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"small" TEX

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Last issue (Vol. 4, No. 2, September 1983) this column carried an appeal for interest in and funding for a PC-TEX. I received several replies and, while the interest is high, the level of funding is not. I was able to justify the purchase of an IBM PC for business use, and will pursue porting TEX to it as time allows.

The ideal system would run on the PC (with sufficient speed, I hope, to compile a page or two per minute), and print a "proof" copy on a graphics printer (such as an Epson MX-80). This would provide a convenient, low-cost work station for TEX document preparation. Since many companies, schools and individuals already own systems, there would no additional expense for hardware. If higher-quality output is required, documents could be transferred from the microcomputers to systems that can compile and print TEX files on high-resolution devices. Let's hope it will work, since this capability could vastly increase the popularity and use of TEX.

I know of at least one experiment running TEX on a PC-XT with the IBM370 emulation. Alan Spragens of SLAC and David Fuchs downloaded a VM TEX to the PC and it worked without a hitch! The bad news is that it took 20 minutes to compile a page. This is due mainly to the 370 emulation; it would undoubtedly run faster with native code.

A new "small" TEX, on a Synapse (a multiple-68000-based system), was implemented by Dick Wallenstein at Comcon. A very patient fellow, Dick managed to bring up his version with a Pascal that had no REAL (floating-point) type.

We have recently had two reports of the successful porting of TEX onto Apollo (68000) systems, one from Yale and the other from COS Information Systems in Montréal.

David Fuchs says that the Corvus and Sage systems are not currently robust enough to support TEX. We will leave these systems on the "wish" list.

Whoever has the Masscomp port, please get in touch so that we can include the contact information in the table on this page.

"small" TEX implementations

Manufacturer	Processor	TEX version	Processor time per page	Company and contact
Hewlett-Packard 3000	16-bit	TEX82	10–30	TeXeT, Lance Carnes
Hewlett-Packard 1000	16-bit	TEX82	10–30	JDJ Wordware, John Johnson
DEC PDP-11/44	16-bit			
Plexus, Onyx	Z8000	TEX80	10–20	TYX, Dick Gauthier
IBM PC	8086/8			
Apollo	M68000	TEX82	2–10	OCLC, Tom Hickey; Yale, ?; COS Information, Pierre Clouthier
Hewlett-Packard 9836	M68000	TEX82	6–10	HP Boise Div., Jim Crumley
Sun	M68000	TEX82 [1]		Textset, Jim Sterken
Corvus	M68000	TEX82 [3]		
Cyb	M68000	TEX82 [1]		Texas A&M, Norman Naugle
Apple Lisa	M68000	TEX82 [2]		
Masscomp	M68000	TEX82 [1]		
Sage	M68000	TEX82 [3]		
Synapse	M68000	TEX82	10–30	Comcon, Dick Wallenstein

[1] in progress or recently completed [2] hopeful [3] currently unimplementable