

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

As a result of the Conference, a questionnaire was mailed to about 120 registrants, one to an installation, requesting that they submit a priority list of their desires in terms of additional APL support or further elements of implementation. About 50 questionnaires were returned; some of these were from 1130 users, some were from installations that had little or no experience with APL.

There was a rather distinct, definable pattern of response. The items are listed below, in an order which closely reflects the priority of response indicated in the questionnaires. As you will note, the items are not necessarily disjointed in concept, and some of the requests were subject to interpretation. For instance, the suggestion of "batch mode" and a "compiler" might be interpreted as either or both, and they also might be involved in the support of additional "I/O devices". Similarly, the ability to share workspaces relates to file access or file handling.

The "unquote feature" that appeared with a high frequency (and which Mr. Falkoff indicated was a high priority implementation feature) relates to the execution of character strings (say, pre-generated code). Many people indicated the need for very large (sometimes independent) workspaces, while most indicated they would like to see variable (sometimes dynamic) workspace size. One person indicated that he would like to see the concept of the workspace eliminated.

What follows, then, is (hopefully) my objective interpretation of the results of the questionnaire. The ranking is in a priority list of frequency of occurrence. The first ten items were mentioned often, the others less so.

1. Variable workspace size
2. An O.S. version (MVT and MFT)
3. File access
4. A compiler
5. The unquote function
6. Access to high-capacity I/O devices (disk, tape, printer)
7. Graphic support
8. String processing operators
9. Arrays of arrays
10. Interface with other translators
11. "Primitive" editing routines (like DFT and EFT)
Inter-workspace communication
User-defined dyadic functions to be used in reduction and
inner and outer products
System Commands within functions
12. Faster Execution
Polyadic functions
Extensions of more operators to arrays
Character and number "mixing" and conversion
Vectors of functions
Better manuals
Better documentation and circulation of user libraries

13. Extensions of \downarrow , τ , Δ , Ψ ,
Implementation of set operations
Partitioning of matrices
More security
More off-line capabilities
An APL keypunch
A tab feature
Virtual workspaces
RJE
Ability to incorporate machine code as primitive functions
Different ways of indexing arrays
)FNS should print out the entire header of each function
A shorter mailing address for Jim Higgins

These suggestions are being sent to various newspapers and magazines (at Mr. Falkoff's suggestion) and to concerned people at IBM.

Cocktail Party in
Hinman Hall Lounge
before the Banquet.



WORKSPACE FULL

