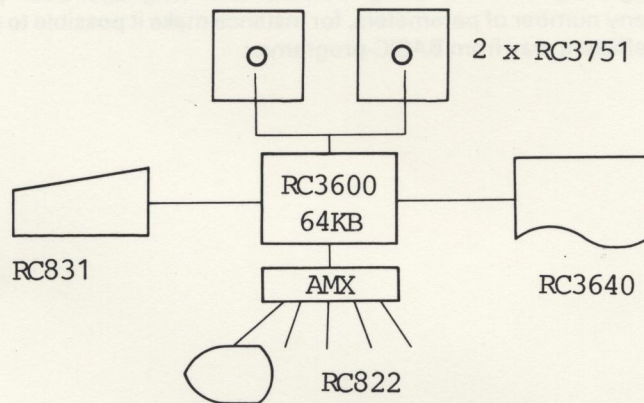




RC3600 Basic/Comal



TYPICAL MULTI-USER RC3600 RC BASIC/COMAL CONFIGURATION

BASIC

RC computer has developed its own version of the BASIC programming language – RC BASIC – for the RC3600 Minicomputer system.

The RC BASIC language, (or COMAL), which includes Dartmouth College BASIC as a subset, constitutes a significant extension of existing BASIC concepts, for example:

- Variable names may consist of as many as 8 characters.
- Procedures can be called both by name and by line number.
- The following PASCAL language structures are included:

IF-THEN-ELSE
REPEAT-UNTIL
WHILE-DO
CASE-OF

- Text arrays.
- A variety of new operators, functions, statements and commands have been implemented.
- Extended precision arithmetic corresponding to 10 decimal digits in output.

It is possible to run RC BASIC in multi user as well as single user environments.

This means that several users simultaneously can develop and execute RC BASIC programs, each from his own terminal.

RC BASIC can use all of the common peripheral devices, such as a papertape reader, card reader, papertape punch or lineprinter. In addition, two kinds of secondary storage can be used, namely moving-head disc cartridges and flexible discs.

If the system has moving-head discs, RC BASIC will run in virtual mode. This means that each terminal user will have up to 32 K words of memory at his disposal, as only those portions of the user's storage area that are in use 'at the moment' will be present in the internal memory, while the other portions will remain on disc.

Both moving head discs and flexible discs can be formatted so that each user (group) will have his own portion of the disc. This portion, which is called a sub-catalog has a catalog that describes the files contained in it.

A sub-catalog can be protected by means of a key. This means that a user cannot write to, delete, create or rename files in a sub-catalog, unless he knows its key.

RC BASIC provides the possibility of executing programs in batch mode. Here, the user writes his program on mark-sense cards, which are then placed in a mark-sense card-reader. The input of programs from the card-reader is started by means of the BATCH command, which may be given from any terminal.

The user can program procedures using the assembler language. Such procedures, which may have any number of parameters, for instance make it possible to use graphic equipment in an efficient way from BASIC-programs.

