## product application

printer and controller with IBM system 7 computer...





ONE OF THE MANY ZAYRE CORP.



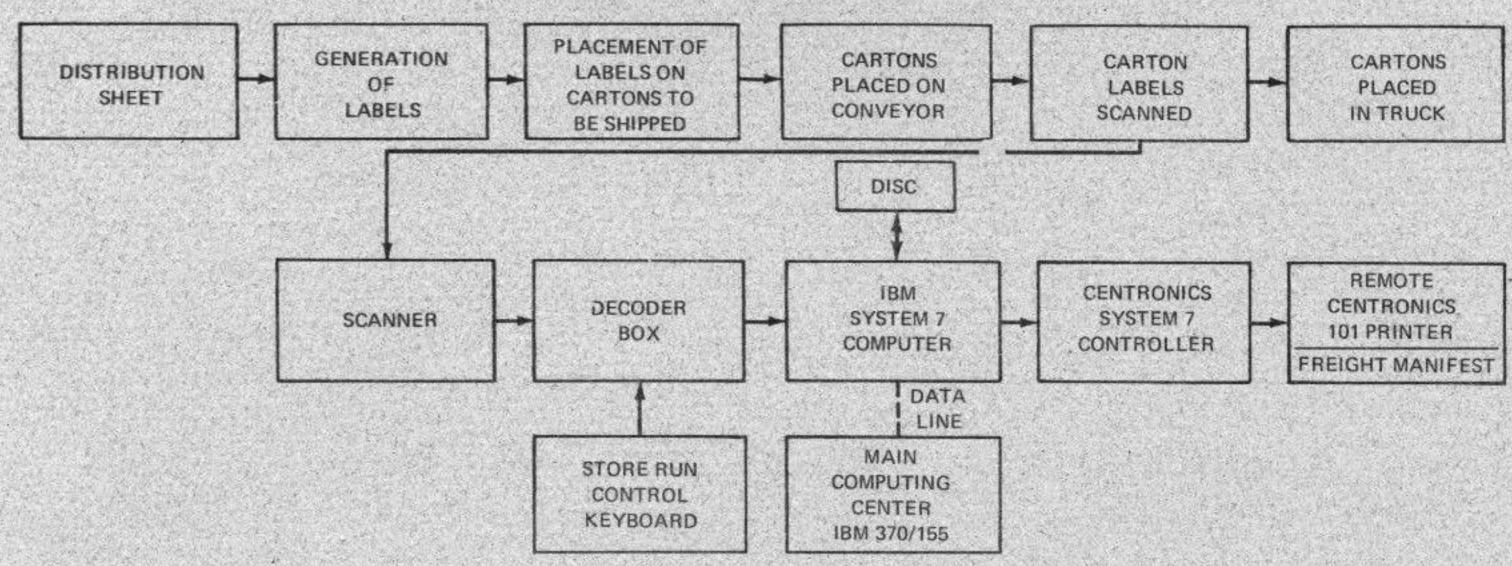
The Zayre Corp., a company with over 200 retail stores, is using a Centronics 101 printer at its Mansfield, Mass. distribution center to print freight manifests with an IBM 7 computer system. The 165 character per second, 132 column printer is located remotely (1,000 feet) from the computer near the truck loading platform. Centronics also supplied the System 7 Controller which interfaces the printer to the computer. The controller can also have another printer connected to it so that a local printer can be used in the System 7 computer room. The printer utilizes a Centronics RS-232 serial interface. Future installations at other Zayre distribution centers will involve replications of this IBM System 7 computer system.

Merchandisers at any location can write distributions of goods from any distribution center to any store. A communication network using the Zayre main computer center as its clearing house enables generation of appropriate carton labels, picking slips, bills, etc. A planner writes a distribution of goods that will be shipped to given stores. From these sheets special bar coded labels are generated and placed on the cartons to be shipped. The information on each label contains the identity of the shipping distribution center, store destination, and carton contents. The label and carton contents are identified by a numbering system called an Identcon Number. These cartons are placed on a moving conveyor line which runs past. an optical scanner which scans the carton label. Data is fed to a decoder box and then to a discbased IBM System 7 computer. The cartons are selected and automatically moved within the marshaling area for the specific store destination and end up at the loading platform of the particular truck for that store. The computer sorts the carton numbers that have been scanned and sends this output to the remote Centronics printer which prints the carton Identcon Number on a manifest form in numerical order. The manifest also shows the total number of cartons, weight, store destination, and the shipping distribution center address. After the manifest has been printed, the driver is ready to travel to his destination.

Many store locations can be handled in the marshaling area at any given time, therefore, cartons with different store destinations appear on the conveyor for sorting. An alphanumeric keyboard with ten numbers and six characters is located next to each scanner. The special character keys are used for control. The keyboards initiate the store run, provide a truck trailer number, and signal the computer that the end of a store run has been completed. Data from each store shipping line in the marshaling area is sorted onto separate tracks on the disc. A separate keyboard/scanner is used for non-conveyable cartons of unusual oversized material.

Data on daily shipments completed at each of the distribution centers is transmitted over a data line to Zayre's main computing center which uses an IBM 370/155 computer. During the fall of 1973, Zayre will replace its 370/155 computer with a 370/168. This computer maintains a master file for all of the Zayre distribution centers. At this head-quarter's facility inventory control, inventory ordering, and billing for each store is processed. The Centronics printer and controller were selected because the printer can be operated remotely from the computer and provide fast, reliable data output on multicopy preprinted forms.





## STORE MANIFEST - CARTONS IN SHIPMENT AND TOTAL FREIGHT

FROM	) 30	5 FORE	ES BL	VD M	ANSF LEL	D MA	55. 026	948		LOADER	DATE 03/	27/73	PAGE 001	979-	ONTS -00001	In the teriff and classification fied with the interstate Commerce Commission naming as covering the rate or rates lewfully applicable to this shipment.
ZAYRE # 107 1064 BRIGHTON AVE PORTLAND, MAINE 04102										CALLER .	DELIVERING CARRIER			ARIER NO. AM7		Subject to Section 7 of Conditions of applicable bill of feding, if this shipment is to be dilivered to the consignee without recourse of the consigner, the consigner shall sign of following statement.  The carrier shall not make delivery of the shipment without payment of freight and a other lawful cherger.
		T	CAF	TON NO	LISTING	• C	HECK (P)	CARTONS	IN UND	R ARROV	WED COLU	JMNS	حال		1	ZAYRE CORP
9900	0029	9399	9032	0100	9977	0100	8297	8888	9236	0800	9237	0900	9294	0200	0301	(Signature of consignor.) If charges are to be prepaid, write or stam
0300			0341		9359		9516		200	0000	8627			0100	9669	TO RE PREPAID
			8.165			0200		9398		9199	C	0100		0900	9863	Received \$ to apply in prepayment of the charges on the
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0200	4059	01.00		9899	4155	0700	4178	0205	4172	0400	4223	9566	4227	0380	4228	ZAYRE CORP. SHIPPER-PER
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U. S. patents and foreign patents pending

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