

Tom Harbron

This is the installation management forum. It is designed to be an interactive session. It has several purposes. I have had three people volunteer to work with me on the installation management committee, but none of them seem to be here at the moment. But, input from others who would be willing to make contributions in this area would be appreciated. As we go through the session here, I think you will get some feeling of the nature of the topics.

What I would like to do here in this session, is first of all, outline the mission of the installation management committee, solicit your suggestions and ideas along these lines. And, then in the time remaining, we could have a little question and answer session on topics of installation management. There are enough people here that we can find answers to most of the questions.

I would like to introduce Robert Young from the National Institute of Medical Research in London, who has volunteered to work with us. This is quite helpful because many of the problems European users face are quite different from those that we in North America have to deal with.

The mission of the installation management committee, as I outlined back in the newsletter of July, involves three kinds of activities. First of all, let me say this is not an exhaustive list and I am quite willing to amend it and add to it, as we go along. What I have outlined here are three kinds of activities.

One is meetings. We really didn't get a chance to get organized before this meeting. But, before the next one we can have some papers and sessions on installation management. If some of you have ideas and want to give a paper on that next year, please let me know.

The second thing is developing some standard operating procedures. There are a wide variety of things. To take one, for example, system backup procedures. How do you do this? How is it managed? And, we have had some questions on that here in this meeting. There are a lot of things like this that would be helpful

to many people to have; not just do it this way, but here is a variety of different procedures that are used by different installations. Take your pick.

The third activity that I think is going rather well, is the columns in the newsletter on topics that have been suggested, or in some cases that have already been produced, I have about a dozen of them here: backup procedures; connecting terminals, either hardwired or through modems; resource accounting, which goes into the question of billing and all of that; documentation; what to do until the CE comes; locality; virtual memory and structured programming, which are two different but related topics. I don't like the term, but I have not found a better one, vendor control, that which we have been discussing for the last hour is in this category. Hardware error detection on the Series II, which has some tools that were not available on the Series I; data design base. You take essentially the same programs and run it on data bases that are slightly different in design and it makes a world of difference in performance. Segmentation also heavily impacts performance. Those are some of the topics we have on the list anyway. I am sure there are a lot more that will come along.

Those are the activities. Now the subjects, and I am sure it is only a partial list: system integrity, operating techniques, hardware utilization, programming practices, system measurements, disc space management, data base design, etc.

The question is if and when we get replaceable disc packs, how should those be managed? I think we will have to have some information from HP on how it is going to be implemented before we can do anything on that. But, when the time comes it will be an important aspect of disc management. I can see potential problems in handling that. You take a pack off and a file a guy needs is gone, and why is it gone and what do you do about it?

I thank you for your input. It has been most helpful. I will thank you even more for substantial input in the forms of contributions to the newsletter columns, papers to be given at the next meeting, SOP's, or if you have any other substantial contribution.