SPACE CALC™

Interactive
DASD & VSAM
Modeling
Facility

"Storage efficiency, right from the start"™

Storage efficiency, right from the start...

If your installation is like most, there never seems to be as much DASD as you would like. Now you can get that extra storage without buying more hardware. And you'll make your operation more efficient in the process. Development and testing can be smoother, jobs can run faster. All thanks to SPACECALC, an interactive utility that makes efficient storage allocations a breeze, instead of a chore.

Eliminates Guesswork

The fact is, calculating allocations by hand can be a complicated, time consuming task. So space requirements are often guessed at—and generally guessed high, to avoid any chance of ABENDS. In fact, a leading industry publication recently estimated that between 30% and 35% of all allocated space remains unused.

Before long, even a large and otherwise adequate system runs short on DASD space. Look at file usage statistics on such a system, and you may find some files with up to 90% of the allocated space free. You'll often find CI and CA splits in VSAM files. This can play havoc with VSAM access times and system efficiency. Sorts sometimes bomb because of inadequate work space.

Fast, Accurate Allocations

SPACECALC solves the problem by making it fast and easy to develop accurate, efficient file parameters. Guesswork is eliminated, along with all the problems it can bring. Even if you regularly recover over-allocations with a DASD management utility,

SPACECALC improves overall operational efficiency. By achieving storage efficiency at allocation time, SPACECALC keeps available DASD at maximum. Periodic recovery of over-allocated space can be eliminated.

SPACECALC is an inter-active, self-prompting utility, customized to your environment. It takes only minutes to learn, seconds to use. Although it comes with an easy-to-follow user's manual, there's rarely a need to refer to it. With just a few minutes practice, you and your people will be using SPACECALC effectively.

Gone forever are the DASD specification cards that you have to pore over when doing space allocations. DASD specifications are stored, on-line, right in SPACECALC, and SPACECALC accesses them whenever it needs to.

Perfect VSAM Tool

SPACECALC can save days in the design of VSAM structures. SPACECALC instantly determines a VSAM file's DASD requirements without trial and error runs of the actual job. VSAM file structures can be modeled for maximum efficiency—in a fraction of the time manual methods require. Proper modeling can help eliminate the CI and CA splits, which make the application bog down. Jobs run their fastest, with minimum use of storage capacity, and minimum CPU overhead.

It's easy to compare several alternatives rapidly, and select the best. All without having to try it out "live". Production schedules are improved, project test phases significantly shortened. And, by keeping available storage space at a maximum, SPACECALC helps eliminate the need to juggle projects around inadequate storage.

Finds Ideal Parameters

SPACECALC zeroes in quickly on the optimum combination of file size, logical record length, and block size—not only for sequential, but for partitioned and VSAM files too. Calculations are

included for DASD, tape, and cartridges. SPACECALC runs under TSO/ISPF, and includes a series of user-friendly functions:

- Displays Device Characteristics, on the terminal, in a clear, easily read format. There's no need to search for printed cards or other system documentation.

- Determines Sequential File and Block Size, either for installation or device efficiency, and can make the actual allocation. Answers the basic question: "How much space will I need for a given number of records?"

- Determines Blocking and Gauging, to answer the question: "What is the maximum number of records I can put into a given space?" This is ideal for making use of non-contiguous space on fragmented packs.

- Determines exact amount of space needed for Sort Work Files.

- Models complete VSAM file structures for efficiency without running IDCAMS.

- Calculates and allocates space for partitioned data sets.

- Facilitates control over distribution of DASD resources by allowing management to restrict users to specific volumes.

Enhanced DFSMS™ Support

If your company has moved to IBM's **DFSMS,** you can continue to add value and ease of use to your system by using SPACECALC™

SPACECALC PROVIDES:

- Space Calculations and Allocations in KILOBYTES and MEGABYTES.

- Retrieves and Displays information for both SMS and Non SMS Datasets.

- Supports **DFSMS** by providing Specifications of Storage Class, Management Class and Data Class.

Easy to Use

The programmer or DASD manager can run several what-if simulations, quickly, before doing any actual allocations, and when satisfied, allocations may be done directly from SPACECALC. DASD, cartridge, and tape device calculations are equally easy. In fact, SPACECALC especially simplifies the procedure for determining tape requirements for backup or file interface to other systems—even those with "foreign" hardware configurations.

SPACECALC is an easy-to-use, highly efficient means for getting the most from system facilities. It eliminates guessing on file allocations, and makes complex VSAM modeling simple. It is well supported, and has been a proven aid to boosting system throughput and staff productivity, while delaying or eliminating the need for hardware upgrades. What's more, SPACECALC is a valuable aid in teaching the proper use of external storage and VSAM.

Space allocation problems are what this folder is all about, but here's one that SPACECALC *isn't* able to solve. It's a seven-piece geometric space puzzle called a tangram. Legend has it that the tangram was a game enjoyed by the ancient Chinese over 4,000 years ago; others say that tangrams are a more recent invention. We do know that each of the figures used to illustrate this folder is arranged from precisely the seven tangram segments shown here. You may want to cut out the pieces and try re-creating those figures yourself. And while we can't make *that* task any easier, we'll be glad to help you with the critical job of more effectively allocating DP storage space.

Advanced Software Products Group, Inc. has progressively worked towards the optimization of data center performance. With a worldwide network of support, ASPG remains a pioneer in leading edge software solutions and support.

Storage Administration
System Productivity
Disaster Recovery
Capacity Planning
CICS Productivity
Data Security