AFIPS Washington Report

Pender M. McCarter, AFIPS Washington Office

Transborder Data Flow Guidelines submitted to OECD with significant changes

The omission of any reference to "international automatic personal data exchanges [emphasis supplied]" and the addition of a guideline suggesting limited government involvement are among significant changes to the Discussion Paper on Transborder Data Flow Guidelines, following its review by a subcommittee of the State Department's Public Advisory Committee on Transnational Enterprise. The revised Paper on Transborder Data Flow Guidelines was submitted to the Organization of Economic Cooperation & Development drafting group on September 11.

The OECD Drafting Group on Guidelines for Transborder Data Flow is preparing non-binding guidelines designed to harmonize personal privacy principles among its 29 member countries, including the US, Japan, and Australia. A final draft is expected in December, with adoption predicted as early as July 1979. However, State Department sources predict that implementation could take as long as 10 years.

The revised paper incorporates specific comments and suggestions from the subcommittee, the Interagency Task Force on Transborder Data Flow, and interested groups such as the Association of Data Processing Service Organizations. ADAPSO and various US industry groups have expressed an interest in efforts that would preserve unfettered transborder data flow as well as protect what they consider to be bonafide privacy interests.

Revised objectives. Unlike the original version, the revised paper omits any reference to "international automatic personal data exchanges." The omission appears to be in response to a comment by ADAPSO that "equal dangers to personal privacy are presented by manual data files . . ." As revised, the stated objectives are "In the context of the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises of 1976 and other relevant agreements of OECD, to establish international guidelines for national administration of personal data protection, to promote the free flow of information, the protection of personal liberties and free trade."

Principles. The section on "Principles of Personal Data Protection," based on the recommendations of the Privacy Protection Study Commission, remains the same. It includes a ban on any secret personal data recordkeeping systems, guarantees for individual inspection of recordkeeping systems by data subjects, provisions to correct inaccurate information, limits on external disclosure of information, and assignment of "affirmative responsibility" to recordkeeping organizations for maintaining accurate files.

Guidelines. The document's "Guidelines Relating to Transborder Flows of Personal Data" are unchanged, with a few important exceptions. First, the heading has been shortened from "Guidelines Relating to Transborder Flows of Automatically Processed, Personal Data [emphasis added]," consistent with the revised "Statement of Objectives." Second, a previous statement that "Governments should refrain from restricting the import and export of data unless doing so is essential to the protection of vital national interests," now reads "vital national security interests [emphasis supplied]." The word "security" was apparently unintentionally omitted from the original draft.

Finally, a new guideline, also responsive to an ADAPSO comment, has been added. It states, "Government involvement should be no more extensive than is reasonably required for the protection of personal data, and is consistent with the objective of promoting the free transborder flow of data."

International cooperation. The section on "International Cooperation" now reads, "Differing national privacy protection policies are the result of many factors, such as differing legal systems, social priorities and public policies. In view of these differences, harmonization is desirable, though it may be difficult to achieve in practice."

Significantly, the revised version no longer states that "Differing national privacy protection policies are justified by a variety of factors . . . [emphasis added]," a passage cited by ADAPSO as representing an unnecessary concession by the US.

The section also notes [additions italicized], "Governments should continue to pursue harmonization of national privacy protection laws, taking into account practical experience with existing guidelines, technological innovation and the desirability of increasing cooperation, and with particular emphasis on the development of uniform.
procedural mechanisms and compatible compliance requirements.” This revision parallels ADAPSO’s recommended wording.

Forum debates role of USPS in electronic mail

The potential conflict between the US Postal Service and private enterprise over the development of electronic message systems was underscored at the Twelfth National Postal Forum, held in Washington, DC, September 10-13. In a panel session on “Advanced Mail Services,” William Miller of USPS stated, “There may be a time when someone will say we can’t participate. But until that time, we have a responsibility to deliver the mail.” However, panelist John Eger, former acting director of the now abolished White House Office of Telecommunications Policy, compared the USPS monopoly position to that of AT&T. He suggested that, if Electronic Computer Originated Mail is deemed to be a computer service, perhaps the Postal Service could provide it on an unregulated basis through a separate subsidiary.

ECOM is the tentative name for an advanced electronic message system for large volume mailers. The Postal Service Board of Governors announced a filing for ECOM on September 7, the week before the Postal Forum.

ECOM. The system can be accessed by some 750 US companies with their own computers, providing that they transmit a minimum of 200 messages per mailing. (The Postal Service predicts that some 125 service bureaus could accept and batch transmissions from smaller companies otherwise unable to access ECOM.) Using a Western Union communications network linked to 25 post offices nationwide, electronic transmissions are converted into text at the post office, then mechanically inserted into envelopes for deposit in the regular first-class mail stream.

Postal officials predict next-day service for the majority of ECOM users; however, a two-day delivery period is being established initially. Except for delivery time, the service compares favorably with Mailgram, also operated in conjunction with November 1978
Western Union, providing a one-page message for 30 to 55 cents vs. $1.15.

On September 8, the Postal Service filed a request with the Postal Rate Commission for approval of a new subclass of first-class mail to be used with ECOM. A 15-month development phase could begin as early as December 15.

Other electronic systems. The USPS and COMSAT are preparing for their first demonstration next March of the previously announced service providing subscriber-to-postal-office-transmissions abroad. In addition, the Postal Service is investigating an electronic ticketing system to provide next-day delivery of airline tickets, a proposal which is encountering predictable opposition from travel agents. The service is also considering dispatching electronic money orders with electronic funds transfer.

Computer-related legislation


According to the draft bill, the commission would conduct such studies as forecasting the effect of information technology on education and lifestyles for the period from 1980-2000; forecasting the effect of increased use of computers in education on school financing and local taxation for the period from 1980-2000; and investigating the costs and benefits of alternative methods of training teachers in the use of information technologies and computer-based instructional materials.

The commission would consist of 12 appointed members, including at least three who are engaged in the education professions, developers of computer-based instructional materials and computer equipment, and students or parents of students.

Bill considered. Computer-related legislation being considered by Congress as of October 1 included H.R. 13471, the Financial Institutions Regulatory Act of 1978. Primarily designed to eliminate preferential loan treatment for a bank's officers, directors, or shareholders, H.R. 13471 (referred to the House floor in July) would also limit Federal government access to private bank records. According to Rep. Richardson Preyer (D-N.C.), it is "the only legislative recommendation of... [the Privacy Protection Study Commission] with a chance for a passage by the House this year."

AFIPS offers weekly calendar, witness statements

A weekly calendar of federal information policy-related hearings in the Legislative and Executive Branches of government is now available by writing to the AFIPS Washington Office, 1815 North Lynn Street, Suite 805, Arlington, VA 22209. The calendar is also reprinted in EDP Weekly, a newsletter published by EDP News Services of Washington.

The AFIPS Washington Office is initiating a Witness Statement Exchange. A detailed list of available statements may be obtained by writing to the office at the above address.

To enroll in the exchange, one recent witness statement concerning information policy issues should be sent to Pender M. McCarter, AFIPS Washington Office. Thereafter, specific witness statements can be requested by mail, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope and including one exchange statement for each request.

1978 Codasyl Cobol specifications available

The Codasyl Cobol 1978 Journal of Development, which includes developments in the language to December 1977, has been published by the Canadian Government EDP Standards Committee. Copies of the JOD, as well as periodic updates to it, may be ordered from the Department of Supply and Services, Materiel Data Management Centre, 4/B1 Place du Portage Phase III, 11 Laurier St., Hull, Quebec, Canada K1A 0S5. Prices, including packaging and postage costs, are 1978 JOD, $10; 1978 Subscription Service, $15; 1979 Subscription Service, $15; and 1978-79 Subscription Service, $25. Remittance in either Canadian or US funds should be made payable to "The Receiver General for Canada."

AFIPS seeking executive director

AFIPS' search for an executive director, temporarily suspended last May, is being resumed following the Board of Directors' decision to relocate AFIPS Headquarters from Montvale, New Jersey, to the Washington, DC area in August 1979.

To apply for the position, individuals who will be available on or before July 1, 1979, should submit a resume plus any additional supporting material to Albert S. Hoagland, president of AFIPS.

Applications and nominations, which are also welcome, must be submitted prior to December 1, 1978, to Dr. Hoagland at IBM Corporation, Dept. K43, Bldg. 028-1, 5600 Cottle Road, San Jose, CA 95193. The present executive director, Dr. Robert W. Rector, will remain with the Federation through its current fiscal year.

As the senior salaried officer of AFIPS, the executive director is responsible for the activities of all salaried employees and carries out policy as set by the board. Responsibilities include development of plans and programs, including assistance in implementation of approved projects; coordination of committee functions, projects, and other relevant activities; administration of the business affairs of AFIPS; advising the board of government activities pertaining to information processing; liaison with the federation's constituent societies and other professional bodies; and direction and coordination of staff efforts in support of the annual National Computer Conference.

Erratum, September issue

The article "Computer Science and Computer Engineering Education in the 80's," contained an omission of a reference for Figures 4-6 (pp. 76-77). The reference unintentionally omitted was to the work of Dr. James R. Pinkert and Ms. Kay Schenk, originally published in SIGCSE Bulletin, Vol. 10, No. 1, February 1978, pp. 81-84. We regret the omission.

—Ed.
Richard E. Merwin named program chairman for '79 NCC

Richard E. Merwin, a research professor at George Washington University and a consultant on real-time computer systems and special-purpose languages, has been appointed program chairman for the 1979 National Computer Conference to be held June 4-7 in New York City.

Merwin and his committee are planning a program of more than 120 professional and technical sessions on critical issues confronting the data processing industry. All sessions will be held at the Americana and New York Hilton Hotels and will be grouped under the areas of management, applications, science and technology, and social implications. Current plans call for up to 12 parallel groups of 1 1/2-hour sessions throughout the program.

With over 30 years in the information and data processing sciences, Merwin has held numerous management and staff positions in hardware, systems, and software design. His prior experience includes serving as principal scientific and technical advisor on data processing and simulation technology at the US Army Ballistic Missile Defense Program Office and as manager of Internal Engineering Laboratory Support Services for IBM's System Development Division. His current research interests are in developing compilers to produce microprograms, design of real-time distributed processing systems, and analysis of special purpose languages for requirements and automatic test systems.

An IEEE fellow, Merwin is a member of the Institute's Board of Directors. Within the Computer Society, he is a member of the Governing Board and chairman of the COMPCON Fall Standing Committee; he has also served as chairman of COMPCON '75 Fall and as editor of the IEEE Transactions on Computers.

Merwin received both his BS and PhD degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and his MSEE from Syracuse University.

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Even if you are not considering an immediate job change, your planning begins now. The following is only a partial listing of positions for which we are seeking qualified applicants.

Software Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOFTWARE MANAGERS</th>
<th>Data Base Programmers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Normal) several</td>
<td>(Normal) Many opportunities at all levels of experience. Design development, maintenance of file control, indexed sequential access methods, etc. Background in IMS, IDMS, TOTAL, NOMAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REAL TIME SOFTWARE</td>
<td>COMMUNICATIONS-MANAGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly language, microprocessors, minicomputers, large systems applications. Many opportunities for technical growth or management.</td>
<td>Senior opportunity for communications &quot;guru&quot; who wants to manage a communications area. Responsibility for supervising 6-8 people in dynamic environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERACTIVE GRAPHICS</td>
<td>COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop the state-of-the-art for one of the top manufacturers of interactive graphics systems. Micomputer or microprocessor background, communications experience a plus.</td>
<td>All levels of communications experience. Microprocessor and mainframe applications. Networking, protocols, state-of-the-art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIX SYSTEMS PROGRAMMER</td>
<td>OPERATING SYSTEMS ENGINEERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young, dynamic consulting company seeking good systems knowledge of UNIX. Good growth opportunity, unusual company environment.</td>
<td>Some exceptional opportunities. Experience in on-line or real-time operating systems desirable. Some microprocessor development opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LARGE SCALE SYSTEMS ENGINEERS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Normal) Data base and file control knowledge a plus.</td>
<td>(Normal) Design, develop and debug state-of-the-art diagnostic programs. Heavy assembly language. Field engineering background applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOFTWARE TECHNICAL WRITERS</td>
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<td>LANGUAGE/COMPILED DEVELOPMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Normal) In-depth knowledge of FORTRAN, PASCAL, FORTRAN helpful. Good opportunities for creativity.</td>
<td>(Normal) Consulting company to mainframe manufacturers. In-depth knowledge of FORTRAN, PASCAL, FORTRAN helpful. Good opportunities for creativity.</td>
</tr>
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Contact: Sally Jabion Silver

If qualified you are invited to call or send resume in complete confidence. All responses will be acknowledged.
Hogan stresses importance of marketing in “age of computation”

“This is indeed the ‘age of computation,’” C. Lester Hogan declared in his Wescon keynote address, citing as evidence the computer’s pervasive influence in a generation of scientific achievements. Nevertheless, the industry’s future is “more confusing than ever before,” according to the vice chairman of Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corp.

“For the first time in 20 years, the near-term future does not appear to be a simple extrapolation of the past,” Hogan said, noting that his September 11 address in Los Angeles marked his fifth Wescon Electro keynote exploring future trends.

Predictions are now so difficult because the industry is no longer exclusively technology driven; it is becoming market driven. Evolution—from the transistor era when “technologies were tumbling out of the lab every few months” and the IC era when “we made whatever was technically feasible and someone always bought it”—has brought us to the computer on a chip. “But evolution to a Cray computer on a chip is ridiculous,” Hogan asserted.

Marketing is now the essential question, he said, with both foreign competition and US entrepreneurs presenting major challenges to the entrenched semiconductor and equipment companies. The Japanese are becoming dominant in consumer electronics because their calculators and digital watches, for example, are designed to appeal to a broad marketplace.

Although he recognized the importance of a national policy that commits the Japanese to spending up to $1 billion to take the lead from US companies within the next 10 years, Hogan refused to concede that it was the major threat.

“The threat arises mostly because we are facing a complex new era that demands new manufacturing processes, new design techniques, new approaches to the marketplace, and we seem to have forgotten how we made our country great in the first place.”

US military and civil display market to total $9.4 billion for 1977-83

The US military and civil display market will nearly double annual spending with the cumulative market estimated at $9.4 billion for 1977-1983, states “U.S. Military Display Market,” a Frost & Sullivan market analysis.

Annual volume will rise from $921 million in 1977 to $1.8 billion in 1983. Airborne systems for the military will garner almost half of the total market, with aircraft instruments, Army night vision systems, and Naval shipboard systems also considered significant markets.

The fastest growing market will be Army night vision systems which will increase its annual budgets 181% during 1977-1983. Airborne systems will experience an expansion of 112% in yearly appropriations for the period, and Naval shipboard systems will expand 117%.

The display components market (image intensifiers, CRT’s, switches, readouts, and other components) is predicted to be $1.0 billion for 1977-1983, with image intensifiers being the lead component. On an annual basis, the sale of components is projected to increase 64%, from $110 million in 1977 to $181 million in 1983.

The seven-year funding for airborne systems is pegged at $4.1 billion, climbing from $350 million in 1977 to $840 million in 1983. Growth should continue through 1983 to implement electro-optical and new radar systems designs.

Some state-of-the-art changes, such as increasing use of ICs, are being effected in airborne display systems, but the CRT remains the prime component and probably will remain so through 1983. Display systems for aircraft instruments are projected to grow nearly 34 percent for 1977-1983, with total funding expected to be $1.5 billion. Annual outlays for flight/navigation indicators, and engine/airframe indicators will advance from $196 million in 1977 to $262 million in 1983.


November 1978

A new, low cost, color graphics display generator

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Outstanding user features incorporated into AYDIN’s new keyboard generator include:

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The Model 5217 low cost keyboard generator, is software compatible with AYDIN CONTROLS’ high communications speed (up to 600K bytes/sec.) multi-channel Model 5215 color graphics display generator. Now you have a choice—the 5217 for small systems and remote applications or the 5215 for large system applications.

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Project issues the“Cray XMP”Vax is no replaces Cray-2

The March issue of Computerworld featured an article on a new Cray computer to be built by Digital Equipment Corp. (DEC) using their "EBCOMP" technology. The article was careful to not give the machine a name. This may have been because DEC used the term to describe the DEC-10.

The “Cray XMP” appears to be a VAX computer, with DEC’s "EBCOMP" technology. The article states that Cray’s main innovation is a technology that will allow the computer to perform floating point operations twice as fast as the VAX. The technology is called “EBCOMP” or Explicit Binary Coding of Arbitrary Precision numbers.

The “Cray XMP” will use DEC’s "EBCOMP" technology to perform floating point operations twice as fast as the VAX. The technology is called “EBCOMP” or Explicit Binary Coding of Arbitrary Precision numbers. The "Cray XMP" will use DEC’s "EBCOMP" technology to perform floating point operations twice as fast as the VAX. The technology is called “EBCOMP” or Explicit Binary Coding of Arbitrary Precision numbers.