

Call for Papers

PERSONAL COMPUTING '76 – Technical Session on Standards

As part of the Personal Computing '76 convention August 28–29, Atlantic City NJ, BYTE magazine will coordinate a technical session on areas of standardization for the personal computing field. The purpose of defining standards is to provide a consistent and workable set of specifications for interfaces between different equipment which permit combined operation as a system. Standards are in the interest of manufacturers who will find wider markets as a result, and standards are in the interest of users who will benefit from a wider choice of compatible options.

The following technical areas are identified at this point in time:

Audio Cassette Standard

A provisional interchange standard for audio media was defined by a working meeting sponsored by BYTE magazine in November 1975. This standard will be reviewed, and the idea of a higher performance audio media standard should also be considered.

Parallel Interface Standard

The proposal here is to define a parallel interface standard for the connection of peripherals to central processors. The standard should specify logical interface, electrical interface and possibly a set of preferred physical plug and receptacle designs.

Software Interface Standard

The proposal here is to define several byte sequential media independent record formats for data involved in interchange between systems. This standard will prove

useful to the development of software markets, and could be incorporated into the firmware of operating systems and loaders supplied with processors.

Arrangements

Individuals and firms wishing to participate in the discussions should send written position papers on their area of interest to:

Carl Helmers
Editor, BYTE
70 Main St
Peterborough NH 03458
Attention: Technical Standards

Papers should be neatly typed camera ready copy which will be used as is to create a proceedings booklet to be distributed at the technical session. It is suggested that drawings be done using ink or felt tip pen, and that film ribbon be used for typewritten copy.

The standardization categories of audio media, parallel interface definitions, and software data formats should not be viewed as exclusive. Identification of additional areas where standards are appropriate will also help the growth of the personal computing field.

It is expected that positions and proposals presented at the Personal Computing '76 show will be used as a starting point for the second annual BYTE magazine symposium on standards to be held later in the fall. Questions regarding standards activities and coordination of this session should be directed to Carl Helmers at BYTE at the above address, or phone (603) 924-7217. ■