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Memorandum M-1602

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Digital Computer Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

SUBJECT: MTC MEETING OF AUGUST 18, 1952

To: MTC Planning Group

From: W. A. Hosier

Date: August 20, 1952

Abstract: Decisions and progress relevant to the proposed Memory Test Computer (MTC) are summarized for distribution to those interested, and to trace development of the computer.

Present: K. H. Olsen R. von Buelow R. Hughes
 N. H. Taylor W. A. Hosier
 H. Smead J. Crane
 R. R. Everett W. Ogden

K. Olsen, R. von Buelow, and others of their group arranged this meeting to submit their proposals for the physical layout of the MTC.

As has been indicated previously, control will be built of Burroughs equipment in two or three eight-foot relay racks; the rest of the computer will be of strips holding 16 plug-in units, each strip 6" x 42", mounted vertically in two groups of six in frames made of WWI aluminum channel. Samples of rack power supplies consisting of decoupling filter, fuses and interlock relay, one to each eight-foot rack and one to each plug-in strip, were shown and approved.

Actually, Olsen proposed using plug-in units only for flip-flops, and to substitute for other elements such as gates, peakers, and buffers, single 6" x 42" panels fitting in the same rack space, thus simplifying wiring. Taylor demurred in approving this proposal pending meetings to be held August 21 and 22, on grounds that it may hinder interchange of components and make the MTC less flexible than it ought to be.

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Marginal checking was to be accomplished by dividing the computer into conveniently small circuit groups, each having an appropriate power supply level (usually the screen) controlled by a toggle switch, which would substitute for the regulated supply one which could be varied as desired. Three separate levels, it was thought, would be so varied: ground, +90v., and possibly +250v.

Two other somewhat interrelated problems were those of cooling and of weight distribution; a platform built to distribute the computer's weight over enough floor area might also house blower ducts and some of the power wiring. The two 15 h.p. WWI compressors recently replaced by larger equipment will be available for MTC. It was decided to refer the cooling problem to an air-conditioning engineer through H. Fahnestock.

Signed



W. A. Hosier

WAH:jmm

Approved



R. R. Everett