

Forrester

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Memorandum L-111

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Division 6 - Lincoln Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
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SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, July 27, 1953

To: Group Leaders

From: David R. Brown

Date: July 27, 1953

Present: Jay W. Forrester, D. R. Brown, C. I. Corderman, N. L. Daggett,
S. H. Dodd, R. R. Everett, H. Fahnestock, J. C. Proctor,
N. H. Taylor, C. R. Wieser, and P. Youtz

Agenda: Transfer of MTC memory to WWI

Recent computer programs for the Cape Cod effort make use of electrostatic storage in a manner to increase the number of failures due to deflection drift. On July 25, parity alarms occurred at the rate of four per hour.

The present MTC magnetic-core memory provides a storage capacity equivalent to that of one bank of storage tubes. Corderman and Daggett spent July 23 and 24 making a critical evaluation of the MTC memory. No serious weakness was found. The present sensing amplifier could be improved and the sensitivity to power-supply-voltage transients, particularly on the -300 volt line, could be reduced. The MTC memory appears to have a high degree of stability and would probably require less maintenance than the electrostatic storage of WWI.

The electrostatic-storage system in WWI should be replaced by a magnetic-core memory sometime during the next year. One possibility is to replace one bank of electrostatic storage with the existing MTC memory before September 1. A second MTC memory to replace the second bank of storage tubes would be constructed for the earliest possible installation. The present storage-tube memory should be maintained in full operation until the transfer is complete. The WWI and Cape Cod maintenance program should not be interrupted. Improvement of the Cape Cod System must continue.

Three MTC staff members would be available to assist in the installation of the MTC memory in WWI. These are Ogden, Widrowitz and Boyd.

In order to avoid any curtailment of the FSQ-7 program, construction and tests of the second MTC memory should be the responsibility of Groups 61 and 64. Group 63, however, would have to procure and test the cores for the memory for the second bank.

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Dodd will undertake sufficient planning, including time scheduling and assignment of manpower to determine what course we should take. One course would be to take some known steps to improve the reliability of the electrostatic-storage. Another course would be to transfer the existing MTC memory to WWI, replacing one bank of storage tubes. Construction of a second MTC memory to replace the second bank might also be undertaken.

Group 62 can provide some assistance to Groups 61 and 64 in the transfer of the MTC memory to WWI. However, Group 62 requires assistance from Groups 61 and 64 in some areas, notably display and programming.

Signed

David R. Brown

David R. Brown
Secretary

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