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Memorandum M-780

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Project Whirlwind
Servomechanisms Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

SUBJECT: STUDY OF CHECKING AND TROUBLE LOCATION METHODS

TO: 6345 Engineers

FROM: Jay W. Forrester

DATE: February 10, 1949

The research thus far on checking methods has been exploratory and has not yet taken final form for use in Whirlwind I. To give this activity more emphasis, a group is being set up under George Sumner and E. S. Rich to study checking and trouble location methods. The work of this group can be divided into several interrelated departments which are listed below with tentative staff assignments:

1. Techniques for applying trouble location methods to Whirlwind I:

George Sumner

2. Marginal checking procedures:

Ed Rich
Richard Read

3. Check problems to determine if the entire computer is operating satisfactorily:

Charles Adams (full time)
Rollin Mayer

4. Trouble location problems for the isolation of permanent faults:

No present assignment.

5. Demonstration problems for Whirlwind I with test storage:

Gerald Cooper (full time)

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In addition to those actively working on the problem, the following are invited to group discussions for liaison purposes:


R. R. Everett
H. Fahnestock
P. Franklin
N. H. Taylor
S. H. Dodd
C. R. Wieser
G. C. Sumner
G. G. Hoberg
W. G. Welchman
J. M. Salzer
C. W. Watt

A discussion period will be held every few weeks for the interchange of information. The first will be Monday, February 14 at 3:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the work to date and that now in progress, and as an aid in outlining the work of the next few weeks. The following are asked to prepare a brief discussion of their work already done in this field:

G. C. Sumner
E. S. Rich
G. G. Hoberg
C. W. Adams
R. P. Mayer

In addition to this study of checking, a related study of problems for initial machine use after electrostatic storage is installed will be carried out by:

Professor Franklin
T. V. Hildebrandt
P. Rabinowitz
E. Reich.


Jay W. Forrester

JWF:bc