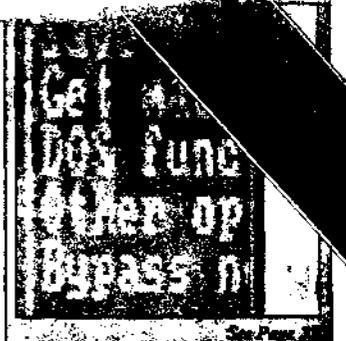


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Big Firms Still Want Lots of PCs — for Now

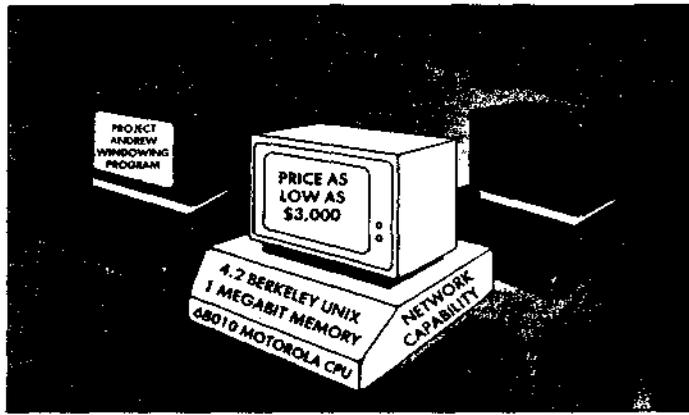
BY SCOTT MACE, BUREAU CHIEF AND JIM FORBES, SENIOR EDITOR

Several of the country's largest microcomputer buyers are acquiring far more units, but at least one who obtains micros by the thousands said the binge could end abruptly.

"We have a lot of momentum going," said Joseph T. Brophy, senior vice president of data processing at Travelers Insurance, in Hartford, Connecticut. "The personal computer is becoming very much a part of our business environment. It is becoming so much a way of doing business here that the momentum is carrying us on."

Heavy buying continues also at Boeing Computer Services, the Seattle division of the 99,000-employee aerospace company. "We're bringing in a reasonable amount per year," said Richard Metz, manager of product management. Metz's group at Boeing publishes an internal catalog that sets hardware and software standards for the company.

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Two separate but related projects at Carnegie Mellon University and MIT may lead to the commercial production of new supermicrocomputers that use fast 32-bit processors, the Unix operating system, and high-resolution displays — all for about \$5,000.

University Research Could Result in Powerful Micros

BY JIM FORBES SENIOR EDITOR

Several projects at leading engineering universities, backed by manufacturers including IBM and Digital Equipment Corp., could result in a new generation of powerful, inexpensive microcomputers for schools and corporations alike.

Carnegie Mellon University and the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology are putting the final touches on software running on DEC Mini VAXs, IBM PC ATs, and Sun Microsystems workstations that will first lead to more transportable software and second to new generations of personal computers, according to John P. Crepine, assistant vice president of academic affairs for Carnegie Mellon University.

The universities are working on software that has been written to the so-called 3M standard — network-capable workstations with high-resolution monitors, 1 megabyte of memory, and central processing units capable of performing 1 million instructions per second. Because such systems can also be used for desktop graphics workstations, university-developed systems could erode future market share of commercial products such as the Personal Logician AT from Daisy Systems,

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Bills Proposed To Add Clout to Communication Protection Laws

BY ELIZABETH RANNEY REPORTER

Legislation expected to be introduced this month in the U.S. Senate would place computer communications under the protection of federal laws that already cover wiretaps of oral communications.

A similar move is under way in California, where a proposed amendment to the state constitution would add supplementary clout to existing laws protecting computer communications.

The federal bill, sponsored by senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont), would update 1968 federal wiretap laws, said John Podesta, Leahy's chief minority counsel. The legislation would change definitions in the existing laws to cover digital communications, create new civil and criminal penalties for breaking into nonpublic electronic communications systems, and provide standards for access to computer information by law enforcement officials.

"The legislation really takes a privacy-trespass approach to communications not designed to be public," Podesta said. "If you don't create a zone of privacy, you prevent the growth, acceptance, and use of communications technology."

Several organizations are ready to support the forthcoming legislation. The Electronic Mail Association and the American Civil Liberties Union have both been involved with the proposal's drafting.

Michael F. Cavanagh, executive director of the Electronic Mail Association, in Washington, D.C., said his organization strongly supports the senator's proposed

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Two Software Lobbying Groups Fight Over Tone of Anti-Piracy Ad

BY SCOTT MACE BUREAU CHIEF

A pair of computer industry lobbying organizations are at loggerheads over a new anti-software piracy ad. The advertiser is being labeled irresponsible by the opposing group.

The new ad, produced by the Software Publishers Association (SPA) of Washington, D.C., is scheduled to run in four computer magazines. It shows a smiling man in a suit and tie. The ad's headline reads, "A common criminal." In the ad, SPA informs readers that the unauthorized duplication of copyrighted software is a violation of federal laws.

Across the Potomac River, SPA's ad is being criticized by another group that strongly opposes software piracy. "It will create a certain amount of anger in the user

community," said David B. Sturtevant, senior director of public communications at the Association of Data Processing Service Organizations (ADAPSO) of Arlington, Virginia.

ADAPSO has been running anti-piracy ads for the past seven months, but Sturtevant said the group's campaign takes a different approach from SPA's. One typical ADAPSO ad headline reads, "I didn't know it was a crime." Sturtevant said that instead of calling users criminals, ADAPSO gives them good reasons why they should stop illegally duplicating software.

The text of the SPA ad reads, in part: "He doesn't look like a common criminal. But he just copied software illegally. It's not a common crime. It's a federal offense."

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LEADING SPREADSHEETS IN USE

An Informatics General survey of corporate microcomputer users shows that Lotus 1-2-3 is used four times more often than any other spreadsheet program.

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