

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PROJECT MAC

Reply to: Project MAC
545 Technology Square
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
Telephone: (617) 253-6016

March 12, 1975

Mr. Robert Scott, Director
Information Processing Services
Room 39-565

Dear Bob:

During our meeting Monday morning you mentioned the Honeywell effort to double Multics performance over the last year and its potential effect on user cost performance. At the time I suggested that much of the performance improvement had taken place in the overhead quantities (paging, backup, etc.) rather than "user state" items. The implication of my suggestion was that users probably see an unchanged bill, and the performance improvement mostly is evident in increased idle time.

In reviewing the monthly statements for the CompSys project, which uses \$2K to \$4K of first shift time per month, my suggestion appears to be verified. As the enclosed chart shows, the \$/console hour charge observed over the last fourteen months has shown no significant change. Thus I conclude that the factor of two in performance provided by Honeywell has not yet resulted in any significant cost/performance benefit for the I.P.C. customer.

Sincerely yours,

Jerome H. Saltzer
Associate Professor
Head, Computer Systems Research Division

JHS/mw

Enclosure

xc: F.J. Corbató

First shift charges for CompSys Interactive use, January 1974-February 1975

Month	Charge	Console hours	Cost, \$/console hour
1974			
January	\$2265	243	\$ 9.30
February	1336	103	13.00
March	1953	155	12.60
April	1658	129	12.90
May	1581	132	12.00
June	2622	187	14.00
July	1415	132	10.70
August	2168	172	12.60
September	2857	199	14.40
October	2960	222	13.30
November	2955	207	14.30
December	2944	228	13.10
1975			
January	5048	385	13.10
February	4047	335	12.10