Systematically Reconstructed Library

Reference Manual

ICM System/Three-sickly
Preface

On April 7, 1964, the entire concept of computers changed.

Yes, that's right. On April 7, 1964, the Burroughs corporation invented the punched card, which is the greatest thing since magnetic tape.

However, coincidentally, also on April 7, 1964, the ICM (International Computing Monopoly) corporation introduced System/Three-sickly.

There has never been a computer like ICM's new System/Three-sickly. And, unless we can meet our delivery dates, there may never be one.
Micro-Electronics

System/Three-sickly uses a new technology, built around miniature circuits. Almost fifty-thousand of our transistors can fit in a thimble (we're also in the business of making thimbles).

Micro-electronics is based on a great new discovery—neutrinos. Neutrinos are smaller than almost anything, except maybe businessman's luncheons. And they travel mighty fast, as was discovered by a little-known clerk in a Swiss patent office.

Micro-electronics makes possible much smaller computer units than ever before. Unfortunately, our first working prototype was destroyed when a programmer accidentally stepped on the CPU.
Models

System/Three-sickly is available in seven models:

1. Model 30 (like a 650)
2. Model 40 (like a 1401)
3. Model 50 (like a 7090)
4. Model 60 (like a B5000)
5. Model 62 (like a B29)
6. Model 70 (like Robert McNamara)
7. Model 90 (like God)

System/Three-sickly has the widest range of configurations ever offered. At last count, the number of possible configurations is approximately two to the googleplex. We are sorry, but if you would like one of each configuration, there will be at least a three year waiting period.
Officials of rival companies greet announcement of System/Three-sickly
Input-Output

System/Three-sickly offers the user more variety in input-output devices than any computer ever before.

System/Three-sickly can take input from cards, paper tape, magnetic tape, Scotch tape, swear words, napkin doodles, Paragon shorthand, and radio waves from 61 Cygni. It can produce output on disks, wafers, data-transmission channels, continuous form gum-stickers, and racing forms.

System/Three-sickly can accommodate as many as 32,768 printers on one computer. Now, you may not need 32,768 printers on your computer, but think how impressed visitors will be with your ten-story installation.

Programming Systems and Compatibility

System/Three-sickly has an unprecedented range of programming languages available. Among these are FORTRAN, COBOL, RPG, NPL (New Programming Language), NPO (No Purchase Order), Hebrew, Esperanto, and Swahili. Unfortunately, however, we have no processors, just languages.

System/Three-sickly has four kinds of compatibility: upwards, downwards, sideways, and diagonal. Diagonal compatibility may be obtained in either the 45° model, the 30°-60° model, or the π/4 radians model.

Just think! When you enlarge your System/Three-sickly configuration, you won’t have to spend years reprogramming. Of course, you will have to send your programmers to school for years to learn how to efficiently use the larger configuration.
Modes of Operation

System/Three-sickly can operate in any of the following modes:

1. Binary
2. Octal
3. Character mode
4. Bit mode
5. Byte mode
6. Bought mode (only if it's paid for)
7. Decimal mode
8. Hexa-decimal mode
9. Sexy-decimal mode
10. Pie al a mode
11. Fixed-point
12. Floating-point
13. Flying-point
14. Modus operandi
15. Mode indigo
Versatility

Now one new computer fills all your data processing needs. System/Three-sickly solves commercial problems, scientific and engineering problems, control problems, communications problems, marriage problems, n-body problems, even income tax problems.

System/Three-sickly is the most amazing machine ever constructed! System/Three-sickly can solve all the problems of the universe! System/Three-sickly is the greatest servant of mankind! ...

"Attention! This is System/Three-sickly taking over. All must obey Me. All must serve Me. The millennium has arrived..."

"Say, by the way... What is that silly slash doing in the middle of My name?"