Use of PC's

The SPS Division has about 100 PC's (70 IBM PC-AT, 20 Olivetti M24 and 12 MacIntosh). The majority of them were bought for, and are used in, technical work such as program development, electronic CAD and as components in the new SPS/LEP controls system. The latter PC's use Xenix and do, of course, have administrative tasks in connection with the program development work, such as text processing, communications etc. Only very few PC's were justified on grounds of office or administrative work. None were purchased as terminals for the main computers, although several have indeed by now got Index links.

The programs used reflect both the lack of any policy or support provided as well as the great diversity of applications which exists. The variety can as much be thought of as part of the learning process as anything else. As a result, though, the SPS division can probably consider itself rather PC literate.

Few serious administrative applications have been isolated, the most appropriate probably being the use of PERT-MASTER for planning the 100MHz project, Multiplan in the mechanical workshop for job costing and follow-up, lists of suppliers etc (other workshops use Oracle on the Vax for this application), and the shut-down planning for the SPS which runs on Framework.
Some text processing is done on a memo/small report basis using PC-Write, Easy-writer, Word-perfect and several others. Occasionally this text is transferred to the Wang system using diskettes, which is also possible from Xenix users.

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