

Memorandum M-1920

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Digital Computer Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

SUBJECT: MEETINGS AT PROJECT HIGH ON MARCH 3 AND 4

To: N. H. Taylor

From: C. W. Watt

Date: March 18, 1953

Abstract: Two meetings, one on mechanical design of the general purpose plug in unit for WWII, and one on joint MIT-IBM component standards were held Tuesday, March 3; and one on drafting procedures was held on Wednesday, March 4. A number of proposals were made at the March 3 meetings. Final Decision on the plug in unit design will await construction of models and further proposal drawings, both due about May 1.

Final action on drafting procedures will be taken March 31.
IBM and MIT personnel participated in both meetings.

I. Mechanical design:

The March 3 morning meeting was attended by Coombs, Ballard, Henn, Montgomery, Crawford and Ross of IBM; and Kromer, Ayer, and Watt of MIT.

IBM's proposals for a general purpose plug in unit were considered in some detail. It was decided that the design covered by the drawings presented was generally good. Discussion brought out a number of improvements that could be made and at the end of the meeting it was decided to have mechanical samples made as follows:

1. Samples of only 4 and 8 tube units will be made, and will be finished by May 1.
2. Amphenol Blue Ribbon connectors will be used in the samples.
3. A cover for the tubes will be an integral part of the plug in unit, and will include the latch for holding the unit in place. When the plug in units are mounted in their racks, the closed covers will together form an air duct for the cooling air.

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4. The plug in units will mount horizontally, as now visualized. They will slide into place on tracks at the sides, the tracks both guiding the units and providing separation between them.

5. Only octal and miniature tubes will be used.

A second design will be drawn up for a plug in unit of the same dimensions but using an improved version of the IBM Cam-locking connector. No models of this will be made at present.

- II. At a meeting in the afternoon, the procedure needed to develop a joint MIT-IBM standards book was discussed. About the same people were present as in the morning, with the addition of Goetz and Rudman of IBM.

The need for a joint standards book to serve as a guide in component selection for IBM and MIT engineers was discussed. It is expected that a joint standards committee will be set up to do the actual work of preparing such a book. Information to permit a rational selection of components will be drawn from

1. IBM experience
2. IBM component tests now in progress.
3. MIT experience with WWI and MTC.
4. Reliability information gathered from discussions with component manufacturers.
5. Any other pertinent experience that can be garnered from the industry.

It was proposed by Watt of MIT that the MIT standards sheets, now incorporated in the Digital Computer Lab Standards Book, be used as a basis from which to build a new standards book, there being a large number that could be taken over almost intact. These sheets could be marked "Joint IBM-MIT Standard". Test, life, application, and reliability data could be added on new sheets for each type of component. No decision was reached, however, on just how the matter should be handled.

Goetz proposed that his group set up in rough form a sample section of a possible standards book, incorporating all available information, and have it ready by March 16 for further discussion. This will be done.

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III. Wednesday morning, March 4, a meeting on Drafting standards was held. Present were Kromer, Falcione, Ayer, and Watt of MIT; and Montgomery, Ballard, Henn, and Ashton of IBM.

The following subjects were discussed:

1. Paper sizes, types, and title blocks.
2. Numbering systems.

The following decisions were tentatively made.

1. MIT and IBM will use the same paper, with the same title blocks.
2. MIT drawings will be identified by a printed transparent sticker.
3. All drawings will be pencil on vellum.
4. Paper sizes should be Air Force approved, per MIL spec.
5. Montgomery will get samples of paper now in use at the IBM Endicott plant. If these meet the requirements it may be possible to use them as is.
6. Block diagrams, Block Schematics, and Circuit Schematics will be made so that they will not have to be redrawn for use in Manuals, but only reduced in size.
7. IBM will propose a numbering scheme.
8. A meeting will be held March 31 to make final decisions on the above points and to discuss drawing release and change procedures.

Signed C. W. Watt
C. W. Watt (33m)

CWW:mfc

cc:

A. Kromer
A. Falcione

W. Ayer
A. Kromer (for IBM)
3 copies

B. Paine
H. Hodgdon