LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Error in figure on structured programming corrected

Editor:
I would like to point out the following mistake in Randall W. Jensen's article, "Structured Programming," in the March 1981 issue of Computer. I discovered this error while giving a lecture based on Jensen's article to new programmers.

On page 47 the author used Figure 23 as an example for implementation of PLT exit structures. This PLT diagram has a mistake that leads to an infinite loop if at least one record in the input file is invalid. In this case by cycle structure the program will get a "new" loop cycle with the old value for record pointer. Therefore, at each new loop cycle the program will get the same invalid record that it got before, and so on. To eliminate the error, the "increment record pointer" process should precede the "validate record content" process.

Gregory Prokter
Haifa, Israel

Author's response

Editor:
Thank you for bringing the error to my attention. It has unfortunately been hiding in the example for several months without detection. Mr. Prokter killed it.

Randall W. Jensen
Hughes Aircraft Company

Thank you

Editor:
The International Year of Disabled Persons precipitated a number of fine efforts to bring about greater awareness of the potentials and needs of the handicapped. I'm not aware of anything, however, more meaningful than the Johns Hopkins Personal Computing to Aid the Handicapped Contest.

The attention you focused on this subject in Computer (the January 1981 special issue on "Computing and the Handicapped" and a January 1982 Update news story), the fine article by Ware Myers in the February 1982 IEEE Micro, and the Computer Society's generosity as a Program Associate of the contest will long be remembered by the handicapped community.

The contest is over but the ripple effect will go on for some time. It was truly the spark for ideas and projects that will continue to grow and to positively affect the lives of so many people.

We are extremely pleased with the acceptance of our concept of linking handicapped individuals to employers through the use of modified computers in the home. We have received inquiries from individuals and organizations across the country wanting to know how they can develop similar projects. We don't consider any part of the concept patentable; we're only anxious for anyone to use what we've developed for the benefit of others.

As the new year begins, it is a very appropriate time to recognize the big role the IEEE Computer Society and its publications played in the success and promotion of our project. Thank you!

Jim Grey
Executive Director
National Paraplegic Foundation
Alton McDonald
Chairman
Jack Kishpaugh
Director of Special Projects