

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PROJECT MAC

Reply to: Project MAC
545 Technology Square
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Telephone: (617) 864-6900 x6201

October 2, 1973

Mr. C. T. Clingen, Manager
Cambridge Information Systems Laboratory
Honeywell Information Systems Inc.
575 Technology Square
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear Charlie:

The enclosed letter from Gerry Vercauteren firmly states that the Software Documentation Unit is not currently chartered (or budgeted) to pick up responsibility for initial editing and input typing of continued revisions of the Multics Programmers' Manual and the System Programmers' Supplement. My interpretation of his response is that this responsibility must therefore be assumed by CISL. As you may recall from our earlier correspondence, the Project MAC Multics documentation activity is now the only Multics support activity not completely transferred to HISI; it is our intent to phase it out by January 1, 1974.

From our experience, this activity will require at least two full time people: a professional programmer who is good at technical documentation, and a typist who can do input typing and file modification on-line with Multics. Our experience also indicates very strongly that the technical editing requires the head and hand of an experienced programmer -- the usual technical writer who can bat out FORTRAN and BASIC manuals is a fish out of water in a system as complex and new as Multics. On the other hand, this kind of employee is difficult to find, and Karolyn Martin, who is very capably doing the job right now, is planning to depart in December, 1973, to move with her husband to the San Francisco area. Also, our two technical typists, Ossie Carey and Sadie Grant, have been apprised of the situation, and are actively looking for transfers within the M.I.T. community. If either of them should be offered an attractive transfer before January 1, we may be faced with both loss of production and loss of training overlap. Thus, I would suggest that "time is of the essence".

C. T. Clingen

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Finally, I would like to clarify one point in Gerry's letter which could possibly be misinterpreted: his characterization of the present activity as "supplying the M.I.T. community with advance and/or interim documentation." While the present activity does supply users of the M.I.T. site with documentation in advance of product release, that is an incidental by-product of a system which is primarily geared to producing first drafts of customer manuals for future releases. In particular, documentation of facilities known to be local to the M.I.T. site is handled separately by the M.I.T. Information Processing Center.

I stand ready to help in any way possible in easing the transfer. In particular, Mrs. Dorothy Jones will be happy to assist in the training of new typists, and in general coordination of the input typing and file maintenance activity.

Sincerely yours,



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

JHS/mw

Enclosure

xc: G.K. Vercauteren
R.T. Montee
J.F. Couleur