

Continued from page 4

concentrate on stabilizing SIGNET," Mr. Kohler said, "we are obliged to postpone implementation of any non-essential changes to SIGNET until October 2, 1995."

What are the implications of the freeze on changes to SIGNET? We know that postponing changes, and especially delaying Corporate Applications to missions, causes inconvenience to clients. As a Bureau, we are extremely sensitive to the concerns of our clients and, if at all possible, we will accommodate their requests. Pilot projects underway will continue (e.g., TAMS) - unless STD determines that the pilot contributes to the instability of SIGNET. Initiatives currently in development will also continue; however, delays may be experienced if resources allocated to these projects need to be diverted to address stabilization issues.

STD recognizes that its clients may have *emergency* requests that require special consideration. In such cases, we will be happy to determine if the requested change can be addressed without risk to the stabilization project. If it can, the initiative will be supported. Urgent requests should be addressed to Cecilia Hersey, Project Co-ordinator (STD).

What happens after October 2?

Saying that we will change SIGNET for the better won't satisfy us. Only changing it will.

By early October, our objective is to have ready for implementation an

upgraded version of SIGNET, both at Headquarters and at missions, which will fix as many as possible of the problems known to affect system stability. For example, Windows for Workgroups will be installed because its improved memory handling capabilities will significantly reduce the incidence of applications freezing due to General Protection Faults. It will also be more reliable and faster than the current version of Windows.

As the Bureau is committed to ensuring that the system functions in a stable manner, the SIGNET Stabilization Project will continue until all known stabilization problems with SIGNET have been resolved. At present, second and third upgrades to SIGNET are scheduled for December 1995 and February 1996. The December upgrade will include fixes to ICONDESK; for example, you will no longer receive the error message, CANNOT EXECUTE COMMAND, when performing the reuse function. The February upgrade will address issues of general system stability. At the conclusion of the project, SIGNET will be the stable system you need to rely on to communicate.

"The next few months are critical to re-establishing user confidence in SIGNET," said Richard Kohler.

"Client support and co-operation at this time of assessment and change have been really gratifying and will contribute to the success of the project."

What you can do to help

As partners in SIGNET, we all have

a role to play to help ensure that the system operates more smoothly.

Here are five important ways in which you can support the stabilization initiative:

1. Don't use the I drive as an extension of your personal filing space. This is not the purpose of the shared drives. Not only does it make them difficult to navigate, but it also deprives others of the use of a *shared* resource."
2. Keep your ICONDESK folders free of messages with attachments. They take lots of valuable disk space, which is in limited supply.
3. Don't store unnecessary or unauthorized software packages, including games and other executable files (i.e., files with .exe, .com extensions), on the I drive. Divisional I drives are becoming overcrowded.
4. Keep your individual H drive clean of the above files.
5. Review all of your files periodically, and delete those which are no longer of importance. This is particularly relevant before a posting.

Any questions about what this means for you? SIGNET Support is there to help. And on a final note, STO is preparing a policy on user data storage. This user-friendly paper will identify how much space is allocated on the H and I drives - and what this means - and will also give you tips on how to tidy up unnecessary files.

Dumb Questions for a Smart Age (from the Internet)

Does fuzzy logic tickle?
Who is General Fault and why is he reading my hard drive?
Does the Information Highway have rest stops?
Why is it when I hit the CTRL key I'm never in control?