SPECIAL SEMINAR

Reconstructing the History of Incompatible Computing

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Written using TJ6 and XGP

OVERVIEW

We are here to talk about MIT's Incompatible Timesharing System, and how we recreated the system and made a computer replica to run it.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS

We want people to experience the ultimate hacker playground, encapsulated in a gadget with blinking lights and switches.

WHAT WAS THE AI LAB

OSCAR: The MIT AI Lab has a unique place in history, for the culture it created (earliest hackers), and the impact that had (major innovations at the time, but importantly, also a lasting impact in terms of Open Source culture) and the reason this happened (MIT/DARPA/DEC).

OSCAR: Referring to Levy's "Hackers" book, this project takes another angle. Not preserving the human-interest stories, or the dry factuals, but to preserve what was actually there. By reconstructing a fully functional version of the AI Lab.

WHAT IS THE PDP-10

- IBM, batch computing
- MIT, interactivity and timesharing
- DEC

RECOVERY PROJECT

Software: Many (many!) people building up over the years. Rebuilding ITS from scratch, file by file. MIT tape archives.

Hardware: KA10 emulator unlocked AI lab world. PDP-10 replica.

FUN AI LAB HARDWARE

- PDP-10, central to the lab
- PDP-6 on the side
- 340 display
- TV-11, XGP-11
- Logo, SITS, 2500
- Imlac
- Lisp Machine
- Chaosnet
- IMP
- Arpanet

DEMO

OSCAR:

- Booting ITS.

- PEEK on the 340.

DEMO

OSCAR:

- Chess
- Spacewar
- Game of Life
- SHRDLU

DEMO

LARS:

- INFO
- Maclisp
- Eliza

DEMO

LARS:

- Networking. ARPANET, Chaosnet.

- Maze.

THE END

The AI KA10 has been *unflushed*, please update your programs.