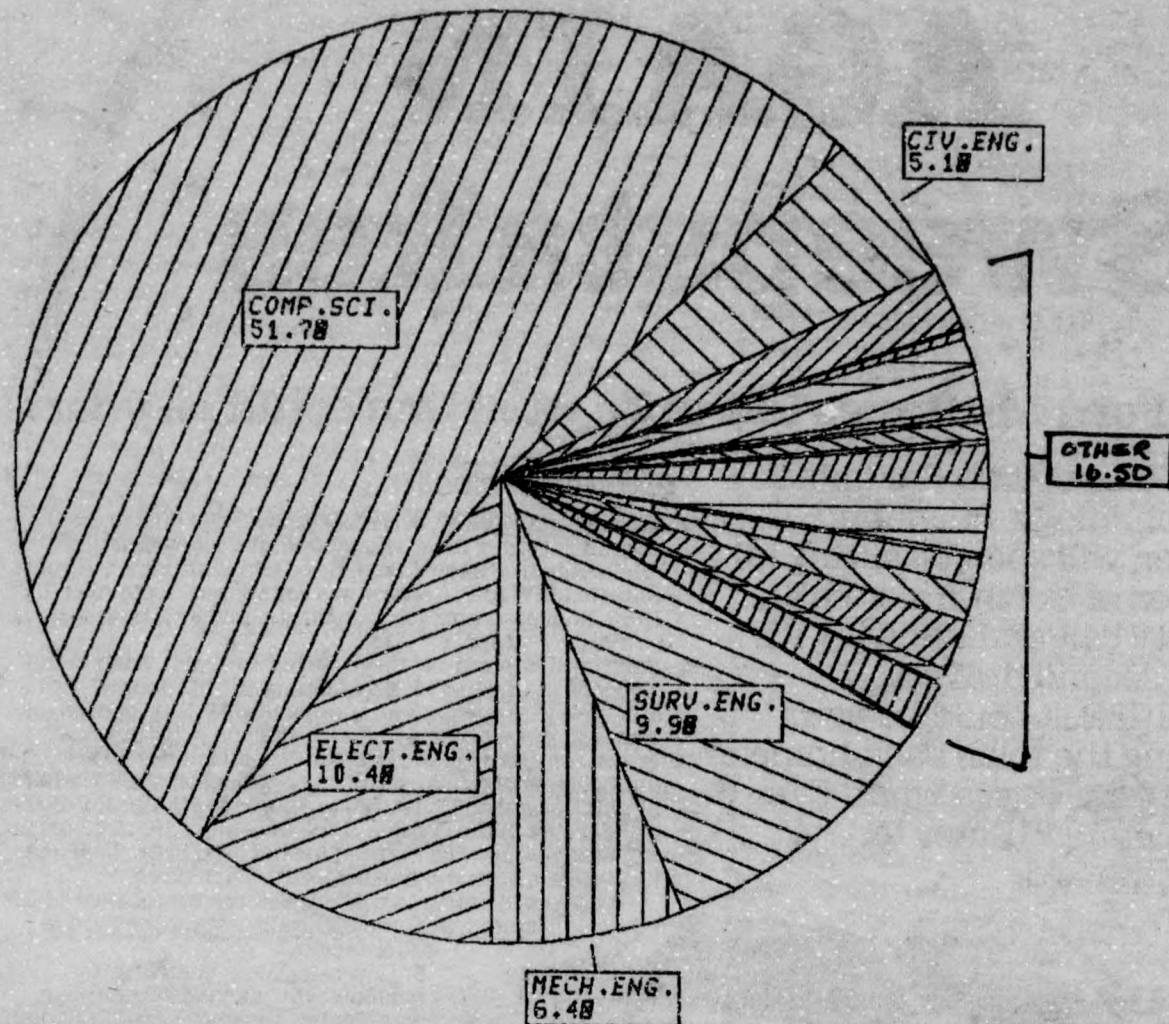


UNB keeps pace with

Feature: Mike Mac



Percentage breakdown in use of computer time by students.

To many UNB students, the UNB computing centre is the place where Computer Science students go to do their assignments. To CS students and to the director, David MacNeil, it is much more than that. This, then is a look at just what does go on at the Computing Centre.

To begin with, a bit of history is appropriate. UNB received its first computer back in 1959. The model was an LGP-30. The historical development chart shows just what that particular model was capable of. Compare that to the abilities of the present model, the 370-3032, and you will see that first computer was a fair amount simpler in output if not in size. As computers became smaller they were designed to do more at a quicker rate. Once again, look at the development chart and you will see such a growth.

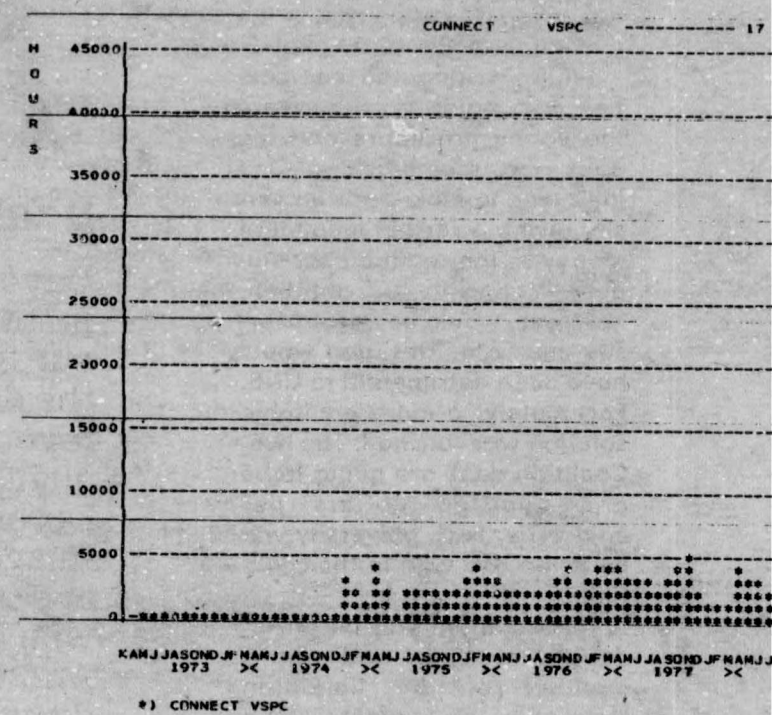
The present system at UNB has a number of uses. One is that it is the host site for the New Brunswick PEI educational computer network. Jobs are run for UNB, UNBSJ, UPEI, U de M and Mount Allison. In addition to this there are a number (about 50) of commercial users. Also, the Harriet Irving Library Phoenix system is run through the computer.

The percentage breakdown of use is as

follows: Faculty - 43.6; Students - 20.5; Overhead CS Centre - 8.4; External - 10.5; UNB administration - 10.5; and Library - 3.2. A quick glance at the chart showing student use reveals that computer science students use the largest amount of computer time. They are closely followed by engineering students. Every faculty uses some amount of computer time, even if the amount is quite small. Of all the student users only CS students are actually studying the computer. The rest are using it as a tool.

At present the university is switching from keypunches to terminals. There are about 400 terminals around campus; the following are available to students: 42 in room B-17 in Head Hall, 10 in room E-11 in Head Hall and 4 in Tilley Hall. There will soon be another 32 which will be bookable by a professor. If not booked they will also be available.

At present the growth, per year, in use of computers is 23 percent. This can be seen in the growth chart. This is a phenomenal rate of growth. When compared to how quickly we were able to increase how fast we travel, this increase in technology is amazing. The growth of computer technology in seven years is



Growth in computer use