

Saltzer

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PROJECT MAC

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

Telephone: (617) 864-6900 x6201

July 14, 1969

To: Working Committee on Terminals

From: A. Vezza

Subject: Terminals for the Cambridge Project

After reviewing the NERComP TSS Suppliers' Group Questionnaire I can understand John Gilbert's reluctance to designate the 2741 as the "official" Cambridge Project terminal. The reason for this is obvious, Harvard has 144 type 33 teletypes and only 18 terminals of another kind of which three are types 2741. I think we need to know whether Harvard leases or owns these terminals and how painful, financially speaking, it would be to replace some of the mod 33 TTYS or augment the terminal pool with more IBM-2741s.

Another solution that we might examine in more detail would be to tie all the time-sharing systems, which are to be used by the project, together via several low-speed lines. Then a user with a terminal on system A could slave the line to system B (in a manner similar to the slave operation on CTSS) and he could input commands or data to system B through A. System A could act as an interpreter and make the terminal look like one of the set that system B supports. Of course the possibility, desirability, and cost of this type of solution must be weighed against the other alternatives.