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# **OS/78 User's Manual**

Order No. AA-5748B-TA

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This document is the user's manual for the OS/78 V3 operating system. Its purpose is to acquaint new users with the operating system designed for the DECstation 78/88 minicomputers. This manual presents the background material for getting on the air, and a detailed description of the OS/78 commands that are used to direct computer operations. It also describes the OS/78 Editor, PAL8 assembly language, and the two high-level languages supported by the system, BASIC and FORTRAN IV. Command examples and demonstration programs are contained throughout the manual.

**SUPERSESSION/UPDATE INFORMATION:**

This manual supersedes previous editions, Order Numbers DEC-S8-OS78A-A-D, published 1977, and DEC-S8-OS78A-A-DN1, published 1978.

**OPERATING SYSTEM AND VERSION:**

OS/78 V3

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## PREFACE

This manual describes the OS/78 Operating System for the DECstation 78 and DECstation 88 Minicomputer systems.

### SYNOPSIS

Chapter 1 briefly describes the system hardware configurations and lists the software contained on the master disk distribution media.

Chapter 2 contains the basic instructions that describe how to use the OS/78 Operating System. You should read this chapter in its entirety to gain familiarity with the operating characteristics and features of the system prior to using OS/78.

Chapter 3 describes in alphabetic order the commands that direct computer operations.

Chapter 4 describes the OS/78 Editor, a program that lets you create and modify ASCII source files.

Chapter 5 describes PAL8, a symbolic assembler.

Chapters 6 and 7 describe the system's two high level programming languages, BASIC and FORTRAN IV, that run under OS/78.

Chapter 8 describes BATCH, the system's batch processing program.

Chapter 9 contains information on how to use ODT (Octal Debugging Technique) program to change and correct memory-resident PAL8 programs.

The appendixes contain information for experienced users about device handlers, the User Service Routine, the Command Decoder, useful mathematical subroutines, an alphabetic summary of all OS/78 error messages, and a description of the DECstation 78 Symbiont operation.

### NOTE

For historic reasons, the words "core" and "core memory" appear in this manual. You should interpret these terms as meaning any kind of memory. There is no implication that your DECstation uses core memory.