IBM 4300 Series

New Product Announcement

Recent weeks have seen IBM announce new hardware and software capabilities for the 4300 Series computers. The hardware additions came in the form of expanded mass storage capabilities, while the software announcement concerned new releases of TCAM and VTAM.

HARDWARE: The IBM 3880 Storage Control that was announced with the 4300 Series computers has been enhanced to permit the attachment of 3330/3333 Disk Storage Units and 3350 Direct Access Storage Drives to the 4341 Processor. IBM plans to make first deliveries of the 3880 with 3330/3333 and 3350 capability in the fourth quarter of 1979. A fully equipped 3880 can attach the 3330/3333, 3340/3344, 3350, and 3370 disk drives. The 3350, however, is not supported in 333X Model 1 or Model 11 compatibility mode.

Each of the two storage directors of the 3880 attaches to a block multiplexer channel of the 4341 Processor. Up to four strings of direct-access storage devices can be attached to each storage director. Strings of 3333/3330 DASD's can be mixed with 3850 strings in any combination. Within a 3333/3330 string, 3333 Models 1 or 11 can attach 3380 Models 1, 2, or 11 in any combination. The 3340/3344 cannot be intermixed on a storage director with 3330/3333 or 3350 drives. Storage directors may be attached to either a 1- or 2-megabyte block multiplexer channel.

The original 3880 announcement allowed for the attachment of a two-channel switch pair option. IBM has now increased the number of switch pair options to two. A 3880 with both of the two-channel switch pair options installed allows up to four channels to be switched to each storage director. Therefore, a total of eight channels can have access to the 3880. Each two-channel switch pair may be connected to a configuration control panel via an optional remote switch attachment.

A maximum of four 3333 Model 1 or Model 11 and/or 3350 Model A2 units can be attached to each storage director. Each 3333 can attach up to three 3330's, Model 1, 2, or 11. Each 3350 Model A2 or A2F can attach up to three 3350's, Model B2, B2F, C2, or C2F. A storage director can attach up to four 3340 Model A2 units, and up to two of the 3340's can attach 3344's. If 3340's and 3344's are intermixed on a storage director, a maximum of 28 drives can be attached to that director; if only 3340's are attached, up to 32 drives are allowed.

The 3880 is supported under DOS/VSE, VM/370 Release 6, OS/VS1 Release 6.7 and Release 7.0, and OS/VS2 Release 3.8. The 3340/3344 is not supported under OS/VS2 when attached to the 3880.

SOFTWARE: IBM plans to release new versions of ACF/TCAM (ACF/TCAM Version 2 R3), ACF/VTAM (ACF/VTAM/VS), NTO, and ACF/NCP (ACF/NCP/VS R3) beginning in mid-1980. The new versions will be available for users of the OS/VS1, MVS, and DOS/VSE operating systems. The aim of the new TCAM/VTAM versions is to provide increased flexibility through additional computer terminal links, improved reliability through user programming of alternate data paths, and enhanced functions in multiprocessor networks through greater latitude in the placement of points of control. Automatic use of alternate data paths is particularly valuable when unrecoverable error transmissions are encountered.

Automatic rerouting is an attractive feature of the packet-switched public networks (such as Telenet and Tymnet) that was previously unavailable with SNA networking. This, along with the other new features, may be seen as an effort by IBM to meet the needs of large-volume communications users who have been considering a move to the X.25-supported networks. IBM has not yet offered any communications support for the X.25 packet communications protocol.

Other features of the new TCAM and VTAM releases will add enhanced monitoring of network activity, error recording, and operator alert for possible problem areas.

The new Network Control Program release ACF/NCP/VS R3, operating in conjunction with ACF/TCAM Version 2 R3 and ACF/VTAM/VS, will reportedly enhance networking of 370X nodes and provide facilities for specializing communications lines and incorporating multiple data routes. Networking of 370X nodes is enhanced by the ability of up to eight IBM computers to control interconnected controllers and terminals. IBM claims that one or more computers or

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controllers may be taken out of service and returned with a minimum disruption to data communications during the transition. With specialized lines, users would select a data path depending on the type of traffic (i.e., interactive, batch, etc.) Extensive interconnection between hosts and nodes includes parallel links between 3705 controllers and provides network backup if one node should fail. These two features should increase network efficiency and reliability.

The NTO Release 2 program product offers IBM large-system users a significant enhancement: support for start-stop terminals. The terminals supported include the IBM 2740 and 2741 and other teletypewriter devices. Since NTO Release 2 will be supported by CICS/VS, some terminals currently supported by BTAM can now also be supported by ACF/TCAM Version 2 R3, ACF/VTAM/VS, and ACF/NCP/VS R3. An intermediate release, ACF/NCP/VS R2.1, in conjunction with the IBM Network Problem Determination Application (NPDA), will provide facilities to collect and organize error statistics from the network.□

EQUIPMENT PRICES

		Purchase Price	Monthly Maint.	Rental* (short-term lease)	Rental* (2-year lease)
3880	Storage Controller, Model 1	$62,350	$160	$1,704	$1,450
6148	Remote Switch Attachment	NC	NC	NC	NC
6149	Remote Switch Attachment, additional	NC	NC	NC	NC
8170	Two-Channel Switch Pair	6,450	35	176	150
3863	2400-bps Modem	2,135	—	71	60
3864	4800-bps Modem	3,500	—	123	105
3865	9600-bps Modem	5,300	—	194	165

*Rental and lease charges include equipment maintenance.

SOFTWARE PRICES

	Monthly License Charge	Date Available
ACF/VTAM/VS Release 3 under MVS	$240	4th qtr. 1980
Under OS/VS1	240	2nd qtr. 1981
Under DOS/VSE	85	1st qtr. 1981
ACF/VTAM/VS Release 3 Networking feature under MVS	600	4th qtr. 1980
Under OS/VS1	600	2nd qtr. 1981
Under DOS/VSE	160	1st qtr. 1981
ACF/TCAM/Version 2 R3 under MVS	450	4th qtr. 1980
Under OS/VS1	450	1st qtr. 1981
ACF/TCAM/Version 2 R3 Networking feature under MVS	800	4th qtr. 1980
Under OS/VS1	800	1st qtr. 1981
ACF/NCP/VS R2.1	120	2nd qtr. 1980
ACF/NCP/VS R3	120	2nd qtr. 1981
NTO Release 2	100	1st qtr. 1981
NPDA	32	3rd qtr. 1980
Support programs for installation of NCP programming	35	—