XEROX
BUSINESS SYSTEMS
Systems Development Department

To: Bill Lynch   Date: February 23, 1979

From: Bill Kennedy   Org: SDD/SS/DAM

Subject: Progress - February, DAM   Filed: [Iris]<Kennedy>Memo>Progress-February.Bravo

Administration

The IOCS portion of IODU is now part of Communication Software. The new group is Diagnostics and Microcode (DAM).

All members of DAM have invested a large effort in interviewing candidates for the group as well as other groups. This effort will continue at least until we are at full manpower.

The first Draft of the 1979 Diagnostics, Microcode, and IOCS work plans were submitted.

Bill Kennedy and Tom Chang participated in a general planning meeting for booting the D0 with present and future devices. Bill has also participated in various Teak meetings determining configurations, schedules, etc.

MicroCode

Carol Hankins has left the group and the company. Tom Chang and Bill Kennedy are taking over Carol's duties with the microcode.

Tom is learning the D0 microcode. He was involved in the release of version 2.1b with Carol plus he made a new D0 boot file for the Functional Test group after finding and correcting errors in the key translation of newly' added keys for ADUP.

Tom summarized the word use per page per function for microcode version 2.1b. This summary was used by Bill Kennedy in preliminary planning for future microcode usage.

Tom and Bill have worked out a strategy for Software Booting. Bill is working on a memo describing our strategy and Tom is working on the microcode necessary to support the Software Booting. Portions of the Software Booting task have been parceled out to Pilot and Don Charnley from the Workstation Design group.

Diagnostics

Jim Peterson and Elizabeth Rentmeesters attended the IWP Symposium in Los Angeles. They will be participating in a debriefing Crosstalk Tuesday, the 27th.

Elizabeth has continued to work on the user interface of Verification Diagnostics. In this function, she is serving as an Alpha Tester for Star software, especially the window software. An initial version of Window has been debugged and run for the Verification Diagnostics.

Jim Peterson has been coding the memory tests which will become part of the System Diagnostics. These tests are written in Mesa and will eventually run with a version of UtilityPilot.

Tom Clark continues to work on version 2.0 of the Initialization Diagnostics. He has integrated the Ethernet microcode diagnostics from Roy Ogus into ID successfully. NAND has also been updated to include the Ethernet diagnostics. Tom is working on a new memory testing algorithm to be used to test D0 main memory from the Initialization Diagnostics.

Bill assisted in the installation of the RDC and Shugart 4008 on the DAM D0 (Bags in room 33-227). This RDC/4000 will be used by Diagnostics to develop tests and IOCS to develop controllers and drivers. Bill has a second RDC and has asked that Hans Scharmann get another Shugart 4008 with cables shipped to us as soon as possible to serve as backup.

Acceptance Tests

A schedule for availability of the Acceptance Tests for the Pre-Prototype D0s has been worked out by John Wick and Bill Kennedy. Bill is working on the microcode tests which comprise Phase 1 of the tests.

Miscellaneous

Tom Chang has been trouble-shooting the problems in the D0 Misc board update files. All known problems have been fixed. He has also assisted the Workstation group in finding the proper board and Sil macros to use in Workstation design. Tom has finished and verified the MultiWire board-characteristics for Ron Rider's Decompress board.

Bill and Jim have taken possession of Altos in their offices.

Bill has been assisting Jim White in the assumption of IOCS. Some transfer of information is still taking place.

Bill has been managing the upgrade of Palo Alto Engineering Model D0s to a Pre-Prototype level. This upgrade effort has gone slower than planned. All stumbling blocks should be passed now and progress accelerate. One EM D0 in building 33 has been upgraded successfully and is being used to develop the microcode for the Pre-Prototype level machines. This D0 is in Rich Johnsson's office.

Problems

Star7.1 software requires a double-disk, wide-body Alto to run. DAM does not presently have any wide-body Altos although chips are on order to make one.

New people in DAM are having difficulty acquiring the "big picture" of the basic system and all available support features and documentation. Tutorials would help on Mesa, Debugger, Pilot, and Star for all new employees of SDD.

DAM is short on necessary people for Microcode and Diagnostics. Location of people in DAM is and will be a problem with the separation between buildings.