



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

NOV 5 1971

TO: Attendees

DATE: November 4, 1971

FROM: David Stone

DEPT:

David

SUBJ: Minutes of the Low-Cost PDP-10 Meeting

The low cost 10 meeting was held in response to a memo from me dated 9/20/71. That memo proposed that DEC build a low cost hardware system capable of running current DECsystem-10 software. In particular, it suggested that by January, 1974, we could build such a system for less than \$80K (48K core, one RP02, CR, LPT, 8 TTY's). The 11/45 implications were suggested to be:

- . emphasize real time systems
- . attack the computational market only up to \$250K.

The primary emphasis was on meshing low cost 10 plans with 11/45 plans.

At the meeting, John Leng said that the 10 product line planned to market a 10 system similar to the one suggested with a manufacturing cost less than \$40K; time frame to be two years. Ron Bingham presented details which included the possibility of expanding the project scope to require substantial new software--many pertinent questions were raised in his proposal and a reasonably large planning investment is to be started soon to answer those questions.

Dick Clayton outlined his 11/45 plans with emphasis on expansion of current 11/20 products (RSTS, DOS, COMTEX, RSX) and an excellent real-time capability. A "multi-function" operating system was also stressed. The top range of this system would meet the bottom of the low cost 10, thus providing a complete covering of the computational market.

The primary controversy centered around potential conflict and duplication between the lowest cost 10 systems (hardware and software) and the larger 11/45 systems. For example, should COBOL be available on the 11/45? The 11 group consensus was that most current 10 software would eventually have functional equivalents on the 11.

Conclusions

My conclusions from the meeting were:

1. It is critically important that a two year plan of both 11/45 and KL-10 projects be created and compared to ensure maximum development value and market penetration.
2. The KL-10 project should concentrate on lowering cost without major software changes--we should support only one basic DECsystem-10 operating system and the KL-10 should be able to use all 10 software (an example might be to use PDP-8 based line printer and cardreader for which the DECsystem-10 operating system already has working code, rather than 11 based peripherals).
3. The 11/45 based system should continue on its current track and avoid heavy EDP oriented expenditures until good real-time and special purpose multi-user systems are complete (RSTS, DOS).
4. The transportability of user source code (FORTRAN, BLISS) from 11/45 to 10 and vice-versa should be explicitly addressed in future plans.

Attendees

A. Bertocchi	J. Leng
R. Bingham	N. Mazzaresse
R. Clayton	K. Olsen
U. Fagerquist	S. Olsen
W. Hindle	H. Spencer
A. Knowles	D. Stone