery indicates when the first production model of each minicomputer was delivered (or is scheduled to be delivered) to a customer.

Number installed to date shows how many computers of each type had been delivered to customers as of June 1974. All figures were supplied by the manufacturers themselves, and the entry "NA" (Not Available) appears in all cases where the manufacturers chose not to release this information.

Comments at the bottom of the charts describe significant or unusual features, capabilities, or applications which are not reflected in the standard entries.

## MINICOMPUTER MANUFACTURERS

Listed below, for your convenience in obtaining additional information, are the full names and addresses of the 54 manufacturers whose products are summarized in the comparison charts.

## All About Minicomputers

$\Sigma$ Artronix Inc., 1314 Hanely Industrial Court, St. Louis, Missouri 63144. Telephone (314) 968-4740.

Basic/Four Corporation, P.O. Box 11383, Santa Ana, California 92711. Telephone (714) 833-9530.

Bendix Corporation, Executive Office Building, Bendix Center, Southfield, Michigan 48076. Telephone (313) 352-5000.

BSL Northrop, One Research Park, Palos Verdes Peninsula, California 90274. Telephone (213) 532-1510.

California Data Processors, 2019 S. Ritchey Street, Santa Ana California 92705. Telephone (714) 558-8211.

Cascade Data, Inc., 3000 Kraft Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49508. Telephone (616) 942-1420.

Compagnie Internationale pour l'Informatique (CII), 68 Route de Versailles, 78 Louveciennes, France. Telephone 951-86-00.

Cincinnati Milacron, Process Control Division, Mason Marrow Road, Lebanon, Ohio 45036. Telephone (513) 494-1 200.

Computer Automation, Inc., 18651 Von Karman Ave., Irvine, California 92664. Telephone (714) 835-8830.

Computer Development, 13500 Midway Road, Suite 112, Dallas, Texas 75240. Telephone (214) 233-3238.

Computer Hardware, Inc., 2424 Arden Way, Sacramento, California 95825. Telephone (916) 929-8731.

Computer Technology Limited, Eaton Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 7EQ, England. Telephone Hemel Hempstead (0442) 3272.

Control Data Corporation, PO Box 0, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440. Telephone (612) 853-4656.

Data General Corporation, Route 9, Southboro, Massachusetts 01772. Telephone (617) 485-9100.

Datapoint Corporation, 9725 Datapoint Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78284. Telephone (512) 690-7000.

Digital Computer Controls, Inc., 12 Industrial Road, Fairfield, New Jersey 07006. Telephone (201) 575-9100.

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

Digital Scientific Corporation, 11455 Sorrento Valley Road, San Diego, California 92121. Telephone (714) 453-6050.

Electronic Processors, 1265 West Dartmouth, Englewood, Colorado 80110 . Telephone (303) 761-8540.

Fedder Data Centers Inc., 412 W. Redwood St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201 . Telephone (301) 685-6773.

Four-Phase Systems, Inc., 19333 Vallco Parkway, Cupertino, California 95014. Telephone (408) 255-0900.

Fujitsu Limited, 6-1 Marunouchi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan. Telephone 03-216-3211.

GEC Computers Limited, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire WD6 1RX, England. Telephone 01-953-2030.

General Automation, Inc., 1055 S. East Street, Anaheim, California 92805. Telephone (714) 778-4800.

GRI Computer Corporation, 320 Needham Street, Newton, Massachusetts 02164. Telephone (617) 969-0800.


Microdata, an carly proponent of the microprogramming approach to computer architecture, operated for a long time in the OEM market segment. Its computers show up in the products of a number of systems houses. The company recently approached the end-user market by offering its innovative Reality system through an authorized dealer arrangement. The Reality system uses the Microdata 1600 minicomputer as its central component. It uses the microprogrammability to implement the operating system and other "software" elements in read-only memory. This tailors the system to the specialized arca of transaction processing and information management. Microprogrammability introduces a potential problem for buyers of packaged turnkey systems: It is no longer enough to know the model number and option list of the processor to know whether you can run software dereloped by someone else for the "same" processor.

GTE Information Systems, Inc., One Stamford Forum, Stamford, Connecticut 06904. Telephone (203) 357-2000.

Harris Corporation, Computer Systems Division, 1200 Gateway Drive, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309. Telephone (305) 974-1700.

Hewlett-Packard Company, 1501 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, California 94304. Telephone (415) 493-1501.

Hitachi, Ltd., New Marunouchi Building, 5-1-1-chome, Marunouchi Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan 100. Telephone Tokyo 212-1111.

Honeywell Information Systems Inc., 200 Smith Street, Waltham, Massachusetts 02154 . Telephone (617) 890-8400.

IBM Corporation, General Systems Division, 875 Johnson Ferry Road N.E., Atlanta, Gcorgia 30342.

Information Computer Systems, Lid., Heron House, 19 Marylebone Road, London NW1, England. Telephone (01) 486-4635.

Interdata, Inc., 2 Crescent Place, Occanport, New Jersey 07757. Telephone (201) 229-4040.

Keronix, Inc., 1752 Cloverfield Blvd., Santa Monica, California 90404. Telephone (213) 829-3594.

Linolex Systems, Inc., 5 Esquire Road, North Billerica, Massachusetts 01862 . Telephone (617) 667-4151.

Lockheed Electronics Company, Data Products Division, 6201 E. Randolph Street, Los Angeles, California 90022. Telephone (213) 722-6810.

## All About Minicomputers

$\sum$ Martin, Wolfe Inc., 8369 Vickers St., San Diego, California 92111. Telephone (714) 277-3700.

Micro Computer Machines Inc., 133 Dalton Street, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 4W2. Telephone (613) 544-9860.

Microdata Corporation, 17481 Red Hill Ave., Irvine, California 92705. Telephone (714) 540-6730.

Modular Computer Systems, Inc., 1650 West McNab Road, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309. Telephone (305) 974-1380.

Nanodata Corporation, 2457 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville, New York 14221. Telephone (716) 631-5880.

A/S Norsk Data-Eleklronikk, Postboks 163, Okem, Oslo, 5 Norway. Telephone 217371.

Philips-Electrologica B.V., P.O. Box 245, Apeldoorn, Netherlands. Telephone 05760-301 23.

North American Philips Corp., Dept. 007, 100 E. 42nd Street, New York, New York 10017. Telephone (212) 697-3600.

Prime Computer, Inc., 145 Pennsylvania Ave., Framingham, Massachusetts 01701. Telephone (617) 879-2960.

Qantel Corporation, 3525 Breakwater Avenue, Hayward, California 94545. Telephone (415) 783-3410.

Raytheon Data Systems Company, 1415 Boston-Providence Turnpike, Norwood, Massachusetts 02062. Telephone (617) 762-6700.

A/S Regnecentralen, Falkoner Alle 1-DK 2000, Copenhagen, Denmark. Telephone (01) 10-53-66.

Rolm Corporation, 18922 Forge Drive, Cupertino, California 95014. Telephone (408) 257-6440.

Systems Engineering Laboratories, Inc., 6901 West Sunrise Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33313. Telephone (305) 587-2900.

Texas Instruments, Inc., Digital Systems Division, P.O. Box 1444, Houston, Texas 77001. Telephone (713) 494-5115.

Ultimacc Svstems, Inc., 9 Brook Ave., Maywood, New Jersey 07607. Telephone 845-0500.

Varian Data Machines, 2722 Michelson Drive, Irvine, California 92664. Telephone (714) 833-2400.

Wang Laboratories Inc., 836 North St., Tewksbury, Massachusetts 08176. Telephone (617) 851-4111.

Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Computer and Instrumentation Division Computer Department, 1200 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida 32804. Telephone (305) 843-7030.

Xerox Corporation, 701 South Aviation Boulevard, El Segundo, California 90245. Telephone (213) 679-4511. $\square$

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Artronix PC-12/730 | Artronix PC-12/770 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Artronix } \\ & \text { PC-16 } \end{aligned}$ | Basic/Four <br> Model 350 | Basic/Four <br> Model 400 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 12 | 12 | 16 | 8 | 8 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 12 | 12 | 16 | Variable | Variable |
| Instruction length, bits | 12/60 | 12/60 | 16/32 | 16 | 16 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core/semi. | Core | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.2 | 0.7 | 0.8/0.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 16,384 | 8,192 | 8,192 | 8,192 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 65,536 | 131,072 | 131,072 | 65,536 | 65,536 |
| Parity checking | No | No | Optional | No | No |
| Storage protection | No | No | Optional | No | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 1 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| No. of index registers | 64 | 64 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 4,096 | 4,096 | 32,768 | 65,536 | 65,536 |
| Indirect addressing | One-level | One-level | Multi-level | One-level | One-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | No | By vendor only | No | No |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 2.4 | 1.4 | 2.4 | 7.0 | 7.0 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | No | No | Optional | No | No |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | Standard | Optional | No | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | No | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| I/O word size, bits | 12/24 | 12/24 | 8/16 | 8 | 8 |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 833,000 | 1,250,000 | 4,800,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 1-256 | 1-256 | Variable | 2-32 | 2-32 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Floppy disk (diskette) drives | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Yes | Yes | Yes | Cartridge | Cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 300 | 300 | 600 | 300 | 300 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 60-300 | 60-300 | 600 | 200 | 200 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | Graphics, plotter, instrumentation | CRTs or TTY terminals | Graphics | CRTs; serial printer | CRTs; serial printer |
| SOFTWARE <br> Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | No | No |
| Macro assembler | No | No | Yes | No | No |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Other compilers | Comfort | MUMPS-PC | MUMPS, RPG-11 | BASIC interp. | BASIC interp. |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Interactive, batch, real-time | Batch, timesharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Time-sharing | Time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | Approx. \$20,000 (16K) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Approx. } \$ 76,000 \\ & (64 \mathrm{~K}) \end{aligned}$ | Approx. \$15,000 (16K) | \$32,400 | \$34,900 |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | NA | NA | NA | \$32,400 | \$34,900 |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | Sept. 1971 <br> Over 150 | Feb. 1974 Over 20 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } 1975 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | Sept. 1971 See Comments | Aug. 1971 <br> See Comments |
| COMMENTS | Primarily sold as in systems for the me 12/730 provides ex and laboratory sof provides data base facilities; prices abo operational system | egrated turnkey ical field; PCensive clinical ware; PC-12/770 management ve are for basic | Highly modular; operating system handles up to 4 processors per system | Small business co Models 350, 400 1,4 , or 8 CRT te Total of over 1800 to date. Also use processing | outer systems; <br> nd 500 can have inals per system. systems installed or scientific |

## All About Minicomputers



## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | BSL Northrop BDS-2000 | BSL Northrop <br> BDS-3000 | California Data Processors Cal Data 4/I | California Data Processors Cal Data 4I | California <br> Data Processors Cal Data 5/1130 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 8 | 8 | 16/8 | 8 | 16/8 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 8-32 | 8-32 | 32 | 16 | 16 |
| Instruction length, bits | 8-40 | 8-40 | 16 | 16/32 | 16/32 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | Core | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.675/0.85 | 0.675/0.85 | 0.675/0.85 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 16,384 | 24,576 | 8,192/16,384 | 8,192/16,384 | 8,192/16,384 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 24,576 | 32,768 | 131,072 | 65,536 | 65,536 |
| Parity checking | No | No | No | No | No |
| Storage protection | No | Standard | Optional | No | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 2 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| No. of index registers | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 65,536 | 65,536 |
| Indirect addressing | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-level |
| Microprogrammable | By vendor only | By vendor only | By user | By user | By user |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 4.6 | 4.6 | 2.0 | 1.2 | 2.8 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | No | No | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | No | No | Optional | No | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | No |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1/O word size, bits | 8 | 8 | 8/16 | 8/16 | 16 |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 235,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Cartridge | Cartridge | Pack, cartridge | See Comments | - |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | No | No | No | - | - |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | No | - | - |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | - | - |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 300 | 300 | 300-1000 | - | - |
| Line printer speeds, lom | 200-600 | 200-600 | 125-1000 | - | - |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | - | - |
| Other standard peripheral units | Thermal printer, CRTs | Thermal printer, CRTs | - | - | - |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler Macro assembler | No | No | 2-pass Yes | See Comments | See Comments |
| FORTRAN compiler | No | No | Yes | - | - |
| Other compilers | No | BASIC | BASIC | - | - |
| Operating system | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time | - | - |
| PRICING \& AVAILABILITY |  |  |  |  |  |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$100,700 | \$216,700 | \$9,000 | Contact vendor | Contact vendor |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | Not available | Not available | \$9,000 | - | - |
| Date of first delivery | 1973 | - | Nov. 1973 | Oct. 1974 | NA |
| Number installed to date | 13 | - | 150 | NA | NA |
| COMMENTS | Turnkey multi-us ture manufacture application; prices CRT, line printer, software. BDS-10 date up to 4 CRT 6; BDS-3000, up | systems for furnior medical billing rclude disk, 1 nd applications can accommo-BDS-2000, up to 12 | Emulates Digital Equipment PDP-11 | The 4/I emulates and the $5 / 1130 \mathrm{em}$ 1130. No peripher available directly | e GTE Tempo, lates the IBM s or software |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Cascade Data Concept II | $\begin{gathered} \text { CII } \\ \text { Mitra 15/30 } \\ (15 / 20) \end{gathered}$ | Cincinnati Milacron CIP/2200B | Computer Automation Naked Milli LSI-3/05 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 (2 bytes) | $16+2$ | 8 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16-32 | 16 | 8/16/24/32 | 8/16/32 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16-40 | 16 | 8/16/24/32 | 16/32 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core/MOS | Core/MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.2 (per byte) | 0.8 | 1.1 | See Comments |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 4,096 | 8,192 | 256 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 32,768 | 32,768 (8,192) | 65,536 | 262,144 |
| Parity checking | Standard | Standard | Optional | No |
| Storage protection | No | Standard | Yes | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 15 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| No. of index registers | 3 | 1 (+2 base) | 1 | 1 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 32,768 | 768 | 32,768 | 384 |
| Indirect addressing | No | One-level | Multi-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | NA | By vendor only | By vendor only |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 8.8 | 2.3 | 110 | 6.25 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard (opt.) | Standard | No |
| Hardware floating point | No | Optional | No | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard (opt.) | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | No | Standard (opt.) | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL <br> I/O word size, bits | 16 | 8/16 | 8 |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Optional | Optional | 8/16 <br> Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 413,000 | 1,200,300 (300K) | 909,000 | 1,176,000 |
| No: of external interrupt levels | 0 | 1.100 | 32 max. | 1-unlimited |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |
| Floppy disk (diskette) drives | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack | Pack | Pack | No |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | No | Yes | Yes | No |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | Yes | No |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 300 | 300-1200 | 600 | 285 |
| Line printer speeds, lpm | 125-600 | NA | 125-600 | 150 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | CRT terminals | Line printers, CRTs, A/D interfaces, etc. | CRTs; 96-column card units | CRTs, TTY, punched tape units |
| SOFTWARE <br> Assembler | 2-pass | 1-pass | 2-pass | See Comments |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | See Comments |
| FORTRAN compiler | No | Yes | No | No |
| Other compilers | RPG | LP15, LPG, BASIC | RPG II | No |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Yes (4) | Batch (fore/background) | Real-time |
| Price of basic system with minimum | \$29,500 | \$15,800 (\$12,200) | \$5,220 | \$465 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | Not available | \$20,700 (\$17,000) | \$5,220 | \$1,075 |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | $\begin{aligned} & \text { April } 1970 \\ & 140 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } 1972 \\ & \text { Over } 750 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Feb. } 1972(2200) \\ & 1700 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { March } 1975 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | Byte-oriented; designed for business applications; turnkey systems; extensive applications software | System uses 4-port core memory; 1 for the CPU, the I/O processors and DMA. Information furnished in June 1974 | Features multiple CRT units under RPG II | 2-pass macro assembler runs on LSI-2; See Comments on next page for memory speeds and family relationships |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Computer Automation Naked Mini LSI-2/10 | Computer Automation Naked Mini LSI-2/20 | Computer Automation Megabyter LSI-2/60 | Computer Development Opus III | Computer Development Century 400 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS <br> Word length, bits Fixed point operand length, bits Instruction length, bits |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8 | 16 |
|  | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8 | 16 |
|  | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 8/16/24 | 8/16/24 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core/MOS | Core/MOS | Core/MOS | MOS | MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | See Comments | See Comments | See Comments | 1.3 | 0.86 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 4,096 | 8,192 | NA | NA |
| Maximum capacity, words | 262,144 | 262,144 | 524,288 | 65,536 | 65,536 |
| Parity checking | Optional | Optional | Optional | No | No |
| Storage protection | No | No | No | No | Optional |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| No. of index registers | 1 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 15 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 768 | 768 | 768 | 65,536 | 65,536 |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | One-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | By vendor only | By vendor only | By vendor only | No | By vendor only |
| Add time microseconds (full word) | 4.12 | 2.06 | 2.06 | 1.3 | NA |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional |
| Hardware floating point | No | No | No | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Optional | Optional | Optional | No | No |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optional | Optional | No | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Optional | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,666,000 | 1,666,000 | 1,666,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 3-unlimited | 3-unlimited | 3-unlimited | 15-120 | 120 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT Floppy disk (diskette) drives | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge |  | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 285 | 285 | 285 | NA | NA |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 150 | 150 | 150 | Approx. 100 | 600 |
| Data communications interface Other standard peripheral units | CRTs, TTY, punched tape units | CRTs, TTY, punched tape units | CRTs, TTY, punched tape units | CRTs, typewriter | CRTs, typewriter |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 1-pass | 1-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| FORTRAN compiler |  | Yes | Yes |  |  |
| Other compilers | BASIC | BASIC | BASIC | BASIC, COBOL | BASIC, COBOL |
| Operating system | Batch and real-time | Batch and real-time | Batch and real-time | Batch/real-time | Batch/real-time |
| PRICING \& AVAILABILITY |  |  |  |  |  |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$1,750 | \$2,300 | \$6,850 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | \$2,120 | \$2,695 | \$6,850 | \$6,500 | \$6,500 |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | $\begin{aligned} & \text { May } 1974 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | Sept. 1973 NA | $\begin{aligned} & \text { March } 1975 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | Feb. 1971 <br> Over 500 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { March } 1975 \\ & 43 \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | All models in the patible. The same throughout the fa among $0.98,1.2$, modules | family are prog emory bus lasync ily, providing inte 1.6 usec core an | and 1/O comonous) is used angeability 0.85 usec MOS | Turnkey system business market; sy primarily to dealer houses | nted toward the tems are sold and system |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Computer Hardware CHI 2120 | Computer Hardware CHI 2130 | Computer Technology Modular One 1.11 | Computer Technology Modular One 1.12 | Computer Technology Modular One 1.15 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | MOS | Core | Core/MOS | MOS | Core/MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.6 | 0.8 | 0.75 | 0.9 | 0.75 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 16,384 | 8,192 | 8,192 | 8,192 | 8,192 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 16,384 | 65,536 | 57,324 | 57,324 | 229,376 |
| Parity checking | Standard | Standard | No | No | No |
| Storage protection | No | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| No. of index registers | 6 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 16,384 | 16,384 | 57,324 | 57,324 | 229,376 |
| Indirect addressing | 2-level | 2-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | No | No | No | No |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 1.6 | 3.2 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.6 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | No | No | No | No |  |
| Hardware byte manipulation | No | No | No | No | No |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | No | No | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1/O word size, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 625,000 | 1,250,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 8 | 8 | 8-96 | 8-96 | 8-96 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Floppy disk (diskette) drives | No | No | No | No | No |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Cartridge | Cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | No | No | No |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 200-1000 | 200-1000 | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 300-1100 | 300-1100 | 100-600 | 100-600 | 100-600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | Plotter; punched tape units | Plotter; punched tape units | Punched tape units, plotter, CRTs, etc. | Punched tape units, plotter, CRTs, etc. | Punched tape units, plotter, CRTs, etc. |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 1- \& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | No | 1- \& 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| Other compilers | RPG, COBOL, | RPG, COBOL, | COBOL, BASIC, | No | COBOL, BASIC, |
| Operating system | Batch | Batch, time- | Batch/real-time/ | RJE only | Batch/real-time/ |
| PRICING \& AVAILABILITY |  | sharing | time-sharing |  | time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$26,400 | \$30,000 | On request | On request | On request |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | Not available | \$30,000 | On request | On request | On request |
| Date of first delivery | July 1975 | July 1974 | NA | NA | 1975 |
| Number installed to date |  | 53 | See Comments | See Comments | See Comments |
| COMMENTS | Compatible with IBM 1130 | Compatible with IBM 1130 | All systems are fully been delivered; 1.11 specialized for comm other applications; processor under HA 7020/7905, or IBM | compatible; over 40 and 1.15 are availab nercial teaching, scie 1.12 is used as a satel SP and emulates CDC 2780 | 00 systems have le in versions ntific, and lite network 200, ICL |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Control Data System 17 | Data General Eclipse S/100 | Data General Eclipse S/200 | Data General Eclipse C/300 | Data General Nova 2/4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | $16+2$ | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | MOS | Core/MOS | Core/MOS | Core/MOS | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.6/0.9 | 0.2-0.8 (eff.) | 0.2-0.8 (eff.) | 0.2-0.8 (eff.) | 1.0/0.8 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 8,192 | 16,384 | 32,768 | 4,096 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 65,536 | 131,072 | 131,072 | 131,072 | 32,768 |
| Parity checking | Standard | See Comments | See Comments | See Comments | No |
| Storage protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| No. of index registers | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 256 | 1,024 | 1,024 | 1,024 | 1,024 |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | By user, opt. | By user, opt. | By vendor only |  |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 1.2/1.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.8/1.0 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Optional |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | No | Optional | Standard | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | No | NA | NA | NA | No |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Optional |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,600,000 | 733,000 | 733,000 | 733,000 | 1.25/.833M |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 2-16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 330 | 150-1000 | 150-1000 | 150-1000 | 150-1000 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 300-1200 | 240-300 | 240-300 | 240-300 | 240-300 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | Punched tape units, CRTs, A/D units | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes (3) |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | No | ALGOL, BASIC | ALGOL, BASIC | ALGOL, BASIC, RPG II | ALGOL, BASIC |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, timesharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch real-time, time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$14,175 (0.9 usec) <br> \$17,325 (0.6 usec) | \$9,200 | \$16,300 | \$30,700 | \$3,500 |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | \$17,325 (0.9 usec) <br> \$21,525 (0.6 usec) | \$9,200 | Not available | Not available | \$4,000 |
| Date of first delivery | 1973 | Feb. 1975 | March 1975 | August 1975 | Oct. 1973 |
| Number installed to date | Over 200 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| COMMENTS | Compatible with predecessor CDC 1700 models | Memory modules 200-nsec bipolar ca effective memory memory modules a base oriented file m C/300. Instruction line | an be 800 -nsec core che memory is used peed. Error checking a available optional anagement software set is upward-comp | 700-nsec MOS; o enhance and correcting <br> . INFOS data is available for ible with Nova | Nova 2 uses a 1 microsecond, 16K-word memory or an 800nanosecond 4Kor 8 K -word memory; $2 / 4$ has 4 slots |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Data General Nova 2/10 | Data General Nova 800 | Data General Nova 820 | Data General Nova 830 | Data General Nova 840 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | Core | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.0/0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 16,384 | 16,384 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 131,072 | 131,072 |
| Parity checking | No | No | No | No | No |
| Storage protection | No | No | No | Optional | Standard |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| No. of index registers | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 1,024 | 1,024 | 1,024 | 1,024 | 1,024 |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | No | No | No | No |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 0.8/1.0 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | No | No | No | No | No |
| Power failure protection | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum 1/O rate, words/sec | 1.25/.833M | 1,250,000 | 1,250,000 | 833,000 | 1,250,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 150-1000 | 150-1000 | 150-1000 | 150-1000 | 150-1000 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 240-300 | 240-300 | 240-300 | 240-300 | 240-300 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter |
| SOFTWARE Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | ALGOL, BASIC | ALGOL, BASIC | ALGOL, BASIC | ALGOL, BASIC | ALGOL, BASIC |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum | \$4,400 | \$6,600 | \$6,100 | \$12,650 | \$16,530 |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | \$4,900 | \$8,000 | \$7,500 | Not available | Not available |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | Oct. 1973 NA | March 1971 NA | Apr. 1972 NA | Dec. 1974 NA | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } 1973 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | Nova 2 uses a 1-microsecond, 16K-word memory or an 800nanosec., 4Kof 8 K -word memory; 2/10 has 10 slots | All Nova-line computers are program compatible. Semiconductor read-only memory is interchangeable with core | Housed in a $10.5-$ inch-high 'jumbo' chassis that contains 10 subassembly slots for expansion | Feature memory protection unit th expansion to 131 | anagement and provides memory |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Data General Nova 1200 | Data General <br> Nova 1210 | Data General <br> Nova 1220 | Datapoint 1100 Cassette | Datapoint <br> 1100 <br> Diskette |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8 | 8 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8 |  |
| Instruction length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8/16/24 | 8/16/24 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | MOS | MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 16,384 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 8,192 | 16,384 |
| Parity checking | No | No | No | No | No |
| Storage protection | No | No | No | No | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| No. of index registers | 2 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 14 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 1,024 | 1,024 | 1,024 | 8,192 | 16,384 |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | No | No |
| Microprogrammable | No | No | No | No | No |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 1.35 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 4.8 | 4.8 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Optional | Optional | Optional | No | No |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | No | Optional | No | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | No | No |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | No | No | No | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Optional | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | No | No |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 833,000 | 833,000 | 833,000 | 350 | 40,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 16 | 16 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT Floppy disk (diskette) drives | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | No | No |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 150-1000 | 150-1000 | 150-1000 | 300 | 300 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 240-300 | 240-300 | 240-300 | 300 | 300 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter | - | - |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Other compilers | ALGOL, BASIC | ALGOL, BASIC | ALGOL, BASIC | BASIC, Databus, Dataform | BASIC, Databus, RPG II, Dataform |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Real-time | Real-time |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$5,100 | \$4,000 | \$4,900 | \$7,200 | \$12,880 |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | \$5,950 | \$5,400 | \$6,300 | \$8,040 | Not available |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | Dec. 1970 NA | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Feb. } 1972 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Feb. } 1972 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan. } 1974 \\ & \text { Over } 1,500 \end{aligned}$ | Feb. 1975 <br> Over 500 |
| COMMENTS | All Nova-line computers are program compatible. Semiconductor readonly memory is interchangeable with core | Economy-model Nova processor, designed mainly for OEM use | Housed in a 10.5-inch-high chassis that contains 10 subassembly slots for expansion | Include 960-chara cassettes or floppy standard equipme | er CRT and dual disk (diskette) as |

All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Datapoint } \\ & 2200 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Datapoint } \\ 5500 \end{gathered}$ | Digital Computer Controls D-116S | Digital Computer Controls D-116H | Digital Computer Controls D-216 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 8 | 8 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 8 | 8 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Instruction length, bits | 8/16/24 | 8/16/24 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | MOS | MOS | Core | Core | MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.6 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.96 | 1.6 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 40,960 | 4,096 | 1,024 | 1,024 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 16,384 | 65,536 | 131,072 | 131,072 | 16,384 |
| Parity checking | No | Standard | No | No | No |
| Storage protection | No | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| No. of index registers | 14 | 16 | 2 | 2 | $2+2$ |
| No. of directly addressable words | 16,384 | 65,536 | 1,024 | 1,024 | 1,024 |
| Indirect addressing | No | One-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | No | No | No | By vendor only |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 4.8 | 1.4 | 1.35 | 1.0 | 1.6 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | No | No | Optional | Optional | No |
| Hardware floating point | No | No | No | No | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Nio | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | No | No | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| I/O word size, bits | 8 | 8 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Direct memory access channel | No | No | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 195,000 | 312,500 | 833,000 | 1,040,000 | 625,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 0 | 0 | 1-16 | 1-16 | 1-16 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 300 | 300 | 150-600 | 150-600 | 150-600 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 125-600 | 125-600 | 60-600 | 60-600 | 60-600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | CRT terminals | CRT terminals | Punched tape units, CRTs, plotter, A/D and $D / A$ units, TTY, etc. | Punched tape units, CRTs, plotters, A/D and D/A units, TTY, etc. | Punched tape units, CRTs, plotters, A/D and D/A units, TTY, etc. |
| Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | BASIC, Databus, RPG II, Dataform | BASIC, Databus, RPG II, Dataform | BASIC, IRIS | BASIC, IRIS | BASIC, IRIS |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch-real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$8,571 | \$22,500 | \$2,975 | \$3,075 | \$1,800 (board); \$2,700 (full) |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | \$10,003 | Not available | \$3,365 | \$3,465 | \$2,700 (board); \$3,600 (full) |
| Date of first delivery | April 1972 | Feb. 1975 | Nov. 1971 | Dec. 1972 | NA |
| Number installed to date | Over 6000 | Over 200 | NA | NA | NA |
| COMMENTS | Include 960-charac cassettes standard. business oriented is an input editing/ oriented language | CRT and dual Databus is a nguage; Dataform orms processing- | All DCC 16 Series General Nova 120 see Comments on | members are fully co Series minis and wi xt page | mpatible with Data each other. Also |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Digital Computer Controls D-316 | Digital Computer Controls D-416 | Digital Computer Controls D-616 | Digital Computer Controls PDP-8/A | Digital Computer Controls PDP-8/E |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 12 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 12 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 12 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | MOS | Core | Core/MOS | Core/MOS | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.6 | 1.6 | 0.66 | 1.5-3.4 | 1.2 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 1K-8K | 1,024 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 1,048,576 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Parity checking | Standard | No | See Comments | No | Optional |
| Storage protection | Optional | Optional | Optional | No | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 8 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| No. of index registers | $2+2$ | $2+2$ | $2+2$ | 8 (4K mem.) | 8 (4K mem.) |
| No. of directly addressable words | 1,024 | 1,024 | 1,024 | 256 | 256 |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | One-level | One-level |
| Microprogrammable | By vendor only | By vendor only | By vendor only | No | No |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 1.6 | 1.6 | 0.66 | 3.0-3.8 | 2.6 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | No | No | Optional | No | Optional |
| Hardware floating point | No | No | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | No | No |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | No | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Optional | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 625,000 | 625,000 | 0.833/1.25/1.515M | 526K-667K | 833,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 1-16 | 1-16 | 1-16 | 1-64 | 1-64 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 150-600 | 150-600 | 150-600 | 300 | 300 |
| Line printer speeds, lpm | 60-600 | 60-600 | 60-600 | 300 | 300 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units SOFTWARE | Punched tape units, CRTs, plotters, A/D and $D / A$ units, TTY, etc. | Punched tape units, CRTs, plotters, A/D and $D / A$ units, TTY, etc. | Punched tape units, CRTs, plotters, A/D and $D / A$ units, TTY, etc. | DECtape, CRTs, plotter, punched tape units, etc. | DECtape, CRTs, plotter, punched tape units, etc. |
| SOFTWARE <br> Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 1- and 2-pass | 1- and 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | BASIC, IRIS | BASIC, IRIS | BASIC, IRIS | BASIC, ALGOL, DIBOL, FOCAL | BASIC, ALGOL, DIBOL, FOCAL |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$2,000 (board) <br> \$2,900 (full) | \$2,400 (board) \$3,400 (full) | \$5,660 | \$1,745-\$3,795 | \$4,490 |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | \$2,600 (board) \$3,500 (full) | \$2,800 (board) \$3,800 (full | \$6,060 | \$3,935-\$3,795 | \$5,300 |
| Date of first delivery | NA | NA | NA | Dec. 1974 | March 1971 |
| Number installed to date | NA | NA | NA | NA | See Comments |
| COMMENTS | 216/316/416 are interface mounte minicomputer. Th CORE and MOS modules with err are optional. Prev DEC PDP-8 has b | ailable with CPU, on single 15 -inch 616 offers dual po dules intermixed detection and corr us DCC 12 Series, discontinued | mory, and TTY rd or as a 'full'" ed memory with desired; memory tion capabilities mpatible with | Family of 4 microcomputers program compatible with PDP8E. Battery power back up. Range of memory options and configuration rules results in ranges given above | Most expansion capability of PDP-8 family; for OEM and end user. Also see Comments on next page. |

## All About Minicomputers



## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Digital Equipment PDP-11/05 | Digital Equipment PDP-11/10 | Digital Equipment PDP-11/35 | Digital Equipment PDP-11/40 | Digital Equipment PDP-11/45 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16/32/48 | 16/32/48 | 16/32/48 | 16/32/48 | 16/32/48 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | Core | Core/MOS/Bipolar |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.98/0.5/0.3 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 8,192 | 8,192 | 16,384 | 16,384 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 131,072 | 131,072 | 131,072 |
| Parity checking | No | No | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| Storage protection | No | No | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| No. of index registers | 8 min . | 8 min . | 8 min . | 8 min . | 16 min. |
| No. of directly addressable words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 131,072 |
| Indirect addressing | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-level |
| Microprogrammable | By vendor only | By vendor only | By vendor only | By vendor only | By vendor only |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 3.7 | 3.7 | 0.99 | 0.99 | 0.9/0.45/0.3 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | No | No | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| I/O word size, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | Variable | Variable | Variable | Variable | Variable |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Floppy disk (diskette) drives | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Cartridge | Cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 1200 | 1200 | 1200 | 1200 | 1200 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 1200 | 1200 | 1200 | 1200 | 1200 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | CRTs, A/D units, punched tape units, etc. | CRTs, A/D units, punched tape units, graphics display, etc. | CRTs, A/D units, punched tape units, graphics display, etc. | CRTs, A/D units, punched tape units, graphics display, etc. | CRT; A/D units, punched tape units, graphics display, etc. |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 1- \& 2-pass | 1-\& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | 1-\& 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | BASIC | BASIC | BASIC, COBOL | BASIC, COBOL | BASIC, COBOL |
| Operating system | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time, time sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing |
| PRICING \& AVAILABILITY |  |  |  |  |  |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$4,395 | \$5,995 | \$9,495 | \$16,800 | \$25,300 |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | \$4,995 | \$5,995 | \$9,495 | Not available | Not available |
| Date of first delivery <br> Number installed to date | Feb. 1972 <br> See Comments | March 1973 <br> See Comments | Sept. 1973 See Comments | Jan. 1973 <br> See Comments | April 1972 <br> See Comments |
| COMMENTS | Over 15,000 PDPwith mixed MOS use; PDP-11/10 an PDP-11/04 throug 11 -series models u | 1 systems have bee d core memory. 11/40 are intende PDP-11/45 reserve through the 11/10 | installed. PDP-11/5 <br> -11, PDP-11/04, 11 <br> for end users; PDPpper 4 K of memor are generally used in | is a packaged versi 115, and $11 / 35$ are i $1 / 03,11 / 45$, and 1 for I/O control and dedicated applicati | n of the PDP-11/45 ended for OEM 70 are for either. transfer. The ns. |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | $\begin{gathered} \text { Digital } \\ \text { Equipment } \\ \text { PDP-11/70 } \end{gathered}$ | Digital Equipment PDP-12 | > Digital Equipment PDP-15/76 \& 78 | Digital Equipment XVM | Digital Scientific Meta 4/1130 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS <br> Word length, bits Fixed-point operand length, bits Instruction length, bits |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 16 | 12 | 18 | 18 | $16+2$ |
|  | 16 | 12 | 18 | 18 | 16/32 |
|  | 16/32/48 | 12 | 18 | 18 | 16 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | Core | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.02 | 1.6 | 0.98 | 0.98 or less | 0.9 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 65,536 | 4,096 | 32,768/24,576 | 32,768 | 8,192 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 1,048,576 | 32,768 | 131,072 | 131,072 | 65,536 |
| Parity checking | Standard | No | Optional | No | Standard |
| Storage protection | Standard | No | Optional | Standard | Optional |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 16 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Up to 28 |
| No. of index registers | 16 min. | 15/4K of mem. | $1+8$ auto ind. | 1 | 3 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 131,072 | 1,024 | 8,192 | 8,192 | 65,536 |
| Indirect addressing | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-level |
| Microprogrammable | By vendor only | No | No | No | By user |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 0.3 | 3.2 | 1.78 | 1.78 | 2.9 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | No | No | No | No |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1/O word size, bits |  |  |  |  | 16 |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard $1,000,000$ | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 2,900,000 Variable | 660,000 $1-64$ | ${ }^{1,000,000}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1,000,000 \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1,000,000 \\ & 16 \end{aligned}$ |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 1200 | 300 | 300-1000 | 300-1000 | 1000 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 1200 | 300 | 300-1200 | 300-1200 | 300-600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yas | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | CRTs, A/D units, punched tape units, graphics display, etc. | DECtape, A/D converters, plotters, etc. | DECtape, A/D converters, realtime interfaces, graphic displays | DECtape, A/D converters, realtime interfaces, graphics unit | Punched tape units |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 1-\& 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 1-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | BASIC, COBOL | BASIC, FORTRAN | FOCAL, ALGOL | FOCAL, ALGOL | COBOL, RPG |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Real-time | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, timesharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$54,600 | \$17,170 | \$68,500/\$35,000 | \$37,500 | \$33,850 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | Not available | \$21,170 | Not available | Not available | \$33,850 |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | April 1975 See Comments | April 1969 Over 600 | Fall 1969 (1st 15) Over 700 (all 15's) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { NA } \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jan. } 1970 \\ & \text { Over } 150 \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | Uses 2048-word, 0.3-usec bipolar cache memory. Also see Comments on previous page | Designed for laboratory applications; can execute PDP-8 programs; builtin CRT display | Family uses upgrad of PDP-9. Many pre models are no long PDP-15 with 32K m upgraded to an XV uses a PDP-11/05 or processor, the XVM includes instruction | instruction set vious PDP-15 r marketed. Any emory can be M. The PDP-15/76 11/10 peripheral an $11 / 10 ;$ XVM look-ahead | Emulates IBM 1130; timesharing system can accommodate up to 16 users |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Digital Scientific Meta 4/1800 | Electronic Processors EPI-118 | Electronic Processors EPI-218 | Fedder System III 03/03B | Fedder System III 10 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | $16+2$ | 18 | 18 | 16 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16 | 18 | 18 | 32 | 32 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16 | 18 | 18/36 | 8 | 8 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | MOS | MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 8,192 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 8,192 | 16,384 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 65,536 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 65,536 | 65,536 |
| Parity checking | Standard | No | No | No | No |
| Storage protection | Standard | No | Optional | No | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | Up to 28 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 16 |
| No. of index registers | 3 | 0 | 3 | 48 | 48 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 65,536 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Indirect addressing | One-leve! | No | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | By user | NA | NA | No | No |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | No | Optional | No | No |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | No | No | No | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | No | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | No | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | No | No |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Optional | Optional | No | No |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory acc | Standard | Optio | Optio | Optional | Optional |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,000,000 | 900,000 | 900,000 | 10,000 | 500,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | Up to 32 | 0-18 | 0-18 | 0-16 | 0-16 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack | Pack | Cartridge | Cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 1000 | 300 | 300 | Not available | Not available |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 300-600 | Yes | Yes | 200-600 | 200-600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | Punched tape units | CRTs, A/D units | CRTs, A/D units | TTY, CRTs | TTY, CRTs |
|  |  |  |  | , |  |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 1-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 1-pass | 1-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Other compilers | COBOL, RPG | BASIC | BASIC | BASIC | BASIC |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Yes | Yes | Batch | Batch, timesharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$49,285 | \$2,790 | \$3,490 | \$24,950/\$29,500 | \$37,500 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | \$49,285 | \$3,990 | \$4,690 | \$24,950/\$29,500 | Not available |
| Date of first delivery | 1971 | Nov. 1970 | Jan. 1973 | 1973/1974 | 1975 |
| Number installed to date | Over 30 | Over 700 | Over 90 | 200 | 50 |
| COMMENTS | Emulates IBM 1800; can have up to 65 K auxiliary core storage | Basic 118 add-tim octal digit; faster processor is optio standard on 218. to "qualified OEM tion provided in | is 2 used per -bit arithmetic I for 118 and ices quoted are users." Informagust 1974 | System oriented t processing; extens cation programs; typewriter; III 03B CRT and serial pri accommodate up | ward business data ve library of appli03 includes $1 / O$ replaces this with ter; III 10 can 4 users |


| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Four-Phase Systems, Inc. System IV/40 | Four-Phase Systems, Inc. System IV/70 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Fujitsu } \\ \text { Facom R-E } \end{gathered}$ | Fujitsu Panafacom U-100 | Fujitsu Panafacom U-200 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 24 | 24 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 24 | 24 | 16 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 |
| Instruction length, bits | 24 | 24 | 16 | 16/32/48 | 16/32/48 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | MOS | MOS | Core | Core/MOS | Core/MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 1.5/0.6 | 0.65/0.75 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 24,576 | 12,288 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 4,096 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 73,728 | 98,304 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Parity checking | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Storage protection | No | No | No | No | Optional |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 5 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 8 |
| No. of index registers | 3 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 73,728 | 98,304 | 512 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Indirect addressing | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | No | No | By vendor only | No |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 16.0 | 16.0 | 6.0 | 2.8/4.4 | 1.58/3.15 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | No | Standard | Optional |
| Hardware floating point | Standard | Standard | No | No | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | None | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | No | No | No | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | No | No | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Optional | Standard | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| I/O word size, bits | 24 | 24 | 16 | 8/16 | 8/16 |
| Direct memory access channel | No | No | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 125,000 | 125,000 | 400,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 8 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT <br> Floppy disk (diskette) drives | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | No | Pack, cartridge | Cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | Not available | 300-600 | 300 | 100-600 | 100-600 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 300 | 245-1 100 | 440 | 160-900 | 160-900 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units SOFTWARE | CRTs, serial printer | CRTs, serial printer | CRTs, punched tape units, optical mark reader, etc. | Drum, punched tape units, CRTs, optical mark reader, optical char. reader, etc. | Drum, punched tape units, CRTs, optical mark reader, optical char. reader, etc. |
| Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 1-\& 2-pass | 1-\& 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler |  |  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | COBOL, RPG | COBOL, RPG | No | No | No |
| Operating system | See Comments | See Comments | No | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time |
| PRICING \& AVAILABILITY <br> Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$15,750 | \$16,000 | On request | On request | On request |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | Not available | Not available | On request | On request | On request |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | June 1973 <br> Over 100 | Feb. 1971 <br> Over 1000 | March 1969 <br> Over 1000 | August 1975 | Oct. 1972 <br> Over 1000 |
| COMMENTS | Specifically designed for distributed processing, remote data entry, and inquiry/ retrieval | Supports up to 32 interactive CRT terminals | Has 28 basic instructions and 5 addressing modes |  |  |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Fujitsu Panafacom U-300 | Fujitsu Panafacom U-400 | GEC Computers 2050 | GEC Computers 4080 | General Automation SPC-16 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 16 | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/24/32 | 8/16/24/32 | 16 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16/32/48 | 16/32/48 | 8 or 16 | 8 or 16 | 16 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core/MOS | Core/MOS | Core | Core | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.65/0.75 | 0.65/0.75 | 0.950 | 0.550 | 0.80/0.96/1.44 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 32,768 | 4,096 | 32,768 | 4,096 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 32,768 | 131,072 | 196,608 | 131,072 | 131,072 |
| Parity checking | Standard | Standard | No | Yes | No |
| Storage protection | Standard | Standard | No | Standard | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 8 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 16 |
| No. of index registers | 7 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 128 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Indirect addressing | One-level | One-level | Yes | Yes | One-level |
| Microprogrammable | By vendor only | By vendor only | No | No |  |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 0.8/1.8 | 0.8/1.8 | 3.4 | 1.1 | 0.80/0.96/1.44 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | Optional | No | Standard | Optional |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | No | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 512,000 | 1,536,000 | 1,040,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 8 | 8 | 255 | 256 | 64-unlimited |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Yes | Yes | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 100-600 | 100-600 | 400-600 | 400-600 | 200-1000 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 160-900 | 160-900 | 300-1250 | 300-1 250 | 600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units SOFTWARE | Drum, punched tape units, CRTs, optical mark reader, optical char. reader, etc. | Drum, punched tape units, CRTs, optical mark reader, optical char. reader, etc. | Plotter | Plotter | A/D converters, punched tape units, CRTs, TTY, plotter, etc. |
| Assembler | 1- \& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | Symbolic | BABBAGE | 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | No | No | CORAL 66 | CORAL 66 | BASIC, COBOL |
| Operating system | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time | Yes | NUCLEUS, COS, DOS | Batch, real-time |
| PRICING \& AVAILABILITY <br> Price of basic system with minimum main storage | On request | On request | \$13,000 | \$50,000 | \$3,950 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | On request | Not available | \$15,000 | Not available | \$5,350 |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | June 1975 <br> Over 50 | August 1975 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { May } 1973 \\ & 180 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Oct. } 1973 \\ & 55 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { May } 1970 \\ & 5,000 \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | Dual/duplex system available | Dual/duplex system available |  |  |  |

All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | General Automation GA-8/55 | General Automation GA-16/110 | General Automation GA-16/220 | $\begin{gathered} \text { General } \\ \text { Automation } \\ \text { GA-16/330 } \end{gathered}$ | General Automation GA-16/340 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS <br> Word length, bits Fixed-point operand length, bits Instruction length, bits |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 8 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
|  | 8 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
|  | 8 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | NMOS | NMOS | NMOS | Core | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | NA | NA |
| Minimum capacity, words | 1,024 | 1,024 | 1,024 | 16,384 | 16,384 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 57,344 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 65,536 |
| Parity checking | No | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Storage protection | No | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 7 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| No. of index registers | 4 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 65,536 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 65,536 |
| Indirect addressing | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-leve! | One-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | By user | By user | By user | By user |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | No | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | No | No | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 64-unlimited | 64-unlimited | 64-unlimited | 64-unlimited | 64-unlimited |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Floppy disk (diskette) drives | No | No |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | No | No | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | Not available | Not available | 400-1000 | 200-1000 | 200-1000 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | Not available | Not available | 200-600 | 600 | 600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | - | See Comments | See Comments | See Comments | See Comments |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Macro assembler | No |  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | PL/M | No | COBOL, BASIC | COBOL, BASIC | COBOL, BASIC |
| Operating system | No | Real-time | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time |
| PRICING \& AVAILABILITY |  |  |  |  |  |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | Contact vendor | Contact vendor | Contact vendor | Contact vendor | Contact vendor |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | Contact vendor | Contact vendor | Contact vendor | Contact vendor | Lontact vendor |
| Date of first delivery | May 1975 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Number installed to date | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| COMMENTS | Single PC board OEM configuration; intended for dedicated applications | Fully compatible board; $16 / 220$ is dedicated applica development syst | th SPC-16 softwa two boards; both ns; $16 / 330$ is an | and I/O family. 16 OEM configurat M configuration; 1 | 10 is on a single $s$ intended for 340 is a low-cost |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | General Automation GA-16/440 | GRI Computer GRI-99 <br> Model 10 | GRI Computer GRI-99 Model 30 | GRI Computer GRI-99 <br> Model 40 | GRI Computer GRI-99 <br> Model 50 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32/48 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | Core | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.8 | 1.76 | 1.76 | 1.76 | 1.76 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 16,384 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 8,192 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 1,048,576 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Parity checking | Optional | No | No | No | No |
| Storage protection | Optional | No | No | No | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 16 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| No. of index registers | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 1M w/mem. mgt. | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Indirect addressing | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-level |
| Microprogrammable | By user | By user | By user | By user | By user |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 0.78 | 1.76 | 1.76 | 1.76 | 1.76 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard | Optional |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | No | No | No |  |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| I/O word size, bits | 16 | 16 Stard | 16 dard | 16 |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,100,000 | 568,000 | 568,000 | 568,000 | 568,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 64-unlimited | Unlimited | Unlimited | Unlimited | Unlimited |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT <br> Floppy disk (diskette) drives | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 200-1000 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 600 | Up to 600 | Up to 600 | Up to 600 | Up to 600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | A/D converters, punched tape units, CRTs, TTY, plotter, etc. | CRTs, TTY, extensive A/D units, punched tape units | CRTs, TTY, extensive A/D units, punched tape units | CRTs, TTY, extensive A/D units, punched tape units | CRTs, TTY, extensive A/D units, punched tape units |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 1-\& 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Other compilers | COBOL, BASIC | BASIC interp. | BASIC interp. | BASIC interp. | RPG II, BASIC interpreter |
| Operating system | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Real-time, multi-user | Real-time, multi-user | Real-time, multi-user | Real-time, multi-user |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | Contact vendor | \$4,670 | \$5,060 | \$5,725 | \$6,300 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | Contact vendor | \$5,115 | \$5,505 | \$6,170 | \$6,300 |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | $\begin{aligned} & \text { May } 1975 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l} \text { June } 1972 \\ \text { NA } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|l} \text { June } 1972 \\ \text { Over } 900 \end{array}$ | June 1972 <br> Over 400 | Aug: 1974 NA |
| COMMENTS | Software and I/O compatible, with SPC-16; oriented toward multi-user environment | Based on a Univers common data buss mainly for real-tim System 99 small bu | Bus System, in wh and communicate applications. Mode siness computer | ch all system elemen in direct, parallel fas 50 is used in the co | s share ion. Designed mpany's |

All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | $\begin{gathered} \text { GTE } \\ \text { IS/ } 1000 \end{gathered}$ | Harris S110 | Harris S120 | Harris S210 | Harris S220 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | Core/MOS | Core/MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.425/0.2 | 0.425/0.2 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 8,192 | 32,768 | 49,152 | 65,536 | 98,304 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 262,144 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 131,072 | 131,072 |
| Parity checking | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Storage protection | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 16 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| No. of index registers | 16 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 65,536 | 262,144 | 262,144 | 262,144 | 262,144 |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | No | No | No | No |
| Microprogrammable | No | No | No | No | No |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.425 | 0.425 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | No | Optionla | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL I/O word size, bits | 16 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,000,000 | 1,333,333 | 1,333,333 | 1,900,000 | 1,900,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 8-16 | 10-48 | 10-48 | 14-48 | 14-48 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT Floppy disk (diskette) drives | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack | Pack | Pack | Pack |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | Cartridge | Cartridge | No | No |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 200-1000 | Not available | 600-1000 | 600-1000 | 1000 |
| Line printer speeds, lpm | 200-600 | Not available | 200-600 | 200-600 | 600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | Channel interfaces | Printer/plotter | Printer/plotter | Printer/plotter | Printer/plotter |
| SOFTWARE <br> Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | COBOL, PL | $\begin{aligned} & \text { COBOL, BASIC, } \\ & \text { RPG II, SNOBOL } \end{aligned}$ | COBOL, BASIC, RPG II, SNOBOL | COBOL, BASIC, RPG II, SNOBOL | COBOL, BASIC, RPG II, SNOBOL |
| Operating system | Real-time | See Comments | See Comments | See Comments | See Comments |
| PRICING \& AVAILABILITY Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$6,500 | \$85,000 | \$1 19,000 | \$159,000 | \$189,000 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | \$6,500 | Not available | Not available | Not available | Not available |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | Jan. 1972 NA | 3rd Q 1975 | 4th Q 1975 | $\text { 4th Q } 1975$ | $\text { 4th Q } 1975$ |
| COMMENTS | Designed for communications and control applications. Features 16-general-purpose registers | Systems are based cessor, but with vi hardware and soft operating system rent multi-batch, time-sharing opera processors include | Slash 4 protual memory are; VULCAN ovides concur-al-time, and ion; language FORGO | Systems are based cessor, but with vi hardware and soft operating system rent multi-batch, time-sharing opera processors include | Slash 7 protual memory vare; VULCAN ovides concur-al-time, and ion; language FORGO |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Harris } \\ & \text { S230 } \end{aligned}$ | Harris S240 | Harris Slash 5 | Harris Slash 4 | Harris Slash 7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Instruction length, bits | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core/MOS | Core/MOS | Core | Core/MOS | Core/MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.425/0.2 | 0.425/0.2 | 0.95 | 0.75/0.2 | 0.425/0.2 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 98,304 | 163,840 | 8,192 | 8,192 | 32,768 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 131,072 | 196,608 | 65,536 | 262,144 | 262,144 |
| Parity checking | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Storage protection | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| No. of index registers | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 262,144 | 262,144 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Indirect addressing | No | No | One-level | One-level | One-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | No | No | No | No |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 0.425 | 0.425 | 0.95 | 0.75 | 0.425 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | Standard | Standard | No | Optional | Optional |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1/O word size, bits | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,900,000 | 1,900,000 | 1,052,631 | 1,333,333 | 1,900,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 14-48 | 14-48 | 4-24 | 4-48 | 4-48 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT Floppy disk (diskette) drives | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack | Pack | Pack | Pack | Pack |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 1000 | 1000 | 200-1000 | 200-1000 | 200-1000 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 600 | 600 | 200-600 | 200-600 | 200-600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | Printer/plotter | Printer/plotter | Printer/plotter | Printer/plotter | Printer/plotter |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | COBOL, BASIC, | COBOL, BASIC, | COBOL, BASIC, | COBOL, BASIC, | COBOL, BASIC, |
| Operating system | RPG II, SNOBOL | RPG II, SNOBOL | RPG II, SNOBOL | RPG II, SNOBOL | RPG II, SNOBOL |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | See Comments | See Comments | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$280,000 | \$400,000 | \$16,500 | \$24,000 | \$45,000 |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | Not available | Not available | \$16,500 | \$24,000 | Not available |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | 4th Q 1975 | 4th Q 1975 | Feb. 1972 234 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Sept. } 1973 \\ & 61 \end{aligned}$ | $\text { 3rd Q } 1975$ |
| COMMENTS | Systems are based cessor, but with vir ware and software; ing system provide batch, real-time, an operation; language FORGO | Slash 7 pro. ual memory hardVULCAN operatconcurrent multi-time-sharing processors include | Formerly known as Datacraft 6024/5; language processors include FORGO | Formerly known as Datacraft 6024/4; language processors include FORGO | Language processors include FORGO |

All About Minicomputers


## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Hewlett- <br> Packard <br> 3000CX | HewlettPackard 9600MX | Hitachi Hitac 10-II | Hitachi Hitac 20 | Honeywell <br> System 700 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16/32 | 16 | 8/16/32 | 1/8/16/32 | 16/32 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16/32 | 16 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | MOS | Core | Core | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.9 | 0.65 | 0.9 | 0.65 | 0.775 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 49,152 | 16,384 | 4,096 | 8,192 | 8,192 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 65,536 | 262,144 | 32,768 | 65,536 | 65,536 |
| Parity checking | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Optional |
| Storage protection | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | Stack | 2 | 1 | 16 | 1 |
| No. of index registers | 1 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 2 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 524,288 | 2,048 | 512 | 65,536 | 1,024 |
| Indirect addressing | One-level | Multi-level | One-level | No | Multi-level |
| - Microprogrammable | By vendor | By user | No | By vendor only | No |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 1.05 | 1.94 | 1.8 | 2.2 | 1.55 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | No | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | No |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,400,000 | 617,000 | 833,000 | 1,200,000 | 1,000,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 253 | 60 | 1-4 | 4 | 63 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge | Yes | No |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 75 | 600 | 310 | 310 | 300-600 |
| Line printer speeds, lpm | 200-1250 | 200-1200 | 150-300 | 100-430 | 200-1100 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units SOFTWARE | CRTs, punched tape units, plotter | Measurement and control units, CRTs, TV monitors, plotter | Punched tape units, mark reader, CRTs, serial printer, plotter, etc. | Punched tape units, mark reader, CRTs, serial printer, plotter, etc. | Punched tape units, TTY |
| Assembler | 1-\& 2-pass | 2-pass | 1-\& 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | $\begin{aligned} & \text { COBOL, RPG, } \\ & \text { BASIC } \end{aligned}$ | ALGOL, BASIC | BASIC | PLUS | BASIC |
| Operating system | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Real-time | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$99,500 | \$16,800 | \$7,100 | \$12,700 | \$10,800 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | Not available | Not available | \$11,300 | \$12,700 | \$10,800 |
| Date of first delivery <br> Number installed to date | Nov. 1972 (3000) 150 | April 1975 50 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Nov. } 1972 \\ & 1500 \end{aligned}$ | $\text { Oct. } 1975$ | June 1972 Over 1,000(9/74) |
| COMMENTS | Includes capability for running IMAGE data base management software package, which includes QUERY language | Dedicated system package built around 21 MX ; designed for distributed networks for local and remote measurement and control | Prices are based upon conversion ratio of 300 Yen per dollar | PLUS language is similar to PL/1. Prices are based upon conversion ratio of 300 Yen per dollar | Type 716 CPU is incorporated into G systems designed for a variety of sensor-based and communications applications |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | IBM System/7 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { IBM } \\ 1130 \end{array}$ | IBM <br> System/32 | Information Comp. Systems ALP-1 | Information Comp Systems ALP2/ALP3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS <br> Word length, bits Fixed-point operand length, bits Instruction length, bits |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $16+2$ | $16+2$ | 8 | 16 | 16 |
|  | 16 | 16/32 | 1-16 digits | 16/32 | 16/32 |
|  | 16/32 | 16/32 | 24-48 | 16 | 16 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Bipolar | Core | MOS | Core/semicond. | Core/semicond. |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.4 | 3.6/2.2 | 0.6 | 0.65/0.33 | 0.65/0.33 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 2,048 | 4K/8K | 16,384 | 4,096 | 4,096 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 65,536 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 65,536 | 262,144 |
| Parity checking | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Storage protection | Standard (MdI. E) | No | No | No | Standard |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 4 sets of 1 | 2 | NA | 2 | 2 |
| No. of index registers | 4 sets of 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 65,536 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 256 | 256 |
| Indirect addressing | No | One-level | No | Multi-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | No | Yes | NA | NA |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 0.8 | 8.0/4.9 | 72 (5 bytes) | 2.25 | 2.25 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | No | Standard | No | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | No | No | No | No | No/Standard |
| Hardware byte manipulation | No | No | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | - | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Optional | No | No | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | No | No | Standard | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1/O word size, bits |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 2,000,000 | 278K/455K | 889,000 | 1,500,000 | 6,000,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 64 | 6 | 4 | 64 | 64 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Floppy disk (diskette) drives | No | No | Yes | No | No |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Cartridge | Pack | Pack |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | No | No | No |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 300 | 100-600 | Not available | 300-600 | 300-600 |
| Line printer speeds, lpm | 155 | 40-1100 | 50-155 | Yes | Yes |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | Extensive A/D and sensor units, TTY | Punched tape units, plotter, mark reader | CRT, serial printer | CRTs, punched tape units | CRTs, punched tape units |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Macro assembler | No | Yes | No | Yas | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | No | RPG, COBOL | RPG II | ALGOL, BASIC | ALGOL, BASIC |
| Operating system | Batch, real-time | Batch | No | Multiprocessing | Multiprocessing |
| PRICING \& AVAILABILITY <br> Price of basic system with minimum | \$8,670 | \$16,640/\$31,720 | \$33,100 | \$11,100 |  |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$8,670 | \$16,640/\$31,720 | \$33,100 | \$11,100 | \$13,700/\$14,600 |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | \$19,900 | \$21,840/\$31,720 | Not available | \$11,800 | \$14,400/\$15,300 |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | $\begin{aligned} & 1971 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & 1965 \\ & 4,000 \text { (est.) } \end{aligned}\right.$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { March } 1975 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { Aug. } 1972 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}\right.$ | $\text { \| } \begin{aligned} & \text { Jan. } 1973 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | The S/7 forms the base for many '"RPQ" systems for voice response, Touch-Tone data entry, communications processing, etc. | IBM 1800 is similar, with storage protection, real-time operating system, and extensive A/D and sensor units | Price includes diskette, fixed disk, display, keyboard, and printer; applications programs are available | The Multum famil systems can interc processors and up word storage block simultaneous mem are based on \$2.57 Information furnis | of multiprocessor nnect up to 8 44 K - to 64 K with up to 4 ry accesses. Prices per British pound. ed in August 1974 |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | $\begin{gathered} \text { Interdata } \\ 7 / 16 \end{gathered}$ | Interdata 7/16 (HSALU) | Interdata <br> Model 50 | Interdata <br> Model 55 | Interdata <br> Model 60 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS <br> Word length, bits Fixed-point operand length, bits Instruction length, bits |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 |
|  | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 |
|  | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | Core | MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.0 | 0.75/1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.270 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 8,192 | 8,192 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 57,344 | 32,768 |
| Parity checking | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Storage protection | No | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| No. of index registers | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 57,344 | 32,768 |
| Indirect addressing | No | No | No | No | No |
| Microprogrammable | By vendor only | By vendor only | By vendor only | By vendor only | By vendor only |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | $1.50$ | 0.75 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.530 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 8/16 | 8/16 | 8/16 | 8/16 | 8/16 |
| Direct memory access channel | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard | Optional |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 2,000,000 | 1,575,000 |
| No. of external interrupt leveis | 255 | 255 | 255 | 255 | 255 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Cassette | Cassette | Cassette | Cassette | Cassette |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | A/D units, punched tape units, serial printer | A/D units, punched tape units, serial printer | A/D units, punched tape units, serial printer | A/D units, punched tape units, serial printer | A/D units, punched tape units, serial printer |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 1-\& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | 1-\& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | \|Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | BASIC interp. | B ASIC interp. | BASIC interp. | BASIC interp. | BASIC interp. |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time , time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$3,200 | \$8,100 | \$7,800 | \$15,900 | \$14,900 |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | \$3,700 | \$8,600 | \$10,200 | \$15,900 | \$14,900 |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | March 1974 <br> Over 1000 | July 1974 Over 300 | Apr. 1972 <br> Over 130 | $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { Aug. } 1972 \\ & \text { Over } 230 \end{aligned}\right.$ | June 1973 <br> Over 10 |
| COMMENTS | Designed for OEM use, the system is software and interface compatible with other Interdata systems | Designed for OEM use, the system is upgradable to a 7/32 | Model 50 is a mod about 20 instruct munications appli a dual-processor Model 50 and a M | ied Model 70 with ns added for comtions; Model 55 is tem made up of a del 70 | Model 60 is a data communications system |


| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Interdata <br> Model 70 | Interdata <br> Model 74 | Interdata Model 80 | Interdata Model 85 | Interdata 7/32 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS <br> Word length, bits Fixed-point operand length, bits Instruction length, bits |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 |
|  | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 | 8/16/32 |
|  | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32/48 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | MOS | MOS | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.75/1.0 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 4,096 | 8,192 | 8,192 | 4,096 (32-bit) |
| Maximum capacity, words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 262,144 (32-bit) |
| Parity checking | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Storage protection | Optional | No | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 32 |
| No. of index registers | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 30 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 262,144 |
| Indirect addressing | No | No | No | No | No |
| Microprogrammable | By vendor only | By vendor only | By vendor only | By user | By vendor only |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 1.0 | 1.5 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 1.0 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | Standard | No | Standard | Standard | Optional |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard | Optional |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,575,000 | 1,575,000 | 2,000,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 255 | 255 | 255 | 255 | 1,024 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Floppy disk (diskette) drives | No | No | No | No | No |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Cassette | Cassette | Cassette | Cassette | Cassette |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | A/D units, punched tape units, serial printer | A/D units, punched tape units, serial printer | A/D units, punched tape units, serial printer | A/D units, punched tape units, serial printer | A/D units, punched tape units, serial printer |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 1- \& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | 1-\& 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | BASIC interp. | BASIC interp. | BASIC interp. | BASIC interp. | BASIC interp. |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$7,800 | \$4,150 | \$14,900 | \$22,800 | \$9,950 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | \$10,200 | \$5,850 | \$14,900 | \$22,800 | Not available |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | Dec. 1971 <br> Over 900 | March 1973 Over 200 | July 1972 30 (est.) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } 1973 \\ & 20 \text { (est.) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } 1974 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS |  | Designed for OEM customers; up-ward-compatible with other Interdata computers |  |  | Hardware and software compatible with Interdata 7/16 |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Interdata 8/32 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Keronix } \\ & \text { IDS } 16 / 12 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Keronix } \\ & \text { IDS } 16 / 10 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Keronix } \\ & \text { IDS } 16 / 8 \end{aligned}$ | Linolex <br> Model 1203 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS <br> Word length, bits Fixed-point operand length, bits Instruction length, bits |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 32 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8 |
|  | 8/16/32 | 16 | 16 | 16 | Variable |
|  | 32 | 16 | 16 | 16 | Variable |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | Core | Semiconductor |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.75 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.8 | $1.2$ |
| Minimum capacity, words | 32,768 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 4,096 | $8,192$ |
| Maximum capacity, words | 262,144 | 262,144 | 262,144 | 262,144 | 32,768 |
| Parity checking | Optional | No | No | No | No |
| Storage protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 32-128 | 4 | 4 | 4 | All of memory |
| No. of index registers | 30-120 | 2 | 2 | 2 | All of memory |
| No. of directly addressable words | 262,144 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 32,768 |
| Indirect addressing | No | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | By vendor only | No | No | No | By vendor only |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 1.25 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.8 | $22$ |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional | Mult. standard |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | No | No | No | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |  |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| I/O word size, bits | 8/16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8 |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |  |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 3,200,000 | 830,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,250,000 | 32,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 1,024 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT Floppy disk (diskette) drives | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Cartridge | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Cassette | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 400-1000 | Yes | Yes | Yes | 300 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 60-600 | Up to 1000 | Up to 1000 | Up to 1000 | 300 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |  |
| Other standard peripheral units SOFTWARE | A/D units, punched tape units, CRTs, TTY, serial printer | - | - | - | CRTs |
| Assembler | 1-\& 2-pass | 1-\& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Other compilers | BASIC | BASIC | BASIC | BASIC | BASIC, DEGEN |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Yes | Yes | Yes | Batch |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$51,900 | \$2,900 | \$2,900 | \$3,400 | \$9,900 |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | Not available | \$3,300 | \$3,300 | \$3,800 | \$9,900 |
| Date of first delivery <br> Number installed to date | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } 1975 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } 1974 \\ & 30 \end{aligned}$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { Nov. } 1974 \\ & 25 \end{aligned}\right.$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { April } 1974 \\ & 5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Aug. } 1972 \\ & 700 \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | Memory interleaving can reduce effective memory cycle to 0.3 usec. Processor has instruction look-ahead | Processors are s with Data Gener | ware, I/O, and me Nova series | ry compatible | Price includes integral 1600character CRT, keyboard, and three cassette tape drives |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Lockheed Electronics LEC 16 | Lockheed Electronics SUE | Martin, Wolfe Mesa Two Model 5000 | Martin, Wolfe Mesa Two Model 7000 | Micro Computer Machines MCM/70 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 8 to 64 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16 | 16 | - |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | Core | MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.0 | 0.8/1.1 | 1.0 | 1.0 | - |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 4,096 | 16,384 | 16,384 | 2,048 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 65,536 | 65,536 | 16,384 | 32,768 | 8,192 |
| Parity checking | Optional | Optional | No | No | No |
| Storage protection | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 1 | 8 | 4 | 4 | - |
| No. of index registers | 1 | 7 | 2 | 2 | - |
| No. of directly addressable words | 65,536 | 32,768 | 16,384 | 32,768 | - |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | - |
| Microprogrammable | No | By vendor only | No | No | By vendor only |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 2.0 | 2.5 | 1.35 | 1.35 | - |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Optional | Standard | No | No | No |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | Optional | No | No | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | No | No | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | No | No | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | No |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1/O word size, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8 |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | - |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 800,000 | 5,000,000 | 600,000 | 600,000 | - |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 8-64 | 4.64 | 16 | 16 | - |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Floppy disk (diskette) drives | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Yes | No | Cartridge | Cartridge | No |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | Yes | Yes | Not available | 300 | 100 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | Yes | Yes | 100 | 100-600 | 30 cps |
| Data communications interface | Yes |  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | CRT, punched tape units | CRT, punched tape units | CRTs | CRTs | Display |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 1-pass | 1-pass | No | No | No |
| Macro assembler | No | Yes | No | No | No |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | No | No | No |
| Other compilers | No | RPG | Mesa-RPG | Mesa-RPG | APL |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time | Batch | Batch, multiterminal control | Batch, multiterminal control | Real-time |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$3,450 | \$3,950 | \$39,000 | \$54,000 | \$4,970 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | \$7,500 | \$5,950 | Not available | Not available | \$8,400 |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Feb. } 1969 \\ & 2000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Nov. } 1972 \\ & 2000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } 1973 \\ & 20 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Feb. } 1972 \\ & 80 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Nov. } 1974 \\ & 100 \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | LEC 16 replaces Jr.; systems are p through distribut additional periph available | C 16 and MAC cipally sold , who may make ls and software | System includes disk, and printer; tion software for accounting functio | cessor, CRT, tensive applicaall business <br> s | Single-user, APLbased, desk-top computer with virtual memory operating system; 8K price above includes 1 cassette drive |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Microdata Micro-One | $\begin{gathered} \text { Microdata } \\ 1600 / 21 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Microdata } \\ & 1600 / 30 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Microdata } \\ & 32 / \mathrm{S} \end{aligned}$ | Microdata 3200. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 8 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 8/16/24/32 | 8/16/24/32 | 8/16/24/32 | 1/2/4/8/16/32 | 8/16 |
| Instruction length, bits | 8/16/24/32 | 8/16/24/32 | 8/16/24/32 | 8/16/24/32/40 | 32 (micro) |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core/MOS | Core | Core | MOS | MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.35 | 0.35 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 4,096 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 131,072 | 131,072 |
| Parity checking | No | No | No | Standard | Standard |
| Storage protection | No | No | No | Optional | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 (stack) | 32 |
| No. of index registers | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 (stack) | 32 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 131,072 | 131,072 |
| Indirect addressing | One-level | One-level | One-level | Multi-level | No |
| Microprogrammable | By user | By user | By user | By user | By user |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 6.38 | 6.38 | 5.40 | 0.405 | 0.135 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | No |
| Hardware floating point | No | No | No | Optional | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL I/O word size, bits | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8/16 | 8/16 |
| Direct memory access channel | Optional | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 2-128 | 2-128 | 2-128 | 4-1,024 | 4 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT Floppy disk (diskette) drives | No | No | No | No | No |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack | Pack | Pack | Cartridge | Cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | No | No | No | No | No |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | No | No | No |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 300 | 300 | 300 | 200 | 200 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 60-300 | 60-300 | 60-300 | 300 | 300 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | CRTs | CRTs | CRTs | CRTs | CRTs |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Macro assembler | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Other compilers | BASIC | BASIC | BASIC | MPL | No |
| Operating system | No | No | No | Batch | No |
| PRICING \& AVAILABILITY |  |  |  |  |  |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$2,415 | \$5,200 | \$5,800 | \$11,380 | \$9,630 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | \$3,265 | \$6,400 | \$7,000 | \$12,760 | \$11,010 |
| Date of first delivery <br> Number installed to date | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Dec. } 1974 \\ & 75 \end{aligned}$ | Nov. 1971 See Comments | Jan. 1973 <br> See Comments | $\begin{aligned} & \text { March } 1974 \\ & 16 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Oct. } 1973 \\ & 3 \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | Single-board processor; compatible with Microdata 800 and 1600 com puters | About 2800 Ser models) have be series features character string | 16 computers (all installed; this processing and ipulation | Software-level emulator that runs on 3200 for implementing MPL, a subset of PL/1 | General-purpose system for emulation of specialized architecture (such as 32/S); features stack processing |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Microdata Reality | Modular Computer Systems Modcomp I | Modular Computer Systems Modcomp II | Modular Computer Systems Modcomp IV | Nanodata QM-1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 18 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 8/16/32/48 | 16 | 16/32 | 16/32 | Variable |
| Instruction length, bits | 8/16/32/48 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | Variable |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | Core | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 2.0 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.5 (effective) | 0.75/1.25 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 8,192 | 8,192 | 16,384 | 16,384 | 16,384 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 65,536 | 262,144 | 262,144 |
| Parity checking | No | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Storage protection | Standard | No | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 32/terminal | 3 | 15 | 240 | 32 |
| No. of index registers | 17/terminal | 3 | 7 | 112 | 12 |
| No. of directly addressable words | See Comments | 32,768 | 65,536 | 131,072 | 262,144 |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | No | One-level | One-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | By user | By user | By user | By user |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | NA | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.56 | 1.5/2.5 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | No | No | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard | Optional |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory acc | Standard | No | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 500,000 | 600,000 | 1,930,000 | 2,400,000 | NA |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 64 | Up to 128 | Up to 128 | Up to 128 | 2,048 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT Floppy disk (diskette) drives | No | No |  |  |  |
| Floppy disk (diskette) drives |  | No | Yes | Yes |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | No | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 300 | 300-1000 | 300-1000 | 300-1000 | 600 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 300 | 50-600 | 50-600 | 50-600 | 400-1000 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | CRTs, serial printer | - | Printer/plotter | Printer/plotter | CRTs, punched tape units |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Macro assembler | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | ENGLISH | No | BASIC | BASIC | BASIC, ALGOL, COBOL,RPG, PL/ |
| Operating system | Multi-user | Real-time | Batch, real-time | Real-time | Batch, real-time, time-sharing |
| PRICING \& AVAILABILITY |  |  |  |  | time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | Not available | \$6,200 | \$11,500 | \$19,500 | \$96,000 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | \$47,500 | \$6,200 | Not available | Not available | Not available |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Nov. } 1973 \\ & 130 \end{aligned}$ | Oct. 1971 <br> See Comments | March 1971 <br> See Comments (I) | June 1974 <br> See Comments (1) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { April } 1974 \\ & 6 \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | Utilizes a microcode program to address all of virtual memory (disk storage) directly; system is marketed through a dealer network | A total of about 1680 systems (all models) have been delivered | 4-port memory is available for multiprocessor and 1/O processor configurations. A high-throughput communications processor is also available | Features 32 -bit parallel internal operation, 16 sets of generalpurpose registers, and 1,024 memory mapping registers | Oriented toward emulation; emulators available for IBM S/360 and Data General Nova; also, a microinstruction set for developing emulators |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | A/S Norsk Nord-10 | A/S Norsk Nord-12 | Philips P852M | Philips P856M | Philips P857M |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS <br> Word length, bits Fixed-point operand length, bits Instruction length, bits |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
|  | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16/32 | 16/32 |
|  | 16 | 16 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core/MOS | MOS | Core | Core | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.9/0.5 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 0.72/1.2 | 0.72 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 8,192 | 4,096 | 4,096 | 8,192 | 16,384 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 262,144 | 65,536 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 131,072 |
| Parity checking | Optional | No | No | No | No |
| Storage protection | Optional | No | No | No | Optional |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 4 | 4 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| No. of index registers | 2 | 2 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 1,024 | 1,024 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Indirect addressing | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-level | One-level |
| Microprogrammable | Optional | Optional | By vendor only | By vendor only | By vendor only |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 1.8/1.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 1.305 | 1.305 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | No | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | Standard | Standard | No | No | Optional |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Optional | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 4,800,000 | 1,200,000 | 833,000 | 1,400,000 | 1,400,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 2,048 | 2,048 | 63 | 63 | 63 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Floppy disk (diskette) drives | No | No | No | No | No |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 300-600 | 300-600 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 200-1000 | 200-1000 | 200-670 | 200-670 | 200-670 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | Plotters, CRTs, real-time interfaces | Plotters, CRTs, real-time interfaces | Punched tape equipment, typewriter | Punched tape equipment, typewriter | Punched tape equipment, tyepwriter |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 1-\& 2 -pass | 1-\& 2-pass | 1 -pass | 1-pass | 1-pass |
| FORTRAN compile | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | BASIC | BASIC, | BASIC | BASIC | Yes |
|  | NORD-PL | NORD-PL |  |  | BASIC |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$20,000 | \$11,000 | \$4,260 | \$8,200 | \$15,860 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | \$20,000 | \$12,500 | \$4,810 | \$8,200 | Not available |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | June 1973 About 150 | May 1975 About 20 | $\begin{aligned} & 1974 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1975 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1975 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | These program-co are used principal tems, local/remot sharing systems, and combinations | patible computers in real-time sysatch and time--base systems, | Prices given are <br> Price for 857 M permit addressin | aris; quantity disc udes Memory Man yond 32 K | nts to OEMs. ement Unit to |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Prime 100 | Prime 200 | Prime 300 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Qante! } \\ 800 \end{gathered}$ | Qantel 900 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8 | 8 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | Variable | Variable |
| Instruction length, bits | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 24/48 | 24/48 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | MOS | MOS | MOS | MOS | MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.0 | 0.75 | 0.60/0.75 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 4,096 | 8,192 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 65,536 | 65,536 | 262,144 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Parity checking | No | Standard | Standard | No | No |
| Storage protection | No | No | Standard | No | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| No. of index regis+ers | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| No. of directly addressable words | 32,768 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | No | By user | By vendor | By vendor |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 2.44 | 1.96 | 1.56 | 58 | $58$ |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | No | Optional | Optional | No | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | No | No | No | No | No |
| Power failure protection | Optional | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL I/O word size, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8 | 8 |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 694,444 | 1,000,000 | 1,136,363 | 666,000 | 666,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 64 | 64 | 64 | Variable | Variable |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT <br> Floppy disk (diskette) drives | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | No | No | No |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 400 | 400 | 400 | 500 | 500 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 300 | 300 | 300 | 60-1800 | 60-1800 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | CRT, punched tape units, A/D units | CRT, punched tape units, A/D units | CRT, punched tape units, A/D units | CRT typewriter | CRT typewriter |
| SOFTWARE <br> Assembler | 2-pass |  |  |  |  |
| Macro assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| FORTRAN compiler Other compilers | Yes BASIC | Yes | Yes BASIC | No QIC | No OIC |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, interactive | Batch, interactive | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Real-time, time-sharing | Real-time, time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$4,600 | \$5,600 | \$11,700 | \$19,500 | \$24,900 |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | \$5,500 | \$6,800 | \$11,700 | Not available | Not available |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | Feb. 1973 <br> See Comments | Oct. 1972 <br> See Comments | Aug. 1973 <br> See Comments | March 1975 <br> See Comments | March 1975 <br> See Comments |
| COMMENTS | Prime has delivered models) to date. Pri operating system f systems are sold fo acquisition, and bu vides a guaranteed | about 600 comput me 300 supports vir up to 31 simultan time-sharing, comm iness data processin wo-year trade-in po | systems (all ual memory ous users. The unications, data Company procy for upgrading | Include disk and CRT/printer ( 900 ) uses up to 24 K and stations performi simultaneously. (all models) have | ewriter (800) or operating system supports 8 <br> 2 jobs <br> 300 systems <br> en delivered |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | $\begin{gathered} \text { Qantel } \\ 950 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Qantel } \\ 1200 \end{gathered}$ | Raytheon RDS-500 | Raytheon 704 | A/S <br> Regnecentralen RC 6000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 8 | 8 | 16 | 16 | 24 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | Variable | Variable | 16 | 16 | 24/48 |
| Instruction length, bits | 24/48 | 24/48 | 16 | 16 | 12 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | MOS | MOS | Core | Core | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.5 | 1.5 | 0.8/0.9 | 1.0 | 20 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 40,960 | 40,960 | 8,192 | 4,096 | 16,384 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 49,152 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 32,768 | 16,384 |
| Parity checking | No | No | Optional | Optional | No |
| Storage protection | No | No | Optional | Optional | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | - | - | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| No. of index registers | - | - | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 32,768 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 32,768 | 4,096 |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | Multi-level | One-level | No | One-level |
| Microprogrammable | By vendor | By vendor | No | No | By vendor |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 58 | 58 | 1.6/1.8 | 2.0 | 50 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | No |
| Hardware floating point | No | No | Optional | Optional | No |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | No |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | No | No | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optiona | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 666,000 | 666,000 | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 | 500,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | Variable | Variable | 16 | 1-16 | 1-14 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack | Cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 500 | 500 | 300-1000 | 300-1000 | 600 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 60-1800 | 60-1800 | 300-1250 | 300-1250 | Up to 600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | CRT, typewriter | CRT, typewriter | Printer/plotter, CRT, punched tape units, card punch | Printer/plotter, CRT, punched tape units, card punch | Card punch |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 1- \& 2-pass | 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | No | No | Yes | Yes | No |
| FORTRAN compiler | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | OIC | QIC | No | No | ALGOL |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Real-time, time-sharing | Real-time, time-sharing | Real-time | Real-time | Batch, real-time, time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$29,500 | \$35,500 | \$7,000 | \$7,200 | \$18,000 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | Not available | Not available | \$7,000 | \$9,200 | Not available |
| Date of first delivery | June 1975 | June 1970 | Feb. 1974 | March 1970 | May 1975 |
| Number installed to date | See Comments | See Comments | 500 | Over 250 | 2 |
| COMMENTS | Includes disk and replaces previous system uses up to stations performing taneously. Over 300 models) have been | RT/printer; 950 00. Operating 4 K and supports 8 4 jobs sirnulsystems (all delivered | Optional Array Transform Processor facilitates signal processing | Optional Array Transform Processor facilitates signal processing | Based on RC 3600 and emulates RC 8000 |


| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | A/S <br> Regnecentralen RS 8000 | A/S <br> Regnecentralen RS 3600 | Rolm 1602 Ruggednova | Rolm 1603 Ruggednova | Systems Engineering Laboratories SEL 32 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 24 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 32 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 24/48 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 32 |
| Instruction length, bits | 12 | 8 | 16/32 | 16 | 32 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core/CMOS | Core/CMOS | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 0.6 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 4,096 | 8,192 | 8,192 | 8,192 | 8,192 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 262,144 | 32,768 | 262,144 |
| Parity checking | Standard | No | No | No | Standard |
| Storage protection | Standard | No | Optional | No | Standard |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| No. of index registers | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 4,096 | 256 | 1,024 | 1,024 | 131,072 |
| Indirect addressing | One-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | By vendor | No | By vendor only | No | By vendor only |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 1.8 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 5.9 | 1.2 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | No | Standard | Optional | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | Standard | No | Optional | No | Standard |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | No | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | No | Standard | No | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,000,000 | 500,000 | 1,000,000 | 285,500 | 6,500,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 1-256 | 1-14 | 16-256 | 16-256 | 16-128 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT Floppy disk (diskette) drives | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Yes | Yes | Line tape | Line tape | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 600 | 600 | 300 | 300 | 285-1000 |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | Up to 1800 | Up to 1800 | 60-1100 | 60-1100 | 125-600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | Card punch | Card punch | CRT, TTY, punched tape units, $A / D$ units, NTDS interfaces | CRT, TTY, punched tape units, $A / D$ units, NTDS interfaces | TTY, extensive communications equipment, array processors, CRTs, etc. |
| SOFTWARE <br> Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | ALGOL | MUSIL | ALGOL, BASIC | ALGOL, BASIC | RPG |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time, time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$68,500 | \$35,000 | \$18,750 | \$9,950 | \$18,000 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | Not available | \$35,000 | \$18,750 | \$9,950 | \$18,000 |
| Date of first delivery <br> Number installed to date | April 1976 | June 1971 150 | Dec. 1972 180 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Oct. } 1974 \\ & 15 \end{aligned}$ | Aug. 1975 |
| COMMENTS | Designed for multiprocessor operation; minimum configuration includes RC 3600 front end | Principally a satellite sy stem for RJE, front end, data entry, data collection, and media conversion | Ruggedized; upward compatible with Rolm 1601 and Data General Nova; smaller, ROM-only configurations available | The 1603 is a smaller, faster, lower-priced version of the previously offered 1601 |  |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Systems Engineering Laboratories 85 | Systems Engineering Laboratories 86 | Texas Instruments Model 960B | Texas Instruments Model 980B | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Ulitmacc } \\ & 2000 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 32 | 32 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 32 | 32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | Variable |
| Instruction length, bits | 32 | 32 | 32 | 16/32 | 16 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | MOS | MOS | Core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.85 | 0.60 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 1.2 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 8,192 | 8,192 | 8,192 | 8,192 | NA |
| Maximum capacity, words | 131,072 | 131,072 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 65,536 |
| Parity checking | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Storage protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 8 | 8 | Up to 16 | 2 | 2 |
| No. of index registers | 3 | 3 | Up ot 16 | 1 | 18 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 131,072 | 131,072 | 65,536 | 65,536 | 1,024 |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | Multi-level | One-level | One-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | No | No | No | No |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 1.7 | 1.2 | 3.6 | 1.75 | 1.2 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | Optional | Standard | Optional |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | Optional | No | No | Optional |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | Standard | No | Standard | Optional |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL |  |  |  |  |  |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 1,176,470 | 1,666,666 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 833,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 6-112 | 6-112 | 2 | 2-32 | 16 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Both | Pack, cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge | Pack |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | Yes (700 term.) | Yes (700 term.) | No |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 200-1000 | 200-1000 | 300 | 300 | Yes |
| Line printer speeds, Ipm | 200-600 | 200-600 | 356 | 356 | 300-600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |  |
| Other standard peripheral units | Punched tape units, printer/ plotters, TTY, A/D units, CRT, etc. | Punched tape units, printer/ plotters, TTY, A/D units, CRT, etc. | A/D units, typewriter terminals, CRTs, punched tape units | A/D units, typewriter terminals, CRTs, punched tape units | CRT/printer |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass |
| Macro assembler | Yes | Yes | See Comments | See Comments | No |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | RPG | RPG | No | BASIC | BASIC |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILABILITY | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time | Real-time |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$80,000 | \$104,000 | Not available | Not available | \$60,000 |
| Price of basic system with 8K words | \$80,000 | \$104,000 | \$4,350 | \$4,975 | - |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | Dec. 1972 30 | Aug. 1970 50 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { May } 1974 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { May } 1974 \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Aug. } 1971 \\ & 85 \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | These medium-sc are used in high-v acquisition. Softv system prices. A 32K memory cos | computer systems ume data entry and is bundled in kaged 85 with \$98,000 | Separate macro processor and cross assemblers are available | Separate macro processor and cross assemblers are available | Turnkey business system including disk, CRT, and programming; based on Data General Nova 1200 |


| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Ultimacc } \\ & 3000 \end{aligned}$ | Varian V 71 | Varian <br> V 72 | Varian <br> V 73 | Varian <br> V 74 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | Variable | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Instruction length, bits | 16 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | Core | Core | Core | MOS/core/core | MOS/core/core |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 1.0 | 0.9/1.2 | 0.66/1.2 | 0.33/0.66/1.2 | 0.33/0.66/1.2 |
| Minimum capacity, words | NA | 16,384 | 8,192 | 8,192 | 32,768 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 262,144 | 32,768 | 262,144 | 262,144 | 262,144 |
| Parity checking | Standard | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Storage protection | Standard | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 4 | 2-16 | 2-16 | 2-16 | 2-16 |
| No. of index registers | 18 | 2-16 | 2-16 | 2-16 | 2-16 |
| No. of directly addressable words | 1,024 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level |
| Microprogrammable | No | By user | By user | By user | By user |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 1.0 | 1.8/2.4 | 1.22/2.4 | 0.66/1.32/2.4 | 0.66/1.32/2.4 |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | No | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional | Optional |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Real-time clock or timer | Optional | Optional | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL I/O word size, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |  |
| Direct memory acc | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard | Standard |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 833,000 | 330,000 | 1,200,000 | 1,350,000 | 1,350,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 16 | 0-64 | 0-64 | 0-64 | 0-64 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT Floppy disk (diskette) drives | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | No | No | No | No | No |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | Yes | 300-600 | 300-600 | 300-600 | 300-600 |
| Line printer speeds, lpm | 300-600 | 300-600 | 300-600 | 300-600 | 300-600 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | CRT/printer | Punched tape units, CRT, analog plotter | Punched tape units, CRT, analog plotter | Punched tape units, CRT, analog plotter | Punched tape units, CRT, analog plotter |
| SOFTWARE <br> Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass |  |  |
| Macro assembler | No | 2-pass | Yes | Yes | $\begin{aligned} & \text { L-pass } \\ & \text { Yes } \end{aligned}$ |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other compilers | BASIC | BASIC, RPG II | COBOL, BASIC, RPG II | $\begin{aligned} & \text { COBOL, BASIC, } \\ & \text { RPG II } \end{aligned}$ | COBOL, BASIC RPG II |
| Operating system | Real-time | Real-time | Real-time, time-sharing | Real-time, time-sharing | Real-time, time-sharing |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$75,000 | \$7,200 | \$10,500 | \$14,500 | \$35,900 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | - | Not available | \$10,500 | \$14,500 | Not available |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | Jan. 1975 5 | Jan. 1975 50 | Jan. 1974 250 | Sept. 1972 270 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { May } 1974 \\ & 30 \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | Turnkey business system, including disk, CRT, and programming; based on Data General/Nova 830 | $\vee 70$ Series comp 74, and 75 have processor capabil V 70 Series mod | ers are program-co l port memory with ; $V 75$ extended in | patible with Varian two memory buss ruction set is optio | 20 line. V73, for multifor all other |

## All About Minicomputers

| MANUFACTURER \& MODEL | Varian <br> V 75 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Varian } \\ \text { 620/L-100 } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Varian } \\ & 600 / L-100 C \end{aligned}$ | Wang WCS-10 | Wang WCS-20 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DATA FORMATS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Word length, bits | 8/16/32 | 16 | 16 | 8 | 8 |
| Fixed-point operand length, bits | 16/32 | 16 | 16 | - | - |
| Instruction length, bits | 16/32 | 16/32 | 16/32 | - | - |
| MAIN STORAGE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Storage type | MOS/core/core | Core | Core | MOS | MOS |
| Cycle time, microseconds/word | 0.33/0.45/0.8 | 0.95 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| Minimum capacity, words | 65,536 | 8,192 | 8,192 | 4,096 | 8,192 |
| Maximum capacity, words | 262,144 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 |
| Parity checking | Optional | Optional | Optional | No | No |
| Storage protection | Standard | Optional | Optional | No | No |
| CENTRAL PROCESSOR |  |  |  |  |  |
| No. of accumulators | 8-16 | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| No. of index registers | 7-16 | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| No. of directly addressable words | 32,768 | 32,768 | 32,768 | - | - |
| Indirect addressing | Multi-level | Multi-level | Multi-level | - | - |
| Microprogrammable | By user | No | No | By vendor | By vendor |
| Add time, microseconds (full word) | 0.66/0.9/1.6 | 1.9 | 3.6 | - | - |
| Hardware multiply/divide | Standard | Standard | Standard | - | - |
| Hardware floating point | Optional | No | No | - | - |
| Hardware byte manipulation | Standard | No | No | - | - |
| Immediate (literal) instructions | Standard | Standard | Standard | - | - |
| Power failure protection | Standard | Standard | Standard | No | No |
| Real-time clock or timer | Standard | Standard | Standard | No | No |
| INPUT/OUTPUT CONTROL I/O word size, bits | 16 | 16 | 16 | 8 | 8 |
| Direct memory access channel | Standard | Standard | Standard | No | No |
| Maximum I/O rate, words/sec | 6,000,000 | 383,000 | 200,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| No. of external interrupt levels | 0-64 | 8-64 | 8-64 | 0 | 0 |
| PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT <br> Floppy disk (diskette) drives | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Disk pack/cartridge drives | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Pack, cartridge | Cartridge | Cartridge |
| Non-interchangeable disk storage | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| ivagnetic tape cassettes/cartridges | Nō | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Magnetic tape, $1 / 2$-inch | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Punched card input speed, cpm | 300-600 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| Line printer speeds, lpm | 300-600 | 300-600 | 300-600 | 300 | 300 |
| Data communications interface | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other standard peripheral units | Punched tape units, CRT, analog plotter | Punched tape units, CRT, analog plotter | Punched tape units, CRT, analog plotter | Plotters, digitizers, punched tape units | Plotters, digitizers, punched tape units |
| SOFTWARE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assembler | 2-pass | 2-pass | 2-pass | No | No |
| Macro assembler | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| FORTRAN compiler | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Other compilers | COBOL, BASIC, RPG II | BASIC, RPG IV | BASIC, RPG IV | BASIC (see Comments) | BASIC (see Comments) |
| Operating system PRICING \& AVAILA | Batch, real-time, time-sharing | Batch | Batch | Batch, real-time | Batch, real-time |
| Price of basic system with minimum main storage | \$35,000 | \$9,800 | \$9,800 | \$5,700 | \$10,000 |
| Price of basic system with 8 K words | Not available | \$9,800 | \$9,800 | - | - |
| Date of first delivery Number installed to date | July 1975 | June 1972 1,400 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } 1972 \\ & 1,000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { NA } \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { NA } \\ & \text { NA } \end{aligned}$ |
| COMMENTS | See previous page | R620/L-100, a ruggedized version with the same specifications, costs \$19,500 ( 8 K ) and was first delivered in May 1975 |  | Packaged system 2200, include C (-10), floppy dis disk (-30), and p is implemented or $42.5 \mathrm{~K}(-20$, | based on Wang cassette drive -20, -30), cartridge ter (-30). BASIC eparate $24 \mathrm{~K} \cdot(-10)$ ROM |



