

## NEWSLETTER

PS/8 - OS/8 - OS/12 - DS/8

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Contributions and correspondence should be sent to:

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### DECUS SYMPOSIUM

This copy of the Newsletter should reach you shortly before the Fall Symposium in San Francisco. The advanced program has a number of items that will be of interest to OS/8 users. Of particular interest is our Special Interest Group Workshop. Unless conditions should change between now and then, I will not be able to attend, so John Alderman will take over the workshop in my place.

### DEVICE HANDLERS

There are new conventions being introduced into OS/8 to deal with cassette tapes so anyone writing a device handler must be careful to allow for them. If a non-file structured device receives a command to write zero blocks the handler should ignore it or take some special action, such as writing an end-of-file mark. It should not return an error. For example, the current line printer handler will not work in OS/8 Version 3 because it gives an error return on a zero block write request. (Version 3 will include a revised LPT: handl~ correct this.)

If a file-structured device gets a request for a zero block read or write it should be interpreted as a 20 block (40(8) page) transfer. This is so that transfers of a complete field of memory may be made with a single request. In the new release of OS/8 the CLOSE function in the USR will check whether the output device is non-file structured. If it is the USR will issue a zero block write request.

### PIP11

A revision to PIP11 has been submitted to DECUS to correct an error and to remove the need for EAE.

PROGRAMS IN DECUS

DECUS 8-646	DECsystem-8 Version 1.2 - available on DECTape or LINCtape.
DECUS 8-639	DISASM and SPLIT
DECUS 8-640	OS/8 EDIT PLUS
DECUS 8-641	OS/8 FORMAT
DECUS 8-628 or 12-132	PS/8 LISP 1.5
DECUS 8-631 or 12-133	MINI.SB
DECUS 8-632 or 12-134	RWDF32.SB
DECUS 8-633 or 12-135	MAC8 8K MACRO
DECUS 8-634 or 12-136	MOVE.PA
DECUS 8-635 or 12-137	PALL2D
DECUS 12-138	ISEL.SB
DECUS 8-649 QP1P	OS/8 directory editing program
DECUS 8-650 AMIPED	Automated interview program - currently asks medical questions - can be adapted to other jobs.
DECUS 8-543 LIFE	OS/8 Version of Conway's game on a 32 x 32 MATRIX.