DEC Datasystem 150

New Product Announcement

DATASYSTEM 150: DEC has introduced a new table-top computer system, the Datasystem 150. The single-user system is the latest member of the PDP-11-based Datasystem series of small business computers. The entry-level D150 is designed to serve as either an intelligent network node for large corporations or a stand-alone computer system for small companies. The new system has a starting price of $10,900, and deliveries will begin in March 1979.

The standard system disk is a dual-drive flexible disk unit capable of storing up to 512K bytes of data. The disk unit and the LSI-11 CPU are contained in a small cabinet that fits on top of the workstation desk beside the system's VT100 display terminal. The D150 is available with a main memory capacity of either 32K or 60K bytes, and the system includes a 180-cps dot matrix printer. The 60K-byte system costs $11,600.

The Datasystem 150 runs under the Commercial Transaction System-300 (CTS-300) operating system, which supports the processing of business applications such as payroll, accounts receivable and payable, general ledger, and inventory. DIgital Business-Oriented Language (DIBOL), DEC's own high-level programming language, is also supported. Sequential, indexed-sequential, and random file access methods are offered. Programs written for the Datasystem 150 will also run on DEC's Datasystem 320 and 350 computers, the other PDP-11-based members of the family.

The Datasystem 308 and 310, formerly the low-end members of the line, are still available but are no longer being actively marketed, according to DEC. The 308 and 310 both use the COS-310 operating system and are based on the PDP-8 processor, and therefore they do not offer a totally compatible expansion path to the D320 and D350 systems.

The recently introduced VT100 video terminal is the data entry and access device on the D150. It displays three sizes of upper and lower case characters (normal, double width, and double height) in 7-by-9 dot matrices. Reverse video and underlining are selectable on a character-by-character basis. Smooth scrolling is included, and the split-screen capability allows information display independently of data entry or inquiry. The detached typewriter-like keyboard contains an 18-key numeric function keypad.

The Datasystem 150 also includes communications capabilities. Through the DTS-300 2780 communications package, the D150 can communicate over telephone lines with remote Datasystems, PDP-8's, PDP-11's, DECsystem-10's and 20's, and several IBM System 360 and 370 models. The Datasystem Interactive Communications Access Method (DICAM) software is also available for interactive communications with IBM 360 or 370 systems.

The following chart summarizes the current characteristics of the five PDP-11-based Datasystem models. All of the systems run under the CTS-300 operating system, use the DIBOL programming language and DECform data entry software, perform batch and interactive tasks, and support inter-system communications.

Model	Main Memory (kilobytes)		Disk Capacity (megabytes)		Number of Terminals	Number of Tasks
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Max.	Max.
D150	32	60	0.5	0.5	1	3
D323	56	56	1	20	3	3
D325	56	56	10	20	3	3
D355	128	256	10	20	8	16
D358	128	256	56	224	8	16