

from #2

APPENDIX C

Open-ended Comments

- ___:35 Athena Short Answer
- ___:74 General Computer Comments
- ___:75 Athena Open-ended Comments

157:35: I can't have access to my account (in the student center library) from my fraternity.

158:35: Attempts to address needs of naive user.

164:35: Systems slow down considerably with only 7-10 users.

167:35: Although I don't use it much, I am quite pleased with the general concept.

168:35: Would be satisfied except it was slow.

169:35: Haven't used it enough yet to form an opinion.

170:35: Easy to use, very available.

172:35: Slow response, bad output quality.

174:35: It's not working very well (i.e. the student center fiber optic line crashed), and I can't tell whether it will be reliable in the future.

175:35: Haven't used it much yet, but when will one (or can one) access Athena and printers by phone? I've been told not.

176:35: Can't access with 300 baud modem.

177:35: It allows me to get on a computer anytime I want. It does have problems with connections Andromache is down too much.

178:35: At times, UNIX is very vague.

183:35 Did't use.

184:35: Unlimited easy access.

189:35: I never had an Athena account.

190:35: I just registered today.

193:35: I haven't gotten to know it well.

194:35: Some of the UNIX commands are difficult to use and remember. However, man and APROPOS are very helpful."

195:35: High quality equipment and programs.

197:35: Laser printers are nice but games could have better graphics. Student Center cluster very convenient.

198:35: No problems up till now.

201:35: Slow logon. Uses for 6.013 and 6.014 are a waste of time.

204:35: It worked. Doesn't support VI, don't know Scribe, printer cheap.

205:35: I finished what I needed to with little hassle.

206:35: Relatively fast but not "COMPLETE".

210:35: Less than very satisfied because it still has a way to go; a lot of software needs to be written for the system.

211:35: Satisfies because of easy availability of terminals, dissatisfied because system is slow.

212:35: Useful for papers, but network goes down, laser printers are featureless (should be better).

213:35: Has potential but is slow and at times hard to use.

217:35: The Athena has a fairly good set of capabilities, but have many improvements which could (and probably eventually will) be made.

221:35: The system discourages the use of current innovative trends in personal computing e.g.. w y s i w y g editing,

h o e s h o e

a u e a u t

t t

UNIX is not the O.S. of the

future.

222:35: Emacs on Athena is terrible. It is too easy to get lost on the system and then stuck.

225:35: Printer support is so-so.

226:35: We were required to use it for 6.013 and 6.014. It worked fine, but it was only for problem sets, which aren't thrilling.

229:35: No news. (Its presence would probably cause people to use news too much).

230:35: Haven't had any major problems yet.

234:35: What's taking so long?

235:35: Seems to be vanilla UNIX; laser printers can't compare with X9700.

240:35: I just got an account, and have only used it once.

242:35: I haven't really used it enough to go one way or the other. However, the fact the Ringworld cluster can't be logged into from anywhere but the Student Center will keep me on EECS; it's too much trouble to go all the way up there when, if it was on the net, I could login from the terminal Ward (from EECS or other Athena machines).

248:35: Very powerful - many uses.

252:35: Slow response time, unsupported programs (e.g. only EMACS and Scribe are available. No VI, EX, NROFF, etc.) A mailer package [???

instead of running as a subsystem, requires me to remember a LARGE number of [???] commands.

253:35: It's a loss, incompetently conceived, over inflated expectations "Acts gag barf".

255:35: Very excited and satisfied with possible Athena use - especially word processor, but haven't had a chance to get over there and use it!

256:35: Wonderful graphics, user friendly too.

257:35: It has been very reliable and friendly most of the time. I like the UNIX system.

262:35: System is very slow, hard to get a terminal.

264:35: The long walk to the cluster.

271:35: More software should be included. By the way, don't hand Athena to Information Services.

272:35: Haven't really had a chance to use my account yet.

274:35: I would like to be able to logon on to or from Athena from any cluster.

276:35: Good documentation; good equipment.

277:35: I am upset at being moved from building 11 which was very convenient for me to the student center which is far away.

278:35: Slow, overburdened, not enough facilities.

280:35: The software used (for the Chem. Lab system 5.33) was awful.

292:35: I'd rather use my own - no lines.

293:35: Lots of availability, features good documentation.

296:35: I feel that there is much user support to be implemented, yet I am pleased with those facilities already implemented.

298:35: While quite functional, the Athena system is some what less than optimal.

301:35: I've lost my "fears" to computers and now I'm learning to use them as I need to.

303:35: For a huge system, it is fairly simple to get around in.

304:35: Not enough experience yet.

307:35: It's efficient.

308:35: I can't use F***ing computers without getting high blood

pressure. I need my own tutor.

309:35: Made my life easier.

315:35: Forced to use class account of problems getting account. Asked consultant and he was totally ignorant of what was going on.

317:35: Lot's of opportunity to experiment with and take advantage of powerful software and languages.

320:35: There is a choice of printers. Writing programs are easier than on an HP.

321:35: It's adequate, but buggy.

324:35: [Satisfied] except for printer in Student Center!

326:35: Not too many problems.

327:35: It gave me the calculations I needed.

330:35: It would be "very satisfied" but the loads are always too high and the LN01 is always broken.

331:35: Seems to be a few bugs still.

332:35: Haven't used it much yet.

334:35: I don't like the consultants chosen.

335:35: Very versatile (UNIX), faster than Multics (at least for now).

337:35: It is very versatile and easy to use.

340:35: I have only used Athena for my 2.10 problem sets and I've had no real problems.

342:35: Very powerful system but too slow many times (to compile, run, etc).

345:35: Athena has some faults yet to be corrected - but I think, in general, everyone is doing his best.

353:35: Fine for rogue or hack.

355:35: [Satisfied because of] capabilities ...

358:35: Usually computers available, easy access

364:35: I want it to be better, easier, and produce more attractive output. I also want more DISK SPACE!!!

368:35: Amazing!!

371:35: It's slow, but it works - most of the time.

373:35: Satisfied, but would like a dial-up line to the student center machines

- 374:35: It seems like a good system - call-a-consultant and consultants in terminal rooms are good.
- 379:35: Everything's so new! No H19s.
- 380:35: I just entered data into a program, I never really used it, so I have no opinion.
- 382:35: I have only used it for my homework due specifically from a computer -- only use it when I have to.
- 384:35: Was used in class - didn't impress me with capabilities.
- 385:35: It's changing all the time; and I haven't had time to learn "the system" yet.
- 388:35: Inadequate explanation of intricacies of system.
- 390:35: Can only login to student center accounts on those terminals - can't login from other machines or dialup.
- 391:35: Haven't used it yet.
- 392:35: New, powerful.
- 393:35: Haven't used it enough.
- 394:35: The computers are accessible. Other than the printers being down, there seem to be very little problems that disrupt usage. Athena has the only computers that I have access to, so I have come to depend on it for text editing.
- 405:35: It mostly gives the computer access I need.
- 407:35: Too slow.
- 410:35: Things are too "up in the air".
- 412:35: Haven't used it enough to form an opinion.
- 413:35: Not enough outside phone lines.
- 414:35: Load is often too high in the W20 cluster.
- 415:35: Terminal rooms can be crowded and the machines can be slow at times, but in general the Athena system is excellent.
- 420:35: It tends to be slow and not as user friendly as I would like.
- 422:35: Mail handling is not as easy as in Multics but still good.
- 424:35: I have not yet discovered its potential. I am used to the TOPS-20 operating system and I find the system used by the Athena System to be both confusing and sometimes irritating. Every time I use UNIX, for example, I have to remember that "delete files" is rm, not delete or r-esc. No completion

is a pain!

425:35: Don't really use it for anything real, and don't use it often. Not very familiar with the operating system....

435:35: Would be great but it is a bit slow and too many game players.

437:35: I don't really understand how the system works (all the machine-name stuff, etc.) because I don't care to spend the time.

438:35: Efficient, but where can I get laser-printed copies?
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601:35: Documentation could be better.

608:35: It was better in early March when I first got an account - less crowded.

611:35: Can do a lot with it not too difficult to learn, I didn't like Emacs too much though.

612:35: I had some problems, but mostly from my own ignorance.

613:35: Familiar with UNIX; load is quite high now, may increase dramatically.

615:35: Haven't really used system extensively.

616:35: Don't have one/can't afford.

617:35: Haven't use Athena very much.

619:35: Needed help to establish account. Found task of learning UNIX too great at this time.

620:35: Quite good. Laser printers in Student Center not very good.

624:35: I live at East Campus and I wish I could use Bldg. 66 vs going clear to the student center. That is also the main complaint about Athena in my dormitory.

626:35: I would be very satisfied if I didn't have to go to W20 all the time to use Athena.

627:35: Terminals were available and working and the system worked fairly quickly.

629:35: It's nifty.

631:35: Why not, it worked.

632:35: Emacs good, but not all that much else.

636:35: It was very convenient for writing papers. Scribe works well.

637:35: I want to get to know it better so I can fully exploit its resources.

644:35: Not enough dial up lines nor transfer of personal information (i.e. lack of fingering capabilities in a more general manner); I would also like a news network.

647:35: It works fine when I'm there and a lot of people are not on the system.

648:35: Haven't used it extensively.

652:35: The Athena system has not been as negative in my experience as have other systems. It seems to be slightly more user friendly, although not as much as it could be.

653:35: They try hard an are friendly but, there are always bugs and unexpected problems.

655:35: It has it pluses and minuses, often too slow, crowded or printer broken.

656:35: Not used often enough to develop opinion.

658:35: I registered only yesterday onto Athena.

659:35: Only one problem set problem.

660:35: It has done what it suppose to.

661:35: I found the student center machines slow for Emacs and the printer was working like garbage. I was told that this was because everyone else was doing I/O intensive activities (i.e. Rogue).

664:35: Not user-friendly.

668:35: Awesome graphics and computational [???].

669:35: I haven't used it enough yet.

671:35: Never an available terminal!

672:35: No letter quality printers at student center. Machines are much too slow - get rid of the games on the machines. Not enough terminals because too many a*****s playing games. Give them a game machine/server somewhere else and take the load off the "real" machines.

674:35: I don't have enough knowledge to base my decision on. I am a beginner.

676:35: Has Rogue.

678:35: Good question: why should I?

680:35: Rapidly went from non-user to using editor C compiler for useful work; short learning curse because of good and available

documentation, accessible consultants and good user-interface design considerations.

681:35: Lots of capabilities, but there are some nasty bugs-like having EMACS go haywire and do strange things to an entire file!

682:35: Some good pts., some bad pts. Bad - can't send mail to PRIME. Good - having access to a computer.

685:35: High terminal/user ratio.

691:35: Directories not easily accessed.

692:35: It's useful, but I've had problems with EMACS.

693:35: easily accessible, however I wish all of the Athena terminals were linked to other MIT systems such as EECS. I also wish that there were dialups to the Student Center Athenas.

694:35: I wasn't able to login.

696:35: [Satisfied] but frustrated learning formatting commands for Emacs, Scribe.

697:35: I like UNIX, the networking software, and the power of the machines, compared to my IBM PC.

705:35: The people playing games slow the whole system down - kick them off!
It is excellent to have the opportunity to use a computer - thank you.

706:35: The system has good options, but I find it to be a bit long (timewise) in learning the many commands and systems.

707:35: Good, but slow over modems.

708:35: Did a .013 problem set, and it was SLOW (system was Not at all crowded).

711:35: Slow.

719:35: Have only used it twice.

722:35: The course didn't teach me enough so I feel frustrated trying to learn all the "tricks".

726:35: Rotten printers - get access to a Xerox 8700 or 9700!

727:35: Used it in a 5.33 Lab, not all experiments were hooked up on it. This would be useful.

728:35: So far I have encountered little difficulty.

733:35: ease of use, good productivity

734:35: The system is convenient, but not reliable.

736:35: Not enough exposure yet to make a judgment.

737:35: Printouts I received were very poor.

738:35: used solely for problem sets

739:35: Computer crashes all the time, EMACS editor constantly puts garbage characters in my files (they're not really there), our terminal (H-29) emulates a vt100 and H19, neither will work with EMACS correctly. Let's face it, EMACS really sucks!

741:35: Saved work on 5.33 experiment.

744:35: It has the capabilities o handle most of my computer needs.

158:74: Computer access of information on individuals should be tightly controlled. The more people are comfortable with computers the easier a lot of things will be.

159:74: DEFINITELY PLEASED that a university-wide open access system (ATHENA) finally exists! I am a little worried about the "integrity" of its use, as it is a relatively (open network)...

160:74: I really don't like programming mostly because it can be so tedious and picky. If you screw up just one comma or semi-colon your whole program won't work. Computers are, however, very useful and can be very helpful, especially when conducting an experiment.

161:74: Computers require too many tedious details, when you make one mistake and can't find it, it's a pain.

162:74: Computers need to be more user-friendly. Most systems take too long to learn.

165:74: Documentation generally is poor. Athena has terrible on-line documentation, i.e., none. "HELP" does nothing useful.

166:74: a.) What I like (even though my minimal experiences have not been that positive):

- computational abilities (especially. complex iterations)
- wordprocessing capabilities
- memory and storage of information
- knowledge increases job opportunities

b.) What I don't like:

*- I have a hangup such that I cannot learn programming easily (I dropped 2.10)

- too many greasy, disgusting geeks and nerds hang around computers, especially at MIT
- because of * above, I feel inferior and incompetent with computers, and therefore have not gone out of my way to interface.

169:74: Computers are useful tools. They can be over-emphasized, and under-utilized.

170:74: I think that some computer users begin to feel the machines are "magic" or life-like. I feel very strongly that the fact that computers are merely tools should be very strongly stressed. This is especially true for children in elementary schools who are exposed to computers at an early age, and may be taught the wrong viewpoint on them.

In a nutshell, people need to be reminded that computers are just tools, very useful for some purposes, and not-so-useful for others.

171:74: I think people rely on them too much, I think the dependence is dangerous. One day, we're going to suffer a massive blackout or something of the like, and no one is going to know what to do/know anything because they're dependent on computers. 6.001 has made me very negative.

172:74: Need good man=machines interface, good availability and response time.

174:74: The HP "Chipmunks" used for 6.001 and 6.004 are beautiful to work with. It's a shame they don't have output capabilities to match. They need a laser printer, and something with at least rudimentary graphics printing ability. See below regarding athena.

175:74: Like:

- they provide challenge for the intellect and the imagination
- at MIT, the Chipmunks and Scheme of 6.001 are neat.

Dislike:

- they're (still) too expensive, not for their worth, but only in absolute price.

176:74: The computer "mystique" from the 60's and 70's is almost dead. A computer will soon be as "intimidating" as a television set.

177:74: I don't like it when Andromache is not connected. I think some easy commands should be made available to people (like printing to Ringworld).

178:74: The thing that I dislike about computers at the present time is the fact that the operating systems and programming languages are still a bit too cryptic. UNIX is fairly logical and straight forward, but it too is still a bit difficult to use. I enjoy using a computer for word processing because it gives me a great deal of control over text and it reduces the time needed to write a paper. Once the final draft is finished, there is no need to type it, it is already in printable form.

179:74: Wish lover spent more time with me and less with computers.

190:74: Computers, like all tools, have their uses. For some things such as writing and playing games, they are very useful. In other things, like computation and accounting, they are almost indispensable. In education, though, I don't think they are very important. The only thing computers are good for in the classroom, it seems to me, is the teaching of structured problem solving. I think converting problem sets to computer would be a big mistake.

191:74: Programming languages are too tedious.

193:74: Typewriters are archaic and word processors are the wave of the future. I can't wait for the prices to drop so I can buy a fast processor. Being a Mech E. I don't have much time to play with computers, but I use mine for everything.

194:74: Because there is a limited knowledge of the system (any system) available to me, I frequently find myself caught in a loop where the computer doesn't respond. A universal object code would make things much easier for me. Another "pet peeve" is that there are so many operating systems to get used to, although there is nothing that can be done about that for a while.

194:74: I think it's fantastic that students can receive a free account to play with. My own computer experience would have ended with 2.10, but because I can use Athena, I have become much more interested in computers. I find I spend a lot of time simply exploring the system on

line, and I use it to do little things like cover letters just so I can become more familiar with it.
Thank you!

196:74: Very useful but software is too expensive and personal computers are no good to the average person without good, easy to use software. Good P.C.'s are too expensive for their overall use. MIT's computer system is often overcrowded and in the past, too difficult to gain access on. I should have had an automatically account my freshman year.

197:74: I enjoy working on and learning about computers. MIT has many powerful computers but I wish that there were more terminals distributed throughout campus which can access them. I've been trying to get on Chaosnet through Athena with no success. If Athena does not currently connect to Chaosnet I hope that this is planned for the future. More documentation should be provided describing which networks Athena will be connected to.

198:74: I like programming, but sometimes it's long and hard.

199:74: So far I've only done work processing, formatting and data entry on {C."s. I like using computers and find them very useful (i.e. for writing drafts of papers and having the ability to edit easily), but have no desire to learn how to program or take a programming course.

200:74: Crowding, lack of proper texts for many of the languages use on MIT systems.

201:74 Too expensive.

203:74: A seminar or course in PC hacking might be well received. Not a lot of students know that much about P.C.'s, available databases and other services, modems, etc.

204:74: I dislike most terminal rooms, dislike CRT's, dislike the notion of number crunching, it sounds monotonous. I like writing programs, but hate editing them and dubbing them.

205:74: When I have had to use them there hasn't always been someone around to help when I didn't know what the computer is doing. Also I use them for problem sets only and many of the problems I encounter are caused by bugs in the problem sets.

208:74: SIPB is a complete mess. I feel it's very important that no comparable degeneration occur in Athena.

209:74: I don't know a great deal about computers here at MIT, which is my fault as there is ample opportunity to learn about the systems here. As far as computers go, I find many inaccessible, meaning they are sometimes deliberately made to keep the programmers from the inner workings of individual systems.

212:74: They are great as productivity tools.

214:74: I'm taking 6.001. My biggest gripe is having to walk a mile to

building 36. I like using a MacIntosh because everything is in my room (where I can play music or talk to my roommate, eat, etc.).

215:74: Documentation (when it exists) is too often gibberish and jargon (ESPECIALLY at MIT) and computers are not standardized enough.

220:74: I feel confident in my abilities to use a computer (programming) IF I know the language well. I doubt I would take the time to familiarize myself with the MIT systems unless I was taking a course which required the use of the system, (i.e. 1.00,Z10). I may take one of those in the future. At present, I spend 90% of my time on a computer using it as a wordprocessor to write my papers.

221:74: I believe:

i) Project Athena will only be useful if it provides students with easy-to-use facilities for text generation, graphics generation, record keeping, message services. programming environments.

ii) Except for the last of these, UNIX and Scribe do NOT serve this purpose and will NOT be useful for the average incoming freshman.

222:74: I do NOT want to see homework assigned in every course on the computer - I'm afraid Professors will go wild with this new toy and make students do problem sets on it just to lose it. I also not's think that MIT students should ever be required to purchase a computer to enroll here.

225:74: Lack of standardization is the biggest headache for me. There's nothing wrong with variety (i.e. many Americans speak more languages than one) but it's nice to know that you can usually communicate with most anyone in English.

226:74: Programming is very enjoyable and satisfying. I knew a lot of people including myself, who genuinely like programming. I think it is because it is so goal-oriented; you have a task to do, you write a program, and when it's done, you feel a sense of accomplishment, knowing that it's done and it works, as supposed to, say, an essay, which can always be improved upon.

228:74: Not enough PC's.

229:74: Word processing is great. I wish my IBM/PC was more powerful and faster.

230:74: Athena is very helpful, especially for those who do not have a personal computer and would like to take advantage of a word-processor or graphics programs.

I do not like writing programs, but being able to use them is helpful.

231:74: Computers are very useful in business and engineering applications. For actually learning new things books are much better. The ability of computers in commercial applications has caused their importance at the undergraduate level to become somewhat overblown. How is Project Athena going to help me with my topology or 8.06 homework?

232:74: At MIT, for too many students, computers are an end in

themselves rather than just tools.

I do wonder why so many of those deeply involved with the computer science discipline are not, by most standards, well-rounded people. I have yet to meet a full-time "hacker" who is sociable, multi-dimensional, and has fond memories of high school social studies and English classes.

236:74: The real power in computers only came to me when I began to know lot about good application programs. Until then it is difficult to see how much a computer can help you.

If I had a modem and other people I knew also had one it would be great to leave them messages at Athena but "no one" ever buys modems.

237:74: I feel comfortable with computers and enjoy programming but I do it much less frequently than I did in high school. I recognize the time saving power of computers and certainly anticipate using them more in the future.

238:74: They're great to use for typing papers- makes the job a lot easier and quicker. Good to use for keeping statistics but I don't know much about programming, and have had some trouble with programming in the past. So far at MIT, after hearing classmates talk about their computer courses and difficulties they had, I've been reluctant to take any computer courses yet.

239:74: I don't like the fact that a computer course at MIT (such as 2.10) requires late nights (all night) at computer terminals like I see people doing all the time. Like going at 12-1 a.m. to get computer time.

240:74: I like problem-solving and the sense of accomplishment when a program works; however, I get tired easily of working at a terminal, and often I find it irritating to put my thought processes into the small perfectly logical and linear steps required by a programming language -- on the average, I would say I don't like programming. Text editing and formatting is a big improvement on typewriters, though. More offices should have computers, but I don't think they're all that useful in the home.

241:74: I don't like not knowing: if there will be enough terminals to use, whether the system will crash suddenly, who has access to my files (especially access to destroy them).

And I don't like people playing games when others don't have a terminal.

Naturally I don't like how expensive computer time generally is -- this discourages me from using computers more often.

242:74: Responding on the system, security may or may not be very good. I don't know that much about UNIX (yet!), but I hear it's relatively easy to break into various files, databases, etc.

244:74: I don't think computers are useful in everyday non-technical life, YET. What really bothers me is people who get so into the fact that they're using a computer that all else becomes subordinate. The purpose of using the computer becomes lost in the complicated process of using it, or the process is simple but what can then be done is trivial.

I choose, for instance, to use a typewriter.

Computers are like an incredible tool that has no handle. Also I wish people would appreciate that like any tool, one has to know the proper techniques of using them before they can be effective. Users think they can or should just turn it on and wait for it to do the work, and programmers think they can make it happen.

Let's all learn to treat computers like tools, not GODS.

246:74: The CADAM at Aero/Astro is old and weaning out. It's a great system, but it needs to be updated and expanded to meet department and student needs.

247:74: I would like to see a place set up where people could go to ask questions and get tutoring.

248:74: Very useful for number-crunching Good text-formatting for papers and

Languages too dependent on syntax:

mistakes in using semicolons and parentheses can take very long to debug.

249:74: Computers make more busywork, especially in coursework.

250:74: I feel that computers are extremely important to learn how to use -- they will continue to be an integral part of every business, industry and sector -- from grade school to small business, from Academia to stock market/International business.

The main emphasis in Economics nowadays is forecasting, which requires writing programs and evaluating statistical data.

251:74: Computers should only be used to speed up work never to replace a human being, (for e.g., I had to write up a program in 6.001 which made the computer answer a person during a conversation, pretending the computer were a psychiatrist). A robot should never simulate a human being just like a computer should never simulate a human being.

253:74: TIME STINKS.

Essentially useless to me, which does not affect the amount of time I spend hacking.

254:74: Often aggravate me, make me near-sighted staring at the terminal, and people get overly excited about personal computers and think they're the answer to all their problems, when a calculator and a sheet of paper would do just as well or even better. Little kids should grow up playing sports, not playing with computers.

255:74: Computers are great, 6.001 is fun and I love hacking (even though I's a Physics major). All computer lovers are not nerds - I consider myself a very social and wild person (but a lot of my friends do hate computers).

256:74: I sincerely don't like computers. I think there is a new word to describe my feeling towards computers CYBERPHOBIA!

257:74: It would be nice if access to Athena from the dormitories were easier. (e.g. terminal room in the houses, or more lines to call).

258:74: A good calculator with programming capacity is fine for papers I might start using Athena. It is a very convenient. But here, at MIT, I'm scared to talk about computers because knowing a language is trivial to them (computer jocks that is). I'm so far behind I don't think I can catch up. However, I do want to use computers. The family computers at home is useful and my programming skills for it are fine.

265:74: I never had much exposure to computers before I came here (MIT). I wish I had. Computers (and computer hackers) were one of the many things I found intimidating about this place. I don't like them much. I consider them more a tool than a fun machine with which to play.

266:74: Takes too long to learn proper syntax and rules for each type of computer or language. This causes great frustration for the beginner and the beginner, many times, gives up.

269:74: There does not seem to be any real introductory computer course. I took 2.10 and felt like the dumbest person in the class because I didn't know how to even turn on the terminal. The experience of that class did not make want to learn any more about computers. I was totally confused. However, the Architecture Department system and CAD/CAM are very exciting to me.

270:74: I think that electronic mail and text editing is about the best use of computers for most people, including MIT students.

274:74: I've found programs like Visicalc are very useful for some of my classes. They simplify numerical calculations. My main use of a computer is for wordprocessing and report preparation.

275:74: Programming in BASIC. during high school was interesting but on the whole impractical, so I got bored after a couple years of programming, PL/I was better, but not available except at local College. A project that I worked on in PROLOG completely fell through, so I became totally frustrated with the people in charge, and since then I have been truing to avoid a potential repeat of the experience.

277:74: I use computers extensively for my work, but one of the things I like best about them is networking, because that way I can send messages to my boyfriend.

279:74: GET ATHENA INTO THE DORMS! Also, if I could hook up to Athena an Apple Macintosh, it would be great.

288:74: VAXes are quite slow when a few more users are using them at each same time. Get faster machines or get more machines.

290:74: Heavy course load at MIT (in VI-1) does not allow time to hack on computers. Many courses could and should incorporate computer work. For example, 6012 can teach students use of SPICE or similar programs for logic simulation, as part of the design problem set. Things like this can break the barrier between computers and intimidated students.

291:74: I like computers that are easy to program and easy to use.

Some systems, like the Mac, are easy to use and hard to program. Others, like the Apple IIC, are easy to program and hard to use. Athena has the potential to be both if it is implemented properly.

Computers are fun because you can do anything with them. I don't like unnecessary constraints to be placed on what I do with computers.

294:74: Far too much attention is devoted to Project Athena. The current direction of the project's development will leave off campus living groups' members at a great disadvantage.

295:74: I would definitely like to use computers more often, and become proficient at it, since computers are a major part of almost every industry nowadays.

298:74: I much prefer personal computers to time-sharing systems.

299:74: The MIT timesharing system (multics) seems absurdly slow; especially at night, believe it or not.

300:74: Computers are tools. They are helpful when they come properly equipped (software).

301:74: I think that most of the "Survival" and introductory literature about computers and languages is very difficult to understand for a person that has NEVER touched a computer and is a beginner in the true sense of the word. It's a difficulty I found myself in when first using the Athena facilities. Perhaps you could think of introducing this material in the same way you would present it to a child...

303:74: They are a great help in writing multiple drafts of paper.

304:74: I do not believe that MIT students have developed a sense of ethics on Athena (as well as campus computer systems, in general.) Considering that an Athena employee released a superuser password to high school students, why should MIT students should feel any more responsible?

Games playing on terminals in the Student Center cluster while others are waiting to use terminals is unacceptable. Again, a question of ethics is evident.

306:74: I like the availability of computers at MIT (even if I haven't taken advantage of it YET). I think Athena is doing a good service by encouraging students to open accounts.

308:74: I need a personal tutor until I get acquainted with the God-damn computer. As for programming I'll jump off a building first.

309:74: Computers may be used to obtain confidential personal information or to maintain hierarchical economic structures that nullify equal opportunity. Some people may become addicted to computers and lose contact with people around them.

However, I believe people using computers can choose to use them in positive ways, if they make their choice carefully.

311:74: I like using COMPUTERS as tools in COMPUTING, however, I hate using computers to play games, send messages etc., because they are

machines, and cannot replace humans.

317:74: I enjoy using computers and believe them to be very useful tools in many areas. I do not feel comfortable however, around other unfriendly, unhelpful and inconsiderate, game-playing users.

318:74: I hate to say it, but computers are very intimidating. I wish that I didn't feel like such an incompetent fool trying to figure this stuff out. But, to think about it is possible that I haven't put enough time into trying to learn about computers.

372:74: I think that in the future every MIT student should have easy access to a computer terminal. However, I don't like the idea of a freshman walking into his/her newly assigned room and seeing a computer in it. It should be a choice.

380:74: They are a pain in the to debug, and its scary and frustrating getting to know a system. Once familiar with a system, I find them quite fun.

381:74: The slowness on busy time-sharing systems defeats the whole purpose of computers.

606:74: Sometimes it is troublesome getting to know a specific system. It's a pain if the instructions are not clear.

607:74: Documentation for use of computers need to be written more clearly and succinctly. Better indexing of the information would also help users who get "stuck". Readily available literature in brief outline about the general use of the system logging on/off, languages, systems available, how to manipulate text, data, programs, how to print out or save information would make the first time user feel more comfortable.

608:74: Here at MIT I would like to see the introductory courses (1.00 - 2.10 - 6.001) have a more preparatory bent. Give those students with the desire to go on into the computer the ability to do so.

(At my company, Pascal and Lisp are not used. Fortran is outdated. Why not teach PL/1 or ADA or even C?)

610:74: There should be a sign-up for freshman at the same time as meal plans, etc. for an account, it is a pain to get one and learn to use the system once term has really started.

611:74: Manuals in general seem to be designed primarily for hackers.

613:74: I see danger in computers supplanting the "intuitive feel" one must have for a subject. I feel that qualitative analysis is just as important as quantitative analysis. While there are programs that let you deal with qualitative aspects, too much software is devoted to numerical analysis.

614:74: Computer ownership, access will tend to be centralized in a certain minority group of the population. This will tend to cause social stratification just as the possession of money and land is congregated in a small sector of the population resulting in a small, ELITE powerbase. The presence of computers presents a social problem of

a large magnitude.

619:74: With respect to question:

41) Not require PC purchase, only network and "plus + in" potential

42) In High School tutor programs yes; In college where more program development less remedial, no loss of personalized treatment.

44) Can make it easier; also a great excuse for lack of cooperation.

49) Problem is no so much too many people with access, but who in particular has access and more importantly the handout information available.

620:74: Not much. I hope we humans don't become like them. After all computers have no emotions. Computers should simply supplement our mental process, not supplant it.

634:74: There is not enough basic documentation with explanation of what the command is doing, for some who doesn't know what's going on when using a system for class. It's easy to fall behind in class if you are not immediately familiar with the system. I think the Athena "Essential" series is a good way to start.

632:74: Good stuff.

637:74: I was surprised to find how useful and "friendly" computers became once I overcame my blind anxiety and let myself get to know Athena's possibilities. I'm writing better, working better, turning out more polished final copies of papers and problem sets. I am a "people-oriented" student. A literature and management major - far from the stereotypical nerd, so I don't use the computer for fun. Work, somehow, seems more intense when done on the video terminal. My concentration seems to improve.

I plan to take some Athena mini-courses so I can use the system more efficiently.

640:74: There is nothing inherent to computers that I do or don't like. I see them as technology usable or many ends. I would like to see less talk about liking or disliking less emphasis on "State-of-the-Art Technology" with its attendant awe and mystery.

644:74: About computers contributing to the social isolation of students from one another; well they were pretty isolated (the students) to start with, socially that is, and computers just tend to make this more evident and perhaps reinforce it, but I don't think they cause it. I liked 2.10.

646:74: My problem of writing computer programs has been that I've always made them more complicated than they should be, or that I couldn't follow the logic of what I was supposed to do in the program. As a result, I prefer not to use computers for programming. I probably could handle using one for wordprocessing, if I sat down and really learned how to do it on a specific terminal. otherwise, I prefer to use a typewriter (with erasable paper, of course).

749:74: It's to bloody complicated to figure out how the damn thing work

and the instructions might as well be written in out-Mongolian (meaning SIPB's instructions on how to use Emacs or anything else I've ever run across)!

650:74: Computers will be useful as tools in my future work. I'd like to be able to learn to let them do my grungy work for me. But right now I'm caught up in learning more fundamentally important things to me.

652:74: My first experience with computers was as a freshman. I signed up for 6.030 and dropped it after two weeks. I was perfectly capable of writing the programs (in fact I did above class average on the first two problem sets) but I was unable to get my information into the computer. Indeed I could not even log on without trouble. After three different attempts to log on, and a successful one (finally) the computer refused to let me do what my assignment required me to. The notable lack of T.A's in the rom frustrated me to no end, and I dropped the course as being a hassle, MORAL: Project Athena MUST have clearly identified "helpers" in the rom before I go near the place.

653:74: They're frustrating when you start on a new system, but they're useful especially for graphics and word processing stuff. Usually figure stuff out by trial and error - frustrating but afterwards I don't forget!

658:74: When I have a paper to write or a problem to solve, I don't want to have to "know about computers" to do that task. I would like to be able to press an "on" button, and proceed with my work. Too often with computers, one is explained a thousand details that he doesn't need or want to know in the process of learning to use the computer as a tool. For example, I can compute with a terminal knowing nothing about what computer I'm using, or where it is, as long as I simply know how to login, create files or programs, print stuff or run programs, and how to logout. But I know of people who have been frightened away from computers by being overwhelmed by explanations of so many VAX 11-750's tied by a server to other networks - that alone is enough to scare away non-science oriented people. If Athena is intended to bring computers to the common person, then I suggest the creation of a basic "How to use" explanation with NONE of the unnecessary hardware details.

662:74: There is too much of a bad attitude toward computers. Too many people associate computers with "nerdliness". Also, MIT's computers courses scare students away. Problem sets that take 20-25 hours (like 2.10) are much TOO long.

663:74: Most computer user-environments make me mildly uncomfortable; sterile rooms and green monitors being major contributors to this. Reasoning about programs is interesting and challenging, but I'd rather read or listen to music, or draw. I have little word-processing experience, but that will change soon.

666:74: I think computers are useful, but some people carry it to the extreme. They think the computers are part of their lives.

672:74: Crashes - SASI ERRORS. Incompetent repair people.

673:74: I think that computers can be a useful tool, but I also thing

that many people at MIT are too involved with them and are consequently anti-social. After three years of observation, I think I am qualified to say that it is the computer "nerds" who dampen social interaction here. I've also witnessed a case where a computer took the place of a best friend. I'm sorry, but I think that's unhealthy.

675:74: I like my family's IIE, I don't like Athena.

676:74: Nothing against them. They are useful in their own way. I'm annoyed at the public's misconception of them and am all for "their learning" the truth."

679:74: To plagiarize slightly - "Computers are a means to an end, not an end in themselves."

Computers are TOOLS - useful though limited - whose effect on society has been exaggerated.

680:74: The assignment to machines seems to be skewed with the 6 Student Center machines so loaded that Rogue playing is discouraged while all the others except ATHENA and CHARON are practically single-user all the time except 9-5 weekdays. Get outline-assisting, idea-processing, and memo/calculator programs. Make a spreadsheet program widely known and documented. Get a more hacker oriented text-formatter like R or TJ6 in addition to Scribe. Get a database developer like Personal Pearl.

685:74: I like easily accessible help, e.g. Macintosh-like menus. I dislike inconsistent command structures, e.g. UNIX option specifications. I like to be able to read reference information, which unfortunately is not available.

689:74: 6.001 - did not like.

692:74: Computations are faster and more precise; Games fun; BUT computers make the brain lazy--maybe forget basic knowledge--and some people become detached from life because of these MACHINES.

695:74: There's a computer in my dormitory but I can't find anyone who knows how to use it. There's no manual either. That's a frustrating thing about computers. There's no uniformity. Manuals are so bad too.

709:74: I like to work with computers, but not 8 hours a day. I think computers are sometimes too over-emphasized for employment.

712:74: I know that SIPB has a non-caring, non-psyched attitude. I hope that I find Athena to be different.

718:74: Computers are one of the most amazing tools ever invented. I see so much potential for their application to my future work. I enjoy programming, but it can be very addicting. Everyone should have easy access to a computer for programming, word processing, etc. Most of the public paranoia about computers is largely unfounded. through more exposure to computers, people should get over these fears. Computers increase efficiency, volume of work accomplished, and quality of work by orders of magnitude. Their advantages far outweigh any disadvantages.

722:74: I think computers are great for computation but I don't like the

options for learning computers at MIT. I'm taking 1.00, which teaches you about programming, but you are never taught how to interface with the machine.

I wish there were less intensive but more practical classes on use of computers.

725:74: I don't like to see computers used as technological quick fixes to problems that require more fundamental solutions, e.g.. poor national education system, national security (SDI).

This does not mean that computers can not help these same problems - it is just a matter of priorities.

727:74: In general, I like computers.

MIT computer systems should stress more of the text editing uses of their systems. This way the systems would have a broader appeal to students.

730:74: I've taken 6.001, enjoyed it, did well, and I still feel like an ignoramus and intimidated when it comes to computers. I also think that a good word processor is the greatest thing around.

732:74: I feel that computers provide an effective way of aiding one's work, but I personally would not want to devote my life's work to them.

735:74: People seem to have the idea that computers are saviors for all people in all cases and that all people should buy one.

Computers allow people who already isolate themselves (sometimes due to lack of interpersonal skills or social graces) to do so much more effectively.

738:74: The documentation is confusing.

157:75: I like the way things have been progressing; now all that I would want is to be able to access my account at the student center library.

158:75: There should be terminals in the dormitories.

159:75: I didn't like having to purchase a special Scribe handbook through IPS to lose the text formatter...

160:75 I have had no contact at all with Project Athena.

161:75: I'd like to learn more and get an account to help me with my papers. Also I'd like to learn more about programming as I will be taking MLS courses at Sloan.

162:75: I don't have the time to learn how to use it.

163:75: I think it's a great idea. I think, however, it over emphasizes the needs of having a computer terminal available to all the students all the time. Most students not in Computer Science don't use computers very often and although it would be nice to have one available for word processing or the occasional short program for problem set, there is not really a need for everyone to have his own terminal. If terminals are available say 1 for every 10 or more students, it would be sufficient. The student involved can work out scheduling their use.

164:75: Should adopt some way of doing dynamic resource management in order to better distribute loading on systems. Frequently, one system at Ringworld will have twenty users and say Prill will have five. I feel this load should be distributed among the machines in the cluster to increase processing performance and for the users.

166:75: I think it's a good program, and on a personal level, think it will be good for me to eliminate some of the stigma attached to computing.

167:75: I think Athena is a fantastic project! Personally, I don't "like" computers, but I understand how important they are, and how they make work so much easier. I will probably NEED to keep learning about computers for a long time, (and so will most students at MIT) and therefore I think we all will benefit immensely from Project Athena.

168:75: When a lot of people are logged on, it gets very slow.

169:75: We'll see...

170:75: I am very glad I have 24-hour access to a computer account. I use mainly for text editing and games. I think all MIT students should be exposed to computers so they can realize their power for certain purposes.

171:75: I think Athena must be much better than 6.001.

172:75: Conduct advance courses, give more free documentation in greater detail.

173:75: Get shorter surveys with less obnoxious questions.

174:75: The good news first: The mail handling system is excellent.
Now the bad news:

1. The UNIX operating system seems obscure and convoluted, and is no fun to use.
2. The ordinary student accounts are way too small. Writing and running real programs is out of the questions, and believe it or not, even game playing becomes difficult. - i.e., a saved rogue game takes almost 125K. Good luck trying to make a copy of the save file if your account contains anything else.
3. Putting all the student accounts on a few machines is already causing seriously slow response times.
4. The student accounts cluster has terminals which can access all Athena machines, but no other cluster's terminals can get to the machines which have the student accounts. This causes overcrowding of the W20 terminal room, while the other stand nearly empty.

175:75: There's little I can say, since I've just started using it. but our complaint is that (to the best of my knowledge) it is not yet accessible by telephone (i.e. modem) from the fraternities's across the river.

176:75: The basic idea (free access to large systems) is good. I disagree with a few implementation details. First, I have a 500 baud modem that I would like to use to access Athena (preferably through dormline).

178:75: I think that Project Athena is working fairly well. I would like to see higher storage limits on general accounts.

179:75: Should've done this sooner! Too late for me! [Not really every C.S. were for non-majors until this.???] Feel cheated, unable to program at the greatest C.S. center in the world.

189:75: Well, before I got an account, I had to wait for a long time, constantly being told about new dates for opening to the public. From my experience with it so far, I know that it is VERY slow. I think Athena should have better laser printers with more features such as different font types, sizes, italics, etc. From my experience so far I would say there are far too few manuals available to everybody. Both hardware and software.

190:75: I hope problem sets and labs don't become computerized. There is a big difference between working through equations on paper and answering multiple-choice questions on a terminal.

191:75 For widespread use, remote communication is a must.

192:75: Need more CPU power at W20 on a Tuesday night, Runqueve was solidly full at 3-12 idle CPU was 0 for 20 minutes straight paging not a problem - (I ran VM stat).
Athena needs more dial-ups. Dial-ups should also be able to reach W20, though restrictions should be put on to avoid game playing over them if that's a problem. This is, I believe a major point. More dial-ups would greatly affect the amount students made use of Athena.

195:75: The most disturbing aspect of Project Athena is the fact that every time I go to the student center cluster. I find groups of people playing games. At the present, there is no harm done by this, but when the usage on the Athena system increases it is my opinion that it is a shame to waste such valuable resource as computer time on game.

196:75: It's great that Athena is offering free accounts to all student. Even Wellesley students already automatically had computer accounts as freshman until graduation. MIT is finally catching up in this area.

198:75: It seems very convenient.

199:75: MIT has good computer facilities and I plan on getting an Athena account this semester.

201:75 When do fraternities get terminals? When does Project Athena get a multi-font laser printer (e.g. Xerox 9700)?

202:75: I am very concerned about what is happening at the W20 (Student Center) cluster. Specifically, load averages are frequently very high (over 4.0), and the number of people playing games is almost always greater than or equal to the number of people doing serious work. If this trend continues as more accounts are given out, it will soon be impossible to do any serious work at W20. Even when terminals are available, who wants to wait 15 minutes to compile a short program? There are several ways to remedy this situation: (1) install more VAX 11's and terminals at W20, (2) install clusters at all of the dormitories, or (3) not allow any games to be played when the load average rises to over 3.5 or so. I have another gripe as well: the 250K limit at W20 is awfully slow. I can exceed this limit with two short compiled programs and a long paper in my directories. PLEASE do something soon to remedy these deficiencies, or Project Athena will become nothing more than a campus-wide video game network.

204:75: I'm trying to edit my thesis on Athena. There aren't always terminals when I need one, and the printer seems inadequate. I'm on Louiswu.

206:75: Improve the networking!!

207:75: I feel that Project Athena is a fiasco -- too many uncertainties expressed by its directors and flawed by too many unforeseeable technical difficulties. It was not borne under favorable lights.

208:75: I think you all are doing the best you can - I appreciate the thought behind this survey, for example. I look forward to using Athena; I hope it's up (higher) soon.

209:75: I am interested, but am still ignorant about Project Athena. I guess I'll get around to it soon.

210:75: Keep improving the system.

211:75: Should set up some method of communicating answers to common

problems or questions so that consultants are not bothered about these little things. I have had the following problems (commonly occurring) for which I had to ask a consultant about:

1. How to unfreeze a frozen terminal (using ps -ux).
2. How to get a printout at a printer other than the one designated for your machine or its alternate.
3. How to gain access to games.

I'm sure other people have their own favorite problems. If some sort of file could be set up with a list of typical problems, their reasons, and remedies, it would be very helpful. (The language in the reference manuals can be confusing at times, so they are not very helpful).

212:75: 1) Network should not be down so often. 2) Get laser printers with multiple fonts, graphics, etc. that will allow use of more of SCRIBE's features. 3) More VS-100's and documentation on windowing (should be all VS-100's). 4) Run games on one machine at Student Center, don't let all be loaded down.

213:75: Terminals are VERY crowded.

214:75: Information is a problem. The only time I hear (sic) anything is when I ask one of the guys in my house (who's an Athena Consultant) what's going on.

I would love to wordprocess on Athena, but I don't want to walk to the Institute to get a printout.

215:75: I like the UNIX OS. Athena does not have enough machines for the load it carries I really would like a dialup to the Student Center cluster.

216:75: Make all the centers accessible by modems. It's a bitch to walk all the way across the bridge to use a terminal when the house already has one and a modem.

217:75: My only big complaint about the Athena system as it presently exists is that you can only access your account from one cluster (the Student Center cluster). To me, it would seem a much nicer system if all of the clusters were available for use to everyone. This would make access much more convenient.

In general, I'm quite satisfied with the Athena system, and I'm very interested to see how it will develop over the next few years.

218:75: Get better printers so we can use Scribe to text-edit decent-looking papers!

219:75: Please get stations set-up at Fraternities across the river.

221:75: I think it is unfortunate that Athena is stuck with an outdated system - (IBM PC's and VAX-UNIX only provide for a few with the perseverance to break the user interface barrier. The only way to make these computers useful to the whole community will be to upgrade the hardware and software to the level currently available on the MacIntosh.

222:75: Needs statistical packages, like SPSSX. Make emacs more like the ones on Multics or [??] (but at least you have an emacs rather than some dumb menu-driver wordprocessor - good choice!)

223:75: If you haven't already done so; a way to use the PC floppy drive as a source of files so that it looks like it (the drive) is part of the users directory would be useful.

224:75: I think there should be more Athena survival courses - times set not are inconvenient.

225:75: Please work on getting better laser printers that make Scribe a worthwhile thing to have around. A DOVER would be nice.

226:75: I'd really like to learn about word processing, but I have no idea where to start, and it seems like it'd be a pain - with computers crashing, etc. The point is, make information available, or if it already is, make it more accessible, about wordprocessing.

227:75: Athena seems to be a good system however, the student center cluster is overcrowded and extremely slow.

229:75: I CAN'T GET MAIL FROM OTHER COMPUTERS TO SLARTIBARTFAST!!

231:75: It's a great idea which should have been in place five years ago.

232:75: I keep hearing about Project Athena, but only in the most general way. I am unaware of any attempts to publicize it or inform the community regarding its progress. I would like to know what it is about, and what it might offer. I will look into it, but I am surprised that this is the first official indication I have received that Project Athena actually exists.

233:75: It is rather slow. Also, I feel that the games should be removed from the system. When one goes into the Student Center cluster, there are always several people playing Rogue or some such thing. As more people begin to use this facility, the problem is likely to get worse. I enjoy computer games as much as anyone, but the purpose of Project Athena is not to turn MIT students into video game addicts.

234:75: Hurry up, folks -- I'm leaving soon! Also, W20 is too small a facility for its slated use.

235:75: I am concerned that a lot of the work on Project Athena seems to be merely repackaging, e.g. this survey putting Athena covers on BERKELEY UNIX manuals. Why don't you put out technical reports on the work that is being done to achieve the goals of the project? Where can I find the budget report for Athena?

On a more positive note, I think that it is great that MIT students now have such easy access to powerful computing facilities. It should be interesting to see what happens. good luck.

236:75: If I knew of services that were available on say Project Athena, that are not available on my own Macintosh (say weather service, library search, news, buy/sell classified type ads, scheduling, gym and pool schedules, databases of all assortments, telegram mail to anywhere in the country like MCI has), multiple user games, etc then it would be worth it. Who wants to pay \$350 for a modem that's going to give them

word-processing capabilities and limited communication which they already have.

237:75: KEEP EXPANDING IT. I haven't used it yet but I believe I will starting next semester. Just the fact that the program exists makes me comfortable.

238:75: Haven't had any experience with Project Athena yet.

240:75: I don't know too much about it, but I think it's a good idea, I just wish it had been set up earlier so that more students could have had access to it.

Also - P. B. is a really nice guy. You should pay him more.

241:75: I am pleased that there will be more computer access on campus but I am worried about how efficient such a huge system will be (especially concerning print-out-time).

242:75: As previously mentioned, ALL clusters need to be accessible via the ARPA-or CHAOS net. And they should be accessible from other clusters for login. At present, not many are and those that are, are taken off periodically (I assume this is because of the newness of the system).

243:75: Printer for the building-1 cluster stinks. The top and bottom of the pages are cut off.

244:75: I really like the idea and I hope to get an account real soon and maybe even find something to do with it.

245:75: I live off-campus; please sent out information on Athena on a regular basis. what's available, additions to system, etc.

246:75: I use computers for various specific calculations with programs usually < 30 lines. I don't like Athena because of its great hierarchy and multitude systems that I don't care about. It takes the convenience out of computers, which is why I like my TRS-80.

248:75: Too slow terminal response when many people simultaneously use the computers.

249:75: It seems as if your efforts are not coordinated. Use more imagination!

250:75: It is very good thing and should expand to reach ALL the academic needs...

It should be used/organized so as to survey students on the spot (on the screen as the login.), about anything and everything (such as this survey), so as to put together their opinions on a variety of aspects/issues.

MIT students will not usually spend the time to write a letter etc. expressing their desires/dislikes. Therefore, do surveys (well organized, brief!) on the screen. You will be guaranteed a response from almost everyone, if it is simply one question to answer after logging in.

251:75: I'd like to know more about it so that I can use it type papers.

252:75: Fix the "help" command so it gives useful information for Athena.

Put ARPA-net news on all the machines.

Train consultants to be more friendly and less arrogant.

253:75: WHO CARES?

255:75: It sounds great but, I haven't had a chance to use it yet - often than to open an account.

257:75: Athena should be kept up and expanded campus wide beyond the project duration. An Athena account is a fun and useful thing for the students.

259:75: I wish it could have been implemented while I was a Freshman or sophomore. I see it starting up now, when I'm a senior, and I know I won't get a chance to use it. I would have liked more exposure to computers, but besides 2.10, I never had the opportunity (being a bio-major.) Athena might have given me that chance, but not I'm leaving. Too bad. I think it's a good opportunity for the up and coming MIT students, and I hope it is implemented to it's fullest extent, and that students use it to it's fullest capacity. Good luck.

260:75: I like the way the project is developing.

261:75: I would like there to be a more widely publicized student discount on the purchase of personal computers. I know at Dartmouth College, there is a large discount on Apple Macintosh's and many students own them. Will there be any such program here at this Institute of TECHNOLOGY? I believe there will be great interest in such a discount.

262:75: This survey was too long - 75 questions?? If you want more people to fill them out, you should have made this shorter and more relevant.

263:75: It might be a good idea to teach a full credit programming course that programmed in C, since that seems useful on Athena.

265:75: About this survey:

Is the question about male or female really necessary? If you find that women know less about computers, I hope you will not publicize the fact. The survey results will not represent the entire student body, first of all. Second, such "facts" would not help the position of women at MIT.

Please do not publish the results of the male/female issues. Use it for your own programs only.

(Signed) A female.

266:75: I don't know enough about it.

270:75: I don't know how to get involved with Project Athena per say.

I know that it sponsors projects with various groups and departments, but I don't know why (or how) one would gain access to the infinite corridor "Fishbowl" - computers.

From what I hear of Project Athena, there's a lot of floundering however, I imagine the belief is that something good will come of a person usage of the projects. I don't necessarily disagree.

271:75: Pretty good. How about a library search system?

275:75: Don't have enough accurate information to form solid opinion, but it seems like a very good idea for students at MIT on a whole - I'm not a "typical" student here.

276:75: I was pleasantly surprised at the work that has been don't to make the resources of Project Athena REALLY accessible to the students here at MIT. The system is quite impressive, and help for those who aren't "hackers" but want to use Athena as a helpful tool seems to be readily available. My only complaint is that the laser printer has only one font, and it really isn't quite correspondence quality. The dover at Tech Square is really the machine to use for papers if one has access (very limited, unfortunately).

277:75: I would like very much to be able to logon to any computer.
P.S. UNIX is more yucky than VMS.

288:75: To have a good public image Athena should keep its promises closely, i.e. promise of accounts and resources should not just convenient and impressive claims.

290:75: Much the way Apple Computers, Inc. has been in distributing and providing technical information to its developers, I believe that Athena should also make as much technical information accessible to the students as possible. Perhaps in organized, packaged form to require less time and effort on the students' part.

291:75: I'm concerned that paranoia bout security (physical and computer) may take the fun and value out of using Athena at MIT. Athena is really two things: Lots of compute power and a large network.
neither aspect should be neglected. Making the network available in dormitory rooms (so students can hook their computers to the network) will be as important as the availability of powerful machines with wonderful graphics capabilities.

Athena seems to need a better-defined purpose (or more publicity - this is the first mailing I've had regarding Athena.)

295:75: I would definitely like to learn about Project Athena, and get my own account. I feel Project Athena can help MIT students get an even more well-rounded education. I may even feel that a couple computer courses be required for each field of major.

296:75: Project Athena must be expanded soon to encompass the entire MIT community. Currently it is readily (easily) available to those living on campus or close by in Cambridge; however, those of us in Boston find it distressingly inconvenient to have to walk to school and back (a 20-30 minute trip each way) in all types of inclement weather to make use of Athena. Obviously we would like to say a rapid

implementation of work stations within living groups in Boston to alleviate this problem and provide us with the same privileges which on-campus students have.

297:75: I have just received my Athena account so the questions on use of that system should change in the near future.

299:75: I have not used Athena as of yet, so I can't say anything about it.

301:75: I think it is a great idea and a great effort!

302:75: It does not seem to be easily available to students. However, it is a good step toward getting more terminals for students use.

304:75: I do note the inflexibility of Athena in two areas: access to Student Center machines and printing options.

I realize that there limited dial-in lines, terminals in other clusters etc. However, trudging across campus to the Student Center is not a viable alternative. Get the workstations into the living groups and you will see a tremendous increase in system use.

I have retained my MULTICS/SIPB account expressly for printing files. Printing quality and the pica font on Athena printers are unacceptable. I will continue using MULTICS until viable, quality printing is available on MULTICS.

305:75: Athena seems to be a good system with dedicated people working for it.

My Athena use hours will soon increase dramatically, for whatever that's worth...

307:75: I think is a very good idea.

308:75: You spend enough money on the nerds. Spend some to get people with computer phobia acquainted with computers.

309:75: Despite its lofty goals, I think Project Athena will succeed and bring and educational computing environment to MIT students, enhancing their education. I would hope that the Project will not fall victim to the results of suspect corporate donor motivations.

310:75: Printing devices: I'd like use of an imagen and/or fonts for the LN01. There's a need for user accessible tape drives and drives for 8" floppies.

More terminals and/or user machines in Student Center. Available graphic printers (example LN01's). Offer background Scribe.

311:75: I haven't been exposed to Project Athena.

312:75: Expand it, it is the best educational resources that makes MIT stands out from the top colleges.

314:75: I would like to see Athena terminals in all dormitories.

315:75: Not worth any more of my time!

316:75: Have some of the training courses during holidays, maybe long weekends, because usually during normal weekdays, one seldom can afford the time to go to courses and practice the techniques taught.

Or maybe during summer, is a good idea, and definitely during IAP!!!

318:75: Keep on offering as much help as possible. That way, people like myself will eventually come and learn about Athena so that I can utilize and enjoy it.

364:75: I would like to log into my account on nessus at any athena cluster.

601:75: I don't know if this already exists, but...

You should have a mailing address at Athena for those people who write potentially useful software to notify someone about their projects.

602:75: Look forward to using the system shortly.

604:75: Should have more terminals in S.S.C. library.

607:75: I have only had good experiences with Athena. The consultants are an excellent idea and have helped me on many occasions.

608:75: I am glad to hear the consulting group is being expanded. I would like to see resources at the student center cluster expanded to avoid terminal shortages and slow responses to commands.

611:75: It would be nicer if the mail system worked better (i.e. you don't have to know the name of the machine the person is on or the person shouldn't have to be on Athena).

I don't like to Emacs man and apropos commands. People help much more than what is in [???]. Should be a more comprehensive collection of commands shorter than Unix reference manual), larger than references. One that is easier to understand!

614:75: I have no preferences one way or the other about the presence of computers at MIT, but I strongly object to the placement i.e. intrusion of machines into my dormitory (Bexley). So long as they stay out of Bexley, across the street at the Institute, I don't mind, if they can be used to help some or some work project, I don't object. KEEP THE MACHINES OUT OF BEXLEY.

615:75: It is not made very clear exactly what is available on the Athena system. The only information distributed is very basic or applies only to the problem set on a project which was assigned.

620:75: I have used Athena machines quite often this academic year. I think they are quite good, except the quality of the laser printers. Full marks to the cooperation and help from the Student consultants. I want to learn more about using disk floppies on IBM PC's at Athena.

Athena should maintain a 24-hour ph. # and a 9-5 office. Should improve its quality of services. In short, keep the ship afloat and sailing well.

621:75: I don't think computers should be put in the dormitories. The dorms should not become extensions of the labs. This school is nerdy

enough without making things worse.

634:75: I'll repeat my comment earlier about current location of general student accounts. The Student Center is inconvenient. Any way of speeding up the process would be greatly appreciated. I see my main use of Athena as text editing and writing letters to friends at other Universities.

625:75: I would like to see a small general use cluster on the east side of campus.

628:75: I don't think that classes that have been taught effectively since before I was born (and give adequate preparation for today's works) should start giving out problem sets that require the use of computers just because we have been given this excessively wasteful amounts of computers. I want to work in my bed not in a chair in front of some screen.

Potential better use of money:

Educate vast amounts of women and encourage them to come to school here. I'm starting to forget what they are like.

629:75: In general, I like Athena - few bugs.

Printers always down, Student Center cluster often crowded machines slow not enough consultants.

632:75: In general, SUX [Unix sucks]..

634:75: I wish I could use Athena in my Fraternity.

638:75: Athena has been much to fascist on its accounts policy. Suggestions: Make accounts for everyone everywhere. Let supply and demand regulate the load. (If one machine gets too busy, people will move themselves elsewhere ...This shouldn't be to difficult if the same env. is set up on every machine.)

This opinion is based on the observation that at any given time, there are about 10-20 Athena machines (750's) with NO ONE logged on.

All of your policies so far are based on the assumption that you can improve the situation by maintaining tight control over what machines people have access to. (I'm very serious about this suggestion. Is anyone at Athena open-minded enough to take it seriously? Think about it...)

640:75; I see P.A. as benefitting IBM and DEC much more than MIT students. Through P.A. these corporations have much influence upon MIT students' perceptions of computers (their usefulness, relevance, and limitations), in addition to making IBM and DEC the first companies/computers to come to the mind of an MIT grad.

P.A. is also an easy way for the MIT administration to show how it provides "state-of-the-art" education, while not really having to upgrade the quality of anyone's education.

644:75: More dialup lines! Ability to finger more easily, i.e. without necessarily knowing the machine. get up a news network.

646:75: I will most likely use it by the time I graduate in December 1986, since I plan to take either 2.10 or 1.00. I hope it's a pleasant

learning experience for me.

749:75: Please get it up and running and most of all accessible. Lots of help and clear instructions for the computer illiterate.

652:75: I am presently considering using Project Athena to write my thesis next year. I have not yet explored this possibility, but would like to mention that it would be very helpful if this were one of the "appropriate" uses of Athena. In the past, SIPB users were forbidden to use their accounts to write their thesis. I feel that this is slightly ridiculous, especially since something as long and involved as a thesis really needs the help of text editing to complete accurately and on time.

653:75: GREAT!

655:75: I've been using Athena for two semesters now. Before general student accounts were made available (March '85), gaining access to a terminal was no problem. Now it is virtually impossible to get a terminal in W20 during the day. Why do other clusters go virtually unused, while the load averages on the ringworld cluster sky rocket? Why restrict us to W20?

657:75: It's a bummer that Athena is appearing exactly too late to be useful to me (I'm graduating).

659:75: Better deploy it across the river.

661:75: The slow speed on a crowded cluster is really frustrating to me. From my experience the student center is crowded until around 3:00 a.m., only then does the system I/O speed up. When it is slow it seems no faster to me than Multics in the middle of a work day, and that is slow.

Wouldn't it be possible, and easy, and convenient to allow users to text edit on the micro-computers directly while OFF LINE. Even if an editor as good as Emacs wasn't available for the PC's there are lots of good word processor.

662:75: I don't know much about it but I'm all for it. I hope I have a chance to take a course or come in contact with it soon.

663:75: Project Athena is a good resource for MIT. It would be far more handy to have terminals across the river at my house, because writing a paper is something I do not do all at once.

664:75: UNIX was a very bad choice for the operating system, since this would be the first computer experience for many people. UNIX just does not lend itself to being easily understood.

665:75: Would like to know if commodore can be interfaced via modem.

666:75: Athena provides a good service to the community, but it is really disgusting to wait in the Athena clusters and see people who actually enjoy those stupid games you have.

671:75. You definitely need more terminals especially for the Ringworld

cluster. It's too long a walk to the student center, when all you can expect to find is that all the terminals are taken.

672:75: Get rid of the people slowing up the machines by playing games (maybe a game machine/server?) How about real letter quality printers (especially in the student center).

Very poorly written survey. Many vague questions and biased questions. Next time think about your questions first and have someone actually try answering the survey BEFORE you send it out!

673:75: I don't know exactly how widespread Project Athena will be, but I'd like to caution against having too many courses dependent on computers. If professors aren't careful they will witness with the computer what has already happened with the calculator - how many people does the reader know that can add, subtract, multiply or divide two three digit numbers in their heads in less than thirty seconds? I also think that person-to-person contact is vital, especially for MIT students, and that under no circumstances should a terminal be allowed to replace a real live flesh and blood T.A. So please tell the guys in charge to proceed with caution.

By the way, the reason I personally don't like using computers is that even word-processors always seem to manage to lose my thirty page paper. It's happened TWICE. You can't blame me!

675:75: I would like to see Emacs improved - made more user-friendly. Perhaps clearer documentation would help. Scribe isn't mentioned.

676:75: I like it a lot even though I haven't had a real chance to apply it to anything practical.

678:75: I here many "UNIX SUX" comments from Athena users, simply because no one has taken the time to develop a user-interface for it designed for naive and novice users (who make up much of the Athena user community) instead of hackers (who is who the standard UNIX shell was written for (and by)). UNIX doesn't suck, the shell doesn't suck either, it's just inappropriate for the user community. PLEASE develop an alternative shell-land make it the default with the traditional ones available as an option.

679:75: Make it available for all and add some interesting games - both for learning and for FUN.

680:75: Make fixing of C-S and C-Q in EMACS on VT125's high priority. Make default permission on user directories include execute so that filenames can be listed. It is a joke that you are providing privacy because of filename completion. All you provide is unnecessary frustration. Put MH documentation into the on-line documentation facility. Put comp and repl and scan and rmm etc. into one program with a main-level menu please. Get an editor (ad additional one, don't remove EMACS, TED, or VI) which is suited for the VT220 terminals with their escape key in outer slobvia. A text editor should permit the user to keep his hands on the keyboard without crossing his arms.

682:75: I know it takes time to develop a coherent network, but I am slightly annoyed by not being able to easily use Chaosnet, telnet, other campus systems.

685:75: I like the games being on all the. I wish I could logon to any account from all terminal rooms. I wish manuals for the terminals and printers were available.

689:75: Get it to the dorms. Find some way to integrate it into course 7.

692:75: Laser printers should be available everywhere (in main terminal rooms -- not in dorms).

Many questions I've had about things in general were not answered in Athena booklets or other manuals.

I think is doing a good job! (may the computers reach the dorms QUICKLY).

695:75: I wish I knew how to use it. Are there manuals?

697:75: Far better than the approach of other schools, which has tended to be to require that students purchase personal computers.

Relative to Project Athena, Personal computers are:

1. More subject to obsolescence,
 2. More expensive to buy,
 3. Less reliable,
 4. Of lower performance,
 5. Not as capable in communications tasks,
- ETC.

Keep up the good work!

705:75: Athena is Great!

It would be nice if there was a list and short explanation of all the programs, etc. available on Athena ... I found out about Scribe and Ispell by accident. I'm sure there is more out there, but I don't have the time to read a ton of documents. A simple list of things, with a reference for where to find them would help a lot!

Also, student center disk space is a problem for some people (too small) - why not raise it On Request only, and give small accounts initially.

706:75: The present terminal rooms are too crowded and bright and often very sterile. The fact that the text editor - Scribe - was not revealed until I had already had the account for a month. When you have a word processing system like EMACS you must have an editor working with easily accessible information on it before you get it going.

709:75: I have only just recently received an Athena account. Although I have not had much opportunity to use it yet, it seems like the number of terminals in the student center isn't enough for all students, even though everyone is encouraged to get an account.

711:75: The system is too slow right now. I think no games should be allowed at the Ringworld cluster, as this really slows things down. If people want to play games, let them do it on micros.

We need a better quality laser printer. The DEC is only of marginal quality and is not really perfect for handing in papers. Otherwise, a job well done!

719:75: I don't like the fact that you can only get an Athena account at one

specific place, depending upon when you register. My account is at the student center, but I would much prefer an account closer to my dormitory, and I'm sure would use it more.

720:75: This Project Athena sound like a good idea, especially for courses of study which do not require any sort of computer knowledge (e.g.. Chem Eng.). This will be useful to those students in the future.

721:75: The long-term effects to MIT's undergraduate environment will probably be close to disastrous.

725:75: I believe Athena to be a good idea. It will have benefits for education at MIT and outside MIT, and I think it will also help to integrate the MIT campus once terminals become prolific campus-wide - i.e., dorms,frats. I don't like the fact that Athena is not hardware transparent, i.e.. having to logon at specific clusters, etc.

726:75: Get a real printer!

727:75: It would be wonderful if MIT's Athena could have computer terminals or personal computers w/ modems available in each student room like Cal Tech. This would be very useful for text editing and other possible uses.

Also, get more text editing space and better printers for the Athena system.

732:75: I believe the Athena system is a positive addition to MIT. It makes writing papers easier, leaving more time for other things.

733:75: Phase II is being introduced too slowly.

736:75: Athena printers are unreliable. Not enough terminals at living groups.

737:75: The only thing that has come to my attention is the poor quality of output of the student center cluster printer.

739:75 I feel very strongly that some type of line editor should be kept on the system and supported. I don't like having to come to MIT just because my terminal won't work with EMACS. I don't understand why the EMACS editor keeps filling my screen with junk, especially when I'm the only person on my computer. This is very frustrating.

While most of the consultants I've dealt with are quite friendly, they don't know very much (especially about 'C'). Essentially, I seem to be on my own.

Games should not be allowed on the system. It's very difficult to try to debug a program while some moron is bashing his/her keys and the terminal is beeping away.

741:75: I am concerned that the introduction of computers into living groups will be conducted in such a manner as to ruin the residential quality of living areas in favor of creating work cells. Since people tend to use computers 24 hrs/day, they should not be placed where they (i.e.. printers, terminals) will cause annoyance. I wouldn't want a terminal in my suite any more than I would want a washing machine in the middle of my room or a neighbor typing all night.

745:75: Hope the results and analysis of the survey are published in