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**CCST Hotline (6200)**
Mon - Fri: 9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sat: 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

**Computer Barns (Rms 4402-4404, 1101, and 4580)**
*Opening hours:*
Mon - Fri: 8:15 a.m. - 10:45 p.m.
Sat: 8:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

*Please note the following changes in room number:*
* Rm 4382 becomes Rms 4402-4404
* Rm 1044 becomes Rm 1101

**Business Computing Laboratory (Rm 4334)**
*Opening hours:*
Mon - Fri: 8:15 a.m. - 10:45 p.m.
Sat: 8:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

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**Editor's Notes**

*Channel* is a bi-monthly publication of the Centre of Computing Services and Telecommunications (CCST) of HKUST. Prepared by the Computing Information Centre of CCST and printed by ETC, *Channel* provides information about CCST plans, developments, and services. Topics on new trends in computing technology and other related topics of general interest are also included. User contributions to *Channel* are welcome and should be sent to the Editor along with the author's name and department.

*Channel* is distributed to all University members who are registered users of CCST services. Other parties who would like to have their names added to our mailing list for *Channel* may complete and return the form on the last page to the Computing Information Centre.

Paul Kwan, Editor of Channel
Computing Information Centre
ckwanwh@usl.hk.ust.hk
New Guidelines for using the "ALLSTAFF" Mail Facility

In our University, e-mail is an indispensable communication tool of most, if not all, staff and students. Over 95% of staff and all students have an e-mail account. With this high popularity, e-mail has become a natural way to disseminate information to a large group of people. As a result, CCST has been supporting a mechanism to allow users to send e-mails to a logical account, "ALLSTAFF", which automatically distributes the message to all the staff who possess an account in the university.

In the past few months, there were some discussions on the appropriateness of sending certain types of e-mails to all the staff. About a month ago, we did a survey to solicit opinions about the "ALLSTAFF" facility and the respondents have raised the following opinions:

* 82% of the respondents felt that many of the ALLSTAFF mails they received were of no relevance to them, and thus got annoyed sometimes by such mails. Some went on to propose CCST to remove this facility.

* About 8% of the respondents considered "ALLSTAFF" mail to be a useful mechanism for information dissemination, and did not mind reading a few extra e-mails which did not concern them.

* The remaining 10% had a mixed feelings about this facility. They considered the facility to be a useful one, but showed concerns about having to read and delete some "junk" mails every now and then.

Mr. Danny Tang
Manager of Computing Information Centre
cdanny@usthk.ust.hk

With the experience so far in supporting the ALLSTAFF facility and the findings of the survey, we decide to retain the facility for the time being but wish all staff to observe the followings:

* The ALLSTAFF facility is only available to Department Heads, Office Managers, and Departmental Computer Coordinators.

* With immediate effect, departments should NOT send "telephone/office location" updates or "Acting appointment" notices to "ALLSTAFF". For the case of "telephone/office location" updates, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all staff to make use of the online communication directory for looking up e-mail address, telephone number, etc.

* Before sending a message to "ALLSTAFF", one should think a second time how relevant the message is to all the staff. If only a small portion of staff will have interest in the content of the message, it is highly desirable to compose a distribution list instead of just sending it to everybody. For certain types of messages, one can consider sending them to Office Managers who have the responsibility to pass on relevant information within the departments.

* One should NOT count on the ALLSTAFF facility to disseminate time critical information. As the number of e-mail accounts increases, the time the system takes to process an "ALLSTAFF" mail can take much longer than one expects.

* It is highly desirable for staff to develop a habit of using the campus Electronic Notice Board (ENB) for disseminating information to a large group of users. The ENB is accessible from any PC, Mac, and Sun or HP Unix workstations. Posting of ENB notices can be done from any PC and workstations.

We'll continue to keep an eye on the ALLSTAFF mail facility. If you have further opinions, please do not hesitate to contact me (e-mail: cdanny; ext. 6241).
Visit of Sir David Ford & Sir Sze-Yuen Chung

On September 23, Sir David Ford and Sir Sze-Yuen Chung visited CCST Computer Barn in Room 4402-4404. They were accompanied by our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Chia-Wei Woo, and PVC-AA, Prof. S.D. Kung.

CCST Director, Dr. William Max Ivey, greeted our honoured guests at the Computer Barn.

Dr. William Max Ivey, assisted by Mr. Paul Kwan, was giving Sir David Ford some ideas of how the Electronic Notice Board (ENB) program had been facilitating the dissemination of information on the UST campus.

We were both surprised and excited on Sir David Ford's interests to know the operations of the ENB program.
Keeping Your Head Above "Unix" Water

Understanding the importance of Unix as an operating system in the campus computing environment, we will dedicate a section from this and next issue of Channel to cover some frequently asked questions (FAQ) on Unix to "keep your head above Unix water".

Q: How do I remove a file whose name begins with a "-"?

A: You must figure out some way to name the file so that it does not begin with a dash. The simplest answer would be to use

```
rm ./-filename
```

assuming "filename" is in the current directory, of course.

This method of avoiding the interpretation of the "-" character works with other Unix commands as well.

Q: How do I get a recursive directory listing?

One of the followings may do what you want:

```
ls -R          (not all versions of "ls" have -R)
find . -print  (should work everywhere)
du -a          (shows you both the name and size)
```

If you are looking for a wildcard pattern that will match all ".c" files in the current directory and below, you will not find one, but you can use the following command at the "%" prompt instead:

```
% some-command 'find . -name "*.c" -print'
```

"find" is a powerful program, and it would be beneficial to learn about it as well.

Q: How do I get the current directory into my prompt?

A: It depends on which shell you are using. It is quite easy with some shells, but rather hard or even impossible with others. Due to limitation on the amount of coverage here, we will focus on what you can do under C Shell, which is the default shell we set for all Unix accounts.

C Shell (csh):

You can put the following lines in your ".cshrc", and customize the prompt variable the way you want.

```
alias setprompt 'set prompt="${cwd}\% "'
setprompt    # to set the initial prompt
alias cd 'chdir \! * && setprompt'
```

If you use "pushd" and "popd", you'll also need

```
alias pushd 'pushd \! * & & setprompt'
alias popd 'popd \! * & & setprompt'
```

Some C shells do not keep a $cwd variable. In such case, you can use 'pwd' instead.

If you simply want the last component of the current directory in your prompt (e.g., "mail\% " rather than "/usr/spool/mail\% "), you can use

```
alias setprompt 'set prompt ="${cwd:\% "%'
```

Some older versions of csh get the meaning of && and || reversed. If you encounter such situation, try doing

```
false && echo bug
```

If the system prints "bug", you need to switch && and || or get a newer version of csh.
Are You Aware Of These ...

As students of the university, you are welcome to use CCST’s computing facilities in Room 1101, 4402 - 4404, 4334, and 4580 (to be opened soon). Notices have been put up inside the laboratories to introduce new policies and facilities from time to time. You are advised to spend a few minutes to browse through these notices before proceeding to use the facilities.

Boot-up a PC

All the PCs in CCST’s computer laboratories must boot from a specially prepared floppy diskette rather than from the hard disk.

Q: How to obtain a boot diskette?
A: Borrow the diskette from the Help Desk in Room 1101. You will be asked to leave your Student ID Card with the Help Desk until you return the diskette.

Q: How to create your own boot diskette?
A: There are two alternatives:

1. After you boot-up a PC, you should login using your email account. On the HKUST PC MENU, you have the option to “Create Your Own Boot Diskette”.

   Once this option is selected, you will be prompted to insert a blank diskette into the A: drive which will be turned into a boot diskette at the end of the process.

2. You could use any of the dedicated print monitoring PCs in the computer laboratories to create your own boot diskette.

Q: How to boot-up a PC?
A: You can boot-up a PC by inserting the boot diskette in the A: drive prior to switching on the computer. Alternatively, you can press <ALT>-<CTRL>-Del when the PC is already on.

Printing your work

You can print your work in 4 different ways:

* Network laser printing (Postscript)

   By default, the LPT2: port of a PC is already connected to a network laser printer when you log in. Laser printing is controlled by a quota system which will be described in a later section.

* Local dot matrix printing

   Dot matrix printers are installed on every row of PCs in all of our computer laboratories. By default, the LPT1: port is connected to the nearest local dot matrix printer when you log in. Turn the knob on the switch box next to your PC to enable local printing.

* Network dot matrix printing

   You can connect the LPT1: port of a PC to one of many network dot matrix printers. To do this, simply choose "Control Network Printers" on the HKUST PC MENU.

* Central laser/line printing

   You can print to system print queues, CCLQ (laser) and SYS$PRINT (band line). Printouts are distributed periodically by our operators on duty to the shared pigeon holes outside the CCST printer room (Rm 2034), which is accessible from Lift 2, 13-15, and 17-18.

   You may check the status of your print job on the PC. This is done by selecting "Others" and then "Examine a network print queue" on the HKUST PC MENU. To remove a print job, select "Delete queued print job" instead.
Laser Printing Quota

To ensure cost effectiveness of the university computing resources, each undergraduate student is provided with a central printing quota governing his/her use of central laser printers in the computer laboratories.

With our current policy, each undergraduate account can print up to 400 pages per year on central laser printers. This does not include printing to the dot matrix printers, however. As a result, you should be careful not to disclose your account password, and to only print final copies on the laser printer.

A facility is provided on the PC for monitoring your printing quota. To do this, you select the "Show Laser Printing Quota" option from "Control Network Printers" on the HKUST PC MENU.

When your printing quota has been exhausted, you will receive a warning mail message from our system staff. Normally, we will not increase your printing quota any further. However, with proper justification from your academic advisor, you may apply for an extension to your current quota. Application forms are available at the Help Desk in Room 1101 or at CCST's General Office in Room LG4007.

In normal circumstance, it may take up to 7 working days to process the application.

On-line Comm. Dir

Since April this year, both the MS-Windows and Macintosh versions of the HKUST On-line Communications Directory have been available for use by HKUST staff computer users.

The Directory contains information about all HKUST staff including the title, full name, department code, e-mail account code, phone extension, and office location. CCST is dedicated to maintain the information as up-to-date as possible. In view of the growth of our staff population, the Directory should provide a handy way to locate an office or a staff member.

To use the MS-Windows version of the program, your PC must be running under MS-Windows 3.1 environment. The program itself is the icon, HKUST Online Communications Directory, inside the HKUST Information Services group. To start up the program, double click the icon with the mouse button. Online Help is also available.

Hardware Upgrade

SPARC 10/42 available for Staff/Postgraduates

In order to meet the computing needs of our users who require to run CPU intensive jobs, a new SPARC 10/42 (ustsu6) has been put into operation. This machine is equipped with dual 40MHz Sparc processors and 64M memory, and can deliver a performance about 10% higher than the SPARC 10/30 (ustsu3). The machine will be rebooted weekly on every Friday morning, and is suitable for users who need to run overnight jobs.

SPARC 10 to replace Sun IPX mail server

To improve on student e-mail server response, we have allocated a SPARC 10 machine that has 64M memory to replace the original Sun IPX machine.
Software Manuals

Selected software manuals are available for circulation in the Computer Barn (Room 1101). A list of manuals is posted on the notice board inside the room for your reference. Please contact the student consultant at the Help Desk for loan of any of these manuals.

Some regulations are being enforced on the loan material:

* A maximum of 1 set of manuals could be borrowed at one time.
* Each loan period is limited to 2 hours.
* A student/staff card should be produced at the time of borrowing. The card is to be held at the Help Desk until the material has been returned.
* The loan material must be returned before the closing of the Help Desk.

Barn Regulations

These regulations should be abided by when using the facilities in any of our Computer Barns.

* No eating, drinking, or smoking is allowed.
* While discussion is encouraged, please be considerate by keeping your noise to a minimum.
* Inform CCST staff on duty immediately when you find any equipment not functioning.
* Do not remove or disconnect any equipment.
* Do not remove system files from local hard disks.
* Do not use another person's computer account without proper authorization.
* Do not use your computer account for unauthorized non-university-related purposes.
* Do not pirate copyrighted software.
* Do not spread computer viruses maliciously. Be careful when you are using someone's floppy diskettes.
* Do not share your account password with other users.

Violation of these regulations may cause suspension of use to CCST's computing resources, and could even face disciplinary actions.

Maintenance Window

It is CCST's objective to maintain a high availability of services. As such, most maintenance jobs are scheduled into time periods when user activities are low. **We have reserved 3:00am to 7:00am everyday as a maintenance window for regular maintenance work on our systems.** Some of such activities might have a negative effect or even corrupt your work if you are using a machine during that period of time. Depending on what you are working on and the nature of maintenance work, broadcast message may not be able to reach your screen. You are therefore recommended to save your work as frequent as possible if you have to work during the maintenance window.
Software News

MATLAB 4.1 on SUN

MATLAB 4.0 had been upgraded to 4.1 on SUN workstations on August 20. MATLAB 4.1 is upward compatible with 4.0, and should be transparent to users.

For details on how to access the software, please consult the "Unix Software - Getting Started" folder in "CCST On-line Information".

** ** ** **

SAS 6.07 on SUN

SAS 6.07 has been available on SUN workstations since August 9. For details on how to access the software, please consult the "Unix Software - Getting Started" folder in "CCST On-line Information".

** ** ** **

Mathematica 2.2 on SUN and HP

Mathematica is a calculational tool and programming language which supports numerical and symbolic computation, and graphical visualization.

The following is a brief description of the current setup.

Version: 2.2
Available on: SUN (SunOS 4.1.x) and HP-UX

How to start: It can be accessed either from an ASCII terminal or in X-window. To invoke the software, type this command at the '%' prompt.

% math

To keep a log of the current session in a file, this command should be typed:

% math -record filename

where filename is the specification of a Unix file.

How to exit: To quit, you could simply type Quit or Exit from within a Mathematica session.


To access the MathBook Library, you could simply type mathbook at the Unix prompt.

To obtain on-line help for a Mathematica object, type ?name from within the current session, where name is the object of interest. To get additional information, type ??name instead.

User Manuals are available for borrowing from the CCST Library.

Notes

(1) This software is operated in network floating licences and there are 23 of them at present. Please be considerate and quit the session whenever you are through using the software.
In case when connection to the software licence manager is disrupted, the following would appear as you type in your command:

Lost connection to server >
??

Users have options:
exit (or quit) to exit Mathematica
retry (or r) to retry server
dump (or d) to dump the data section

You are advised to choose the dump option, and will then be prompted to enter a Unix file name to save the dump. To restart your Mathematica session with the saved dump file, simply type

```
% math -x filename
```

where filename is the saved dump file.

Mathematica 2.1 is still available on the HP machine, ushlp5, until 31 December 1993. To run it, simply type

```
% math-2.1
```

---

**Maple on SUN and HP**

Maple is a software package for symbolic and numeric computation, mathematical programming, and visualization.

The following is a brief description of the current setup.

**Version:** V Release 2

**Available on:** SUN (SunOS 4.1.x) and HP-UX

---

**How to start:** It can be accessed either from an ASCII terminal or in X-window. To invoke the X-window version of Maple, type this command at the '%' prompt:

```
% xmaple
```

To invoke the software on an ASCII terminal, type this command instead:

```
% maple
```

**How to quit:** To quit from Maple, simply type quit.

**Help:** To invoke on-line help in Maple, type '?' from within a Maple session.

An on-line tutorial is also available with this release. To run the tutorial, simply type tutorial() from inside Maple.

User Manuals are available for borrowing from the CCST Library.

---

**Notes:**

1. To obtain more information on this release of Maple, type ?update, v5.2 in Maple.

2. The .m format has changed in Release 2. To recreate your .m files, reload your source code and save it with a .m extension.

3. The plot3d display on HP workstation or xterm might have some strange colour palette selected, but there is no workaround at the moment. This is due to a shortcoming in the colour table handling in X-window.
Announcements

Decommissioning of IMSL Math/Stat Library

Due to both the low utilization of IMSL Math/Stat Library on the VMS platform and the understanding we gained from discussions with various Departmental Computer Coordinators earlier in June, the Centre has decided to discontinue our support for the VMS version of IMSL Math/Stat Library with effect from November 1, 1993.

We will, however, be continuing our support for the Unix version both on Sun and HP platforms. Please consult the "Unix Software - Getting Started" folder of "CCST On-line Information" on how to access the software. To get assistance on using the software, please contact Dr. Robert Luk at ext. 6244 or via email to CCKHLUK.

Staff News

Since August this year, we have had a good number of additions to the different teams within our Centre. Working in our General Office, we have Miss Cindy Yung joining us as Executive Officer in early October. About the same period, Mr. Ken Cheng became our staff as an Assistant Computer Officer. Previously, he was working for the Research Centre here at our university.

** ** **

In our Systems & Operations team, we have Mr. Kenneth Lai coming on board as an Assistant Computer Officer working in the networking area and PC system software. Congratulations to Mr. Steven Wong for his promotion to Senior Computer Officer recently. His previous position was Computer Officer in the same team.

** ** **

Moving on to our Systems Engineering team, we have Mr. Philip Lee coming to work with us as Computer Technician. On an even brighter note, congratulations to Mr. Ken Lau and Mr. Martin Leung for their promotion to Assistant Computer Officer respectively.

** ** **

Finally, in our Information Systems team, we have Mr. Johnny Woo joining us as Computer Officer, Mr. Waybill Mak and Mr. Stanley Man as Assistant Computer Officer respectively. Congratulations are due to Miss Florence Lo and Mr. Eddie Tso for their promotion to Computer Officer.

** ** **

However, we regretted to have Mr. Michael Chan left us in early August for Toronto, Canada. We wish him success in his future endeavors.

Coming & Going

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CCST Contact Points

User Consultation Coordinator -
Mr. Tony Chan - 6243 ccctony

Telephone Services Coordinator -
Ms. Christine Cheng - 6190 ccchong

Training Courses Registration -
Ms. Anna Mak - 6189 ccanama

Requests for Computing Resources -
(Admin & Business)
Mr. William Tung - 6221 ccbtung
(Others)
Mr. Danny Tung - 6241 ccdanny

Problem Reporting E-mail Account -
CCHELP -
For users to send in their problems and difficulties via
e-mail. A consultant will respond to messages sent to
this account as soon as possible.

Suggestion E-mail Account -
CHANNEL -
For users to send in their queries, ideas, suggestions
and comments concerning services we provide. A
consultant will respond to messages sent to this account
as soon as possible.

Phone E-mail

Centre of Computing Services and
Telecommunications . . . .

Director Dr. Wm. Max Ivey 6182 ccmax
Assoc. Director &
Mgr. Systems & Operations
Mr. Lawrence Law 6201 ccslaw

Mgr. Information
Systems
Mr. William Tung 6221 ccbtung

Mgr. CIC
Mr. Danny Tung 6241 ccdanny

Mgr. Systems
Engineering
Mr. Michael Tang 6261 ccmwtang

Editor of Channel Mr. Paul Kwan 6251 cckwanwh

FAX 358 0967
Dialup 358 2440
Computer Operation 6220
SE workshop 6280

The telephone extensions are (852) 358-xxxx.
The Internet addresses are E-mail address@usthk.ust.hk

Channel Mailing List

A mailing list is maintained for the distribution of Channel. To be placed on the mailing list*, fill out this
form completely and mail to the Computing Information
Centre, CCST, Hong Kong University of Science and
Technology, Clear Water Bay Road, Hong Kong. Please
print clearly.

☐ Add my address to the mailing list
☐ Address change (write new address below)
☐ Remove my name from the mailing list

Name :

Organization :

Address :

*Registered users of the CCST services are placed automatically
on the mailing list.