

Zeitschrift: Technische Mitteilungen / Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe = Bulletin technique / Entreprise des postes, téléphones et télégraphes suisses = Bollettino tecnico / Azienda delle poste, dei telefoni e dei telegrafi svizzeri

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Post-, Telefon- und Telegrafienbetriebe

Band: 51 (1973)

Heft: 4

Rubrik: Summaries and notices

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Summaries

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Considerations on Tests of Large Data Teleprocessing Systems

J. J. Jaquier, Berne

This article deals with the problems of organising tests of large data processing systems and real-time teleprocessing installations in particular. The various categories of tests and their correlation at the developing stage of a project are described. Testing involves considerable expenditure of both time and personnel. It may not result in a complete elimination of system faults, but can, if well planned and organised, reduce operational hazards in the take-on period to a minimum.

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Initial Experience with the APL Computing Service

T. Formanek, Berne

For one year the PTT Research and Development Division has been connected to the APL computing service of the IBM laboratory at Rüschlikon. Now Swiss PTT is organizing its own APL service at the Berne Electronic Computing Centre. This facility will not only be used by PTT departments, but also offered to other federal offices.

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Air Conditioning in Temporary Structures

M. Wiederkehr, Berne

At present various PTT offices and facilities are housed in about 200 temporary structures all over Switzerland. These mobile units are made of standard wooden or light construction elements. Their physical characteristics are such that, especially in the summer, room temperatures can hardly be kept under control. As air conditioning proves extremely costly and involves a number of installation problems, conventional means of temperature regulation are applied wherever possible.

News Items

Posts

A small-size letter sorting machine handling up to 18,000 items an hour and 10 different directions has been built for the PTT by a Swiss firm.

In 1972, revenue from the sale of stamps, which usually amounts to about 80% of the postal operating income, rose by 17.5 million francs (2.5%) to 705.8 million. Receipts at the eight Swiss philatelic offices fell to 28.4 million francs (-2.4% on 1971) because of the lower denominations of new issues.

Telephone

Swiss PTT has designed new microfilm camera equipment working at double the speed of former systems and enabling 136 directory pages to be automatically photographed within 10 minutes. This greatly facilitates the weekly distribution of films of the updated 10 Swiss directories to all inquiry offices.

In March an automatic morning and alarm call system with a capacity of 5,600 orders came into operation at Geneva. Similar systems have for some time been in service at Solothurn, Zurich and Basle.

Swiss PTT has ordered 10,000 units of a keypad version of its model 70 telephone set for delivery from mid-1974. The pulse conversion circuitry contained in the apparatus is powered over the exchange line.

For its telephone service with Morocco, Swiss PTT will purchase the indefeasible right of user of 32 circuits in the Penmarch-Casablanca submarine cable.

Telegraph, Telex

Since February, Gentex telegrams to Algeria have no longer been routed via France, but over a direct vft system between Zurich and Algiers.

A public telex booth has been provided at the Thun telegraph office. This facility is now available in 22 Swiss towns.

Automatic telex service to Brazil has been opened over 6 direct channels. Swiss subscribers are now able to dial 71% of their overseas calls direct.

In mid-February, Zurich opened 6 direct telex channels to Sydney and 6 to Hong Kong (3 cable and 3 satellite each).

On 12 February, telex service with the New Hebrides was opened via Paris-Numéa.

All of the 8 Montreal-Zurich telex circuits are now equipped for transit dialling from Canada to Europe.

Radio, Television

Since 1 March Swiss TV news has been broadcast in colour from a new studio at the Zurich-Seebach TV building. Automatic equipment enables preselected, edited items to be located and called off from magnetic tape while the programme is on the air. This is the first instance of programmed broadcasting by Swiss Television.

In 1972, the service areas of 54 new VHF radio and TV transmitters were surveyed. Moreover, receiving conditions were examined in 60 instances, and the potential use of channels in 227 instances.

Near Zurich, Switzerland's 13th radio-phone simplex relay has been put into operation. At present, 900 mobile users are connected to these installations providing a telephone service independent of the public network.

In 1972 the number of transmitting licences rose by 18% to 19,542, the number of private transceiver installations by 20% to 52,579.

Last year the Telecommunication Regions had to deal with 8488 complaints regarding television (70%), radio (23%) and commercial services (7%). While 2842 sources of interference were detected and eliminated, radio and TV receiving equipment proved to be inadequate or defective in 3860 cases.

Miscellaneous

In 1972, 726 girls were recruited for training as telephone operators, and 119 former telephonists re-entered the PTT. At the same time, however, 748 operators left the organisation.

Up to the end of December, the Berne PTT Museum will be showing 'Posts and Telegraphs on Old Maps', a collection of items from Europe and Overseas. From 19 March to 15 April a 'History of Telephone and Radio' special exhibition will be held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Auto-phon Ltd, Solothurn.