Interoffice

National Radio Astronomy Observatory
Very Large Array

13th August 1984

To: Bob Payne

From: Gareth Hunt GCH

Subject: Comments on GRIDER

Here is a list of things that have occurred to me during the last 3 weeks while I was managing the Grider system.

1) The mapping and cleaning software works perfectly. I had no complaints about map defects, etc. Great.

2) The major problem now (surprise, surprise!) is operation. Queue management and disc space management need some attention. Diagnosing and recovering from hardware problems is also important. Some comments on these subjects follow.

a. Print out the user's number in Octal always.

b. Many jobs are now being submitted - on the order of 50 per day at present. Since these all end up either in the completed queue or the bombed queue, a better facility for deleting jobs is needed (e.g. by expiration date).

c. In line with the above, the queues must be purged frequently, since some jobs have large Grider databases associated with them. Maybe Mapcon could purge these automatically at intervals of (say) 2 days?

d. I purged the discs of old files where possible, but was worried about your comment that the absence of some files will cause Mapcon to hang when a request is deleted. If true, this should be fixed.

e. The "AP contact lost" problem is the only really serious outstanding problem at the moment; it should be fixed as soon as possible.

f. CATLST should delete the user's log file at the same time as his catalog is deleted.

g. Probe seems to show the "No reply from Mapcon" message rather frequently. Is it necessary, and can it be removed? This phase seems to be the slowest part.

h. Probe does not list the cheery message of the day unless the default directory is [300,20]. More serious is that all queues are apparently empty, at least to user 0.

i. The priority system does not work entirely satisfactorily. There should be an automatic bumping of priority after 24 hours of inactivity.

j. (Personal Bias) MCR should be universally banned or universally adopted. The default for all terminals and network logins should be for DCL as the CLI, and [300,20] the login area (perhaps a problem for Al Braun).

Copies:

    Al Braun
    Don Retallack