

Basic Four 210, 510, 610, and 730

Product Enhancement

During the past few months, Basic Four has revamped its line of information processing and office automation systems. Three new systems were introduced—the 310, 710, and 810—as well as an office display terminal (ODT) additional software, and an S/10 microcomputer.

The basic System 310 consists of 96K bytes of memory, 40M bytes of fixed Winchester disk storage, one 150 lpm printer, one 1600 bpi magnetic tape drive, and two video display terminals. Purchase price is \$55,900.

A maximum System 310 configuration includes 256K bytes of memory, 120M bytes of disk storage, two 600 lpm printers, and 16 serial devices—including VDTs for data processing, up to four multifunctional display terminals (MDTs) for word processing, and serial printers.

Disks and controllers from the 210 are compatible with the 310.

The 710 replaces both the System 610 and the System 730. In its minimum configuration, the System 710 consists of 96K bytes of memory, two 35M-byte removable disk drives, one VDT, and one 300 lpm printer at a price of \$69,100.

The maximum 710 configuration features 512K bytes of memory, 600M-byte disk capacity, two parallel printers, and up to 32 serial devices—including VDTs, up to four MDTs, and serial printers.

The Power Performance Option is standard on the 710, as well as compatibility with disks and controllers from the 510 and discontinued 610 and 730 systems.

The top-of-the-line System 810 is based on three symmetric, 16-bit bipolar arithmetic logic units (ALUs) that can be switched as needed to process independent instruction streams.

The 810 features a 32-bit memory data path with a 53.36 megabit bandwidth. The machine also offers variable instruction length architecture (from 8 to 80 bits), an 80-megabit input/output (I/O) bus bandwidth, direct addressing of 16 million bytes and virtual addressing of 1 billion bytes.

Support is offered for up to eight fixed- or removable-media disk drives, two tape drives, three parallel line printers and 64 serial devices such as video display terminals and serial printers.

In its minimum configuration, the System 810 consists of 1.5 megabytes of memory, 57 megabytes of Winchester fixed-disk storage, a 45-megabyte magnetic tape streamer drive, a 150 lpm printer and a high-speed video display terminal (VDT). The purchase price of a base configuration with operating system is \$117,679.

Nearly twice as fast as MAI's next largest Basic Four business computer, the System 710, both the hardware and operating system of the 810 are designed specifically to optimize real time response in transaction processing business environments where users want fast throughput when running concurrent tasks.

The system can be upgraded easily by adding processors. The multiple processor approach also improves system reliability; if one device goes down, the others simply take over the workload.

The processors run a new operating system called BOSS/VS which is compatible with the rest of the Basic Four product line. It incorporates a number of new features including virtual storage memory and extended Business Basic.

Among the peripherals available for use with the System 810 is a high-speed (5.6 MHz) video display terminal (VDT) that displays 24 lines of 80 characters. It provides a typewriter-style keyboard and a 10-key numeric pad, along with dual-function keys for special tasks. This keyboard connects to the display terminal via a 5-foot coiled cord. Users can locate the VDT up to 600 feet from the central processors.

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Also available is a 960 cps VDT that can be located up to 1000 feet from the central processors. This terminal can also access the processors over telephone lines at up to 1200 baud.

Two types of rigid-disk drives are available for the System 810. The fixed-disk Winchester-technology drive stores 154 megabytes (unformatted) of user data. Users can also choose a 75-megabyte removable disk drive for applications requiring vast amounts of off-line storage. The fixed-disk drives come as an integral part of the CPU package; the removable-disk unit is free standing.

Two types of printers are offered: the dot-matrix version prints 150 or 300 lpm using a 7x9 matrix. The band printer outputs 600 or 1000 lpm of fully formed characters.

A streaming magnetic tape drive handles disk backup chores and helps distribute system software. The drive also provides for off-line data storage and permits interchange of data tapes between Basic Four systems and any other computers whose tape drives adhere to standard phase-encoded (PE) formats.

New offerings for office automation are Office Management System (OMS) applications software and the Office Display Terminal (ODT). OMS allows businesses to automate administrative, word processing, and records management functions. The Office Display Terminal supports data and word processing as well as OMS software on any Basic Four System 210 through 810.

Z-80 based, the ODT has 32K bytes of internal memory and is equipped with a keyboard containing a 10-key numeric pad and a variety of applications oriented function keys. The high resolution video monitor with a 12-inch diagonal screen, displays 24 lines with an optional 25th status line, in either an 80- or 132-character per line format. The ODT can access data remotely and simultaneously with other users in the network. Purchase price of the ODT is \$3,300.

According to Basic Four, the ODT is especially well-suited to the automated office environment, using the Basic Four Office Management System (OMS).

The new low-end entry to the Basic Four line is the S/10 portable desktop computer. The S/10 can be used as a standalone microcomputer, a workstation attached to another Basic Four system, or as part of a dispersed network in large organizations and government agencies. The purchase price of \$5,995 includes an S/10 with twin Z-80 microprocessors, two dual density, 5 1/4-inch floppy disk drives of 600K bytes each, 128K bytes of internal memory, a pair of RS-232 serial input/output ports, and a video display terminal with a detached keyboard. The S/10 supports CP/M, Basic Four's BB/M, and OMS.□