Four very different aspects of the areas of programming languages and operating systems are represented in these sessions.

A unique session will be a report on the recent History of Programming Languages Conference. No single topic seems to generate as much varied and heated debate as the merits of a programming language. Since future generations learn of past events through historical documents, special care had to be taken in organizing a History of Programming Languages Conference to insure a balanced and fair treatment of the various topics. An attempt will be made to summarize the technical lessons learned.

The 1970's have seen increasing interest in secure computing systems. Both theoretical results and practical experience with our systems seem to be somewhat discouraging. Nonetheless, our intrepid designers keep trying. A report will be made which focuses on how close we are to achieving such systems.

There has been a flurry of recent work on cryptography which suggests that improved and economical ciphers are available. Different aspects of such work will be discussed. One is the NBS standard while another concerns the use of data dependent keys.

There will be a session of the status of COBOL which will discuss, among other things, the anticipated 1980 standard and also data base interfaces.