PDP-8 TYPESETTING SYSTEM

DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION • MAYNARD, MASSACHUSETTS
Success Computer at '65 ANPA Proves Composing Room Worth

The computer-controlled typesetting system that got the big attention at the 1965 American Newspaper Publishers Association conference has shown its stuff in the composing room. The under-$30,000 system that was demonstrated at the conference (after field trial) is meeting the challenge of day-in use at large and small newspapers across the country. The '66 model has been improved with the addition of ultra-reliable dual photoelectric readers and addition paper tape punch.

Exceeding announcement claims, the basic PDP-8 Computer Typesetting system is justifying up to 12,000 lines of TTS tape per hour at better than 93 per cent accuracy; fast enough to keep 14 or more high-speed linecasters busy. Expanded PDP-8 systems get 99 per cent accuracy with a low cost Digital magnetic tape unit. Newspapers are getting more output per keyboard-operator; increases run over 100 per cent. Keyboard operators are qualified with a week's training instead of the six months or more that had been taken to train operators to justify and hyphenate with acceptable accuracy.

Papers get justification that's programmed for tightest possible lines. Type is consistent throughout, space is saved, and tight lines that may damage matrices and cause expensive hang-ups have been eliminated. Lines that are mathematically as tight as they can be without jamming the linecasting machines are produced.

At $29,950, the price for the new dual photoelectric reader-punch system, even small papers and job shops are able to get computerized savings and work flow now; the cost of the PDP-8 System need not be split among several departments. Deliveries are being made now. Typically, papers have a PDP-8 system working for them in less than six months after they decide to buy. Expansion of the PDP-8 systems comes in easy steps.

The PDP-8 System is tailored to each installation in that the basic system gives a choice of combinations of measure, type font, and size. Digital sales engineers will discuss requirements and show the PDP-8 System in operation.
**Famous Computer Makes Good**

The PDP-8 Typesetting System accepts unjustified tape faster than 12 keyboard operators can produce it on any 6-level tape perforators. It turns the unjustified tape into hyphenated-justified tape at a rate of 12,000 lines per hour — enough to keep more than 14 line casting machines busy.

PDP-8 computer makes all justification and hyphenation decisions automatically at electronic speeds. At 1½ microsecond cycle time, the Digital PDP-8 is one of the fastest computers in the world. Its 4096 words of magnetic core memory is programmed to contain all the rules needed for justification and regular hyphenation. The PDP-8 enjoys a superb reputation wherever computers are used. The nation's outstanding research institutions have ordered over 300 to date.

The PDP-8 gives open-ended expandability. Core memory can be increased. Drum or low cost DECTape memory can be added. Additional readers or punches can be attached.

ASR 33 Teletype is used for programming and maintenance of computer. Two photoelectric readers accept unjustified tape and feed data into computer. Two 110 cps Teletype BRPE punches punch out hyphenated-justified TTS tape.
Simplicity/Versatility Proven

Normal touch typing skills are all a keyboard operator needs for the PDP-8 system.
Format is established with the simplest of possible commands. Simply typing one number sets most measures, type sizes, and fonts. This format will continue automatically until the operator calls for a new one. Two keystrokes specify a change to lower magazine or upper magazine in linecasters with magazine mixing capability.

The operators can quad left, right or center with only one stroke. If automatic quadding is on the linecasting machine, the computer will automatically punch the appropriate code on the tape. Or if not, the computer calculates the appropriate spaces and puts the space codes on the tape. If your present keyboards already have quad keys, they may be used to accomplish the same job.

There is no need to revamp or retire present procedures or equipment — in the composing room or anywhere else in the organization with the installation of the PDP-8 system.

Versatile

The PDP-8 Typesetting System is going into photo typesetting applications too. It has the speed (uninhibited by other equipment, it can hit 500 lines per second); it has the program capability; and it offers high-speed magnetic tape that can call out any combination of measure, font, or type size your photo composition equipment can deliver.

Digital will help you utilize this versatility with PDP-8 programs that let you set type for display advertising, or even for magazines and books — pagination, captions, footnotes, and all.

Easy to Maintain

Maintenance is equally simple and straightforward. Digital's excellent service department offers a variety of customer service contracts, and a one-week maintenance course for your own personnel.

With the PDP-8, simple keyboard commands set format. For example, the "dollar sign" codes are used as follows:

1 en on left p Ret.
1 em on left p s p Ret.
1 en on right s Ret.
1 mut on right s s s Ret.
1 both sides b Ret.
1 mut both sides b s b Ret.

Variations of indents by combining different dollar sign codes together.

EXAMPLE:
2 muts left, 1 nut, 1 mut right
$ b $ b $ b $ p Ret.

Flush & Hang (Mut) f Ret.
Flush and hang (3 muts 1 nut) g Ret.
Half Column Cut h Ret.
First 3 lines will be flush and the following 13 will be ½ column, then back to normal again.

Restore to normal r Ret.
Tabulation t Ret.
Tabulation with Leader l Ret.
$ l same as t but with leader added in middle.

Delete back to last band EN leader
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