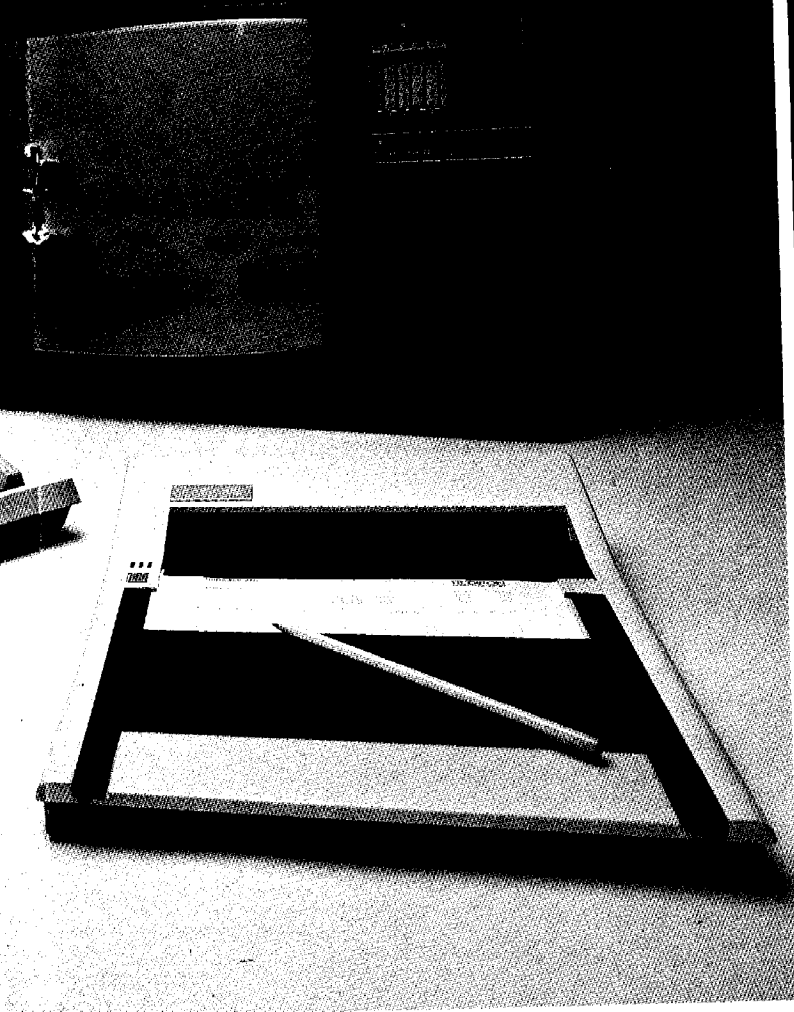


Office Revolution



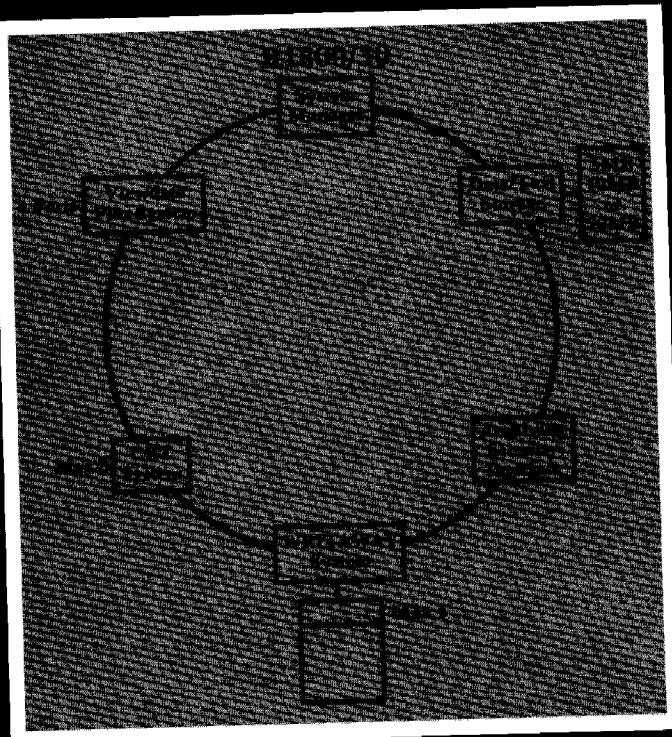
The R1800/30 Compact Office System supports any or all of its terminals on local connect or telephone line connect. In addition, the R1800/30 can be concurrently networked to other computer systems — Redifon, IBM, ICL, Burroughs and Univac.

Redifon's intelligent colour televisions are truly multi-functional — Full 12 Channel TV, CEEFAX/ORACLE, PRESTEL interface and optional peripherals. An infra-red numeric pad or a cable connect ABC keyboard can be used. Redifon's WRITAWAY real-time hand-print terminal provides a unique book-keeping or accounting system with hard-copy for shop-keepers or small traders connected to a Utility. Inter-active hand-print payrolls and inter-active goods received and issued applications are simple to install and use.

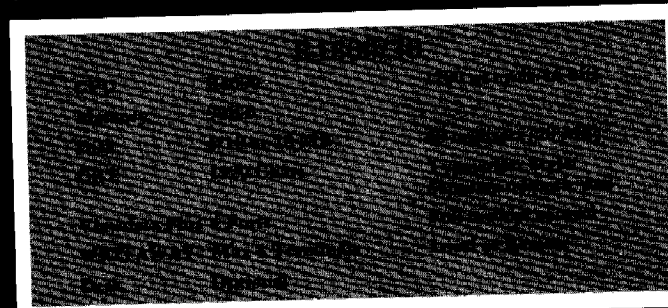
The R1800/30 Compact Office System is totally software compatible with the R1800/50 Office System released on March 25th 1980. Two software systems for the R1800/30 — the R1800/31 COS1 — and the R1800/32 COS2 are also released.

Current delivery schedule is 90 days from receipt of contract. Shipments to customers have already begun.

The R1800/30 Compact Office System will be manufactured at the Peacchaven and Crawley, Sussex plants of Redifon Computers and the intelligent colour televisions will be made at the Bishop Auckland, County Durham plant of a sister company, Rediffusion Consumer Electronics. As a member company of the Rediffusion Organisation, Redifon Computers directly benefits from the development and manufacturing expertise of the Organisation with Viewdata Televisions and related products and services.



Technical Brief



The R1800/30 Compact Office System is a shared and distributed logic computer system designed to work in a normal office environment.

A fast Redifon-designed processor, the R4000, drives a series of micro-processors controlling televisions, hand-print terminals, CRT, storage, archiving and external data communications systems.

The R4000 has a 1200 ns cycle for 16 bits, and uses up to 96KB of memory.

The disk unit for data/text storage is a sealed hard disk with 40 millisecond (20 MB) average access and 800 KB/sec. transfer rate. The archiving systems uses a 10 1/2" 25 ips magnetic tape. The external data communications supports a single external interface using IBM 2780/3780, IBM 3270, ICL 7502/10, ICL 7020, Burroughs TC3500, Burroughs TD 830 and Univac 1004.

The software system R1800/31 Compact Office System 1 is a multi-user, multi-access virtual machine architecture supporting full program re-entrancy, advanced data management with multiple indices and a COBOL-like programming language called Editor II.

The intelligent colour televisions are 20" domestic televisions with imbedded modems and auto-dialling using the standard Viewdata protocol. Three types of keyboards are available — numeric pad, cable-connect ABC alpha-numeric keyboard, and Information Provider's keyboard.

The WRITAWAY terminals are hand-print terminals supporting a full alpha and numeric character set, 32 hand-print characters per line written with ballpoint or pencil and a 40 character single line display. A hard copy record is produced automatically. WRITAWAY terminals can be either local or remote.

Up to 8 Redifon Micro-Terminals can be connected either locally or remotely. Each Micro-Terminal supports a keyboard, 1920 character visual display unit and a printer.

Compact Office System creates new business opportunities

REDIFON COMPUTERS has announced the second model in the R1800 Series of advanced office systems, the R1800/30 Compact Office System.

The R1800/30 features Redifon's unique Office Revolution approach of intelligent colour televisions, hand-print terminals, conventional CRT's, a data/text storage system, and archiving system, an external data communications system and a number of printer options.

The new system uses a new Redifon computer, the R4000, with 96KB memory, 1200 ns cycle for 16 bits, and up to 20 million bytes of data/text storage. Four ports are supported for Redifon's unique Viewdata plus real-time inter-active intelligent colour televisions. In addition, four WRITAWAY hand-print terminals can be connected.

"The R1800/30 is a compact, multi-purpose, multi-function office computer capable of handling data processing, data entry, distributed processing, text processing, network interface and information dissemination at very low cost," said Michael J. Aldrich, Managing Director. "A four-port Viewdata Plus configuration with 10 million bytes of disk, archiving and a conventional CRT for data and text processing costs around £30,000."

The convergence by Redifon of previously discrete technologies into this new system enables the R1800/30 to function as a productivity-orientated data-entry system, a real-time inter-active data processor, a virtual terminal cluster system connected to IBM, ICL or Burroughs host processors for inter-active processing and a remote job entry system for batch processing. Its cost/performance ratio enables it to compete directly with single function systems and at the same time, the R1800/30 creates new standards of problem-solving versatility and profit-making potential.

Used in the Distributed Data Processing role the R1800/30 will compete directly with the IBM 8100 at up to 30% lower acquisition cost. As a Data Entry system for conventional keyboarding applications, the R1800/30 offers the same keystroke productivity as previous Redifon Data Entry systems. With real-time Viewdata Plus and WRITAWAY hand-print terminals the R1800/30 has no competitors.

A totally new and unique software facility — 3270 Viewdata Pass Through enables a colour television to connect through the R1800/30 processor to an IBM mainframe and operate in inter-active IBM 3270 mode. 3270 Viewdata Pass Through enables IBM users to front-end their existing 3270 inter-active systems with a Redifon R1800/30 system to bring a totally new dimension to information processing. This is the first system of its kind in the world.

"The broad range of networking capability with the R1800/30 makes it an ideal departmental or small office system. Its impressive stand-alone capability in addition provides a wide spectrum of information processing material," added Aldrich.

The R1800/30 computer, data/text storage, archiving and external data communications systems are all housed within one cabinet and the system is designed to be operated by clerical workers in a normal office environment. "The R1800/30 is designed for use in offices, in industry, commerce, finance, government and education. It can also become the basic building block for the Information Service Broker business and the Neighbourhood Computer Utility business," said Aldrich.

Information Service Brokers are people who will install an R1800 system and provide connection for users of intelligent colour televisions. Users will be able to place orders for goods, obtain information, and undertake study courses through computerised programmed learning (the Homework Machine). All intelligent televisions can receive broadcast TV and Text and are also Prestel* compatible.

The Neighbourhood Computer Utility will provide an accounting and information processing service for small traders, professional and business people. It is a revolutionary approach to the first-time user/small business computer market. Subscribers will be able to dial their local utility directly from their television.

Redifon's Office



Data can then be entered and retrieved. Hard copy reports can be requested or even printed from the television. When computing or information processing work has been completed the intelligent television can be turned back to broadcast TV. The R1800/30 Compact Office System, installed in a Utility, does not need an operator and can run unattended for 24 hours per day. It makes possible the development of low-cost computer utilities, revolutionising the Computer Bureau business.

For grocery traders, the R1800/30 can be used as a business transaction machine. Located for example in a grocery warehouse company, it can provide order processing for directly TV-dialled housewife orders (the Home Supermarket), inventory control, picking lists and delivery schedules — revolutionising the grocery business. Because the order process is computer-controlled, the housewife will be able for the first time to match her purchases exactly to her budget. The economics of warehousing for groceries rather than High Street supermarkets, will make home deliveries possible. In turn, this will relieve the housewife of the chore of staple shopping and expensive car journeys. High Streets will be relieved of the traffic burden that the chore generates. Orders can be placed on the system anytime — day or night. Payment can be made by credit card authorisation. Delivery can be requested by time slot during the preferred day.

Migration to home shopping is likely to start with A/B income groups for "no-brain" shopping. As Viewdata televisions become more widely installed, the other groups will quickly follow. The R1800/30 takes the chore out of shopping.