

## Honeywell Bull DPS 8000 Series

### Product Enhancement

Honeywell Bull extended the growth path of its DPS 8000 Series with the addition of three new models consisting of the single-processor Model 41 and two higher performance mainframes, the three-processor Model 83, and the four-processor Model 84. The company also expanded mass storage options with the announcement of new mass storage products. These include a triple-density storage device and controller. Finally, the company introduced new applications development software.

The three newest 8000 Series mainframes, announced in May 1988, bring the total number of available systems to five. The company first announced the 8000 line in June 1987 as the eventual replacement for the DPS 8 medium-range line. The first two models delivered last year were the Model 81, a single processor, and the Model 82, a dual processor. The new entry-level Model 41 has two thirds the speed of the Model 81 and provides a new entry point into the 8000 Series. The new Models 83 and 84 provide an upgrade path to customers who have installed the less powerful Models 81 and 82. In on-line processing environments, the Models 82 and 84 overlap the performance of the IBM 3090 line at the low end, the company claims. The Model 41 is comparable to an IBM 4381 Model Group 23.

Honeywell Bull markets the 8000 processors as general-purpose mainframes, with particular emphasis on transaction processing. The Model 41 can handle 43 transactions per second (tps), and the Models 81 and 82 can handle 62 and 110 tps, respectively. The Models 83 and 84 can process 173 and 220 tps, respectively, Honeywell Bull says. The company derived the data running financial applications on systems running under the GCOS 8 operating system, using four disk input/output operations.

The Model 41 features one CPU; 16 megabytes of memory, expandable to 128 megabytes; one Maintenance Subsystem (MS); one System Control Unit (SCU); one Input/Output Processor (IOP) supporting up to 16 physical channel connections; one system console; and one modem. The Model 41 sells for \$450,000.

The Model 83 features three CPUs; 32 megabytes of memory, expandable to 256 megabytes; two SCUs; two MSs; three IOPs, each supporting up to 16 physical channel connections; two system consoles; and two modems. The Model 83 sells for \$1,835,000.

The Model 84 features four CPUs; 32 megabytes of memory, expandable to 256 megabytes; two SCUs; two MSs; four IOPs, each supporting up to 16 physical channel connections; two system consoles; and two modems. The Model 84 sells for \$2,370,000. All three systems became available in July.

In the mass storage area, Honeywell introduced the MSP3990 storage subsystem, a product obtained through

IBM Corporation. The MSP3990 consists of single- and triple-capacity storage devices and a new controller. The MSU3390/3392 holds more than 2.5 gigabytes of data per unit, while the MSU3391/3393 holds up to 7.5 gigabytes. Each storage unit includes four actuators. A new 3990 controller allows up to four simultaneous data transfers between the controller and central processor. The MSP3990 became available in July. The smaller disk with controller sells for \$151,700, while the larger disk sells for \$198,000.

In addition to the IBM-based storage devices, Honeywell Bull announced the MSS8080 mass storage subsystem, which the company calls "the most economical choice" for customers implementing high-performance transaction processing applications. Specific applications areas may include airline reservation systems, order entry, and catalog sales. The MSS8080 can be configured in multiple modules, each of which features two actuators and holds up to 760 megabytes of data. A single MSS8080 cabinet can contain more than 3 gigabytes of storage. Additional cabinets can expand the capacity to a maximum of 24 gigabytes. The storage device can transfer data at up to 10 megabytes per second using a new, high-capacity data channel interface. Multiple data transfers are multiplexed in the interface to achieve this transfer rate. The MSS8080 became available in July. A basic system sells for \$78,900.

In the software area, Honeywell Bull announced PACBASE, an applications generator obtained from CGI Systems Inc., and PATHVU and RETROFIT, program analysis and structuring tools obtained from Catalyst. PACBASE uses a methodology based on computer-aided software engineering (CASE) to improve productivity in all phases of application development. The company claims the product should reduce system maintenance costs and the time required for software maintenance and development. The product should also help reduce development backlogs and help companies better control corporate data.

PATHVU and RETROFIT analyze and restructure existing Cobol programs, helping users to better maintain and enhance their existing Cobol software. PATHVU does the analysis and generates reports tailored to the needs of a software management team. It follows the logic patterns in a program code, identifies "dead" code and logic flaws, and creates and maintains 43 separate statistics which are used to generate management, technical, and individual program reports.

RETROFIT, a Cobol program restructuring tool, converts unstructured Cobol into PERFORM-based structured Cobol. It unscrambles convoluted logic, corrects structural flaws, assures consistency, and produces restructured programs that are functionally equivalent to the original program. Additionally, the company announced that Magna 8, its fourth-generation language offering, now includes transaction processing capabilities. All the new software offerings are now available. □