

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.036

Accession Date: 8-Dec-2012

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Object name: DEC VAX 11/780 LA120 Console Processor

Vintage: c.1978

Synopsis: LSI-11 based PDP11 console processor from VAX mainframe used by Dept.Computer Science from 1979-1988 (LSI-11 uses same WD9000 chipset as WD90 Pascal Microengine, see elsewhere in collection).

**Description:**

The VAX 11/780 was a ground-breaking mainframe (or sometimes called super-mini) computer made by Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) that found widespread adoption, especially amongst academic departments. Its 32-bit architecture, CISC instruction set, demand-paged virtual memory, security features, and VMS operating system all contributed.

The Department of Computer Science in TCD installed a DEC VAX 11/780 in 1979. This was originally installed in the old tape library adjacent to the computer room in 201 Pearse Street, then moved to the machineroom of the newly built O'Reilly Institute (the whole department moved to the ORI at the same time). The VAX 11/780 was eventually replaced by a VAX 8800 (donated by DEC), and a VAX 11/750 was also installed.

This LA120 console processor is from that VAX 11/780 mainframe used by the Dept.Computer Science from 1979-1988, see elsewhere in this collection. It is essentially an LSI-11 based PDP 11/03. The LSI-11 uses the same WD9000 chipset as in WD90 Pascal Microengine (also see elsewhere in collection).

Accession Index	Object and Identification
TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.036.01	VAX 11/780 LA120 Console Processor Chassis. S/N: AB83327817
TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.036.02	VAX 11/780 Console Processor Qbus Card Cage. Markings: Model: PDP 11/03-AB, S/N: AB 13702
TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.036.03	VAX 11/780 Console Processor CPU board. S/N: AB82311895
TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.036.04	M8017-B. Markings:
TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.036.05	M7944. Markings: 5013241C-P1, M8210.
TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.036.06	M7940. Markings:
TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.036.07	M8460-YE. Markings:
TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.036.08	M7944. Markings:
TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.036.09	M7946. Markings:



*Figure 1: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor top front view*



*Figure 2: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor control panel*



*Figure 3: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor right side view*



*Figure 4: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor left side view*



*Figure 5: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor rear view*



*Figure 6: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor power supply*



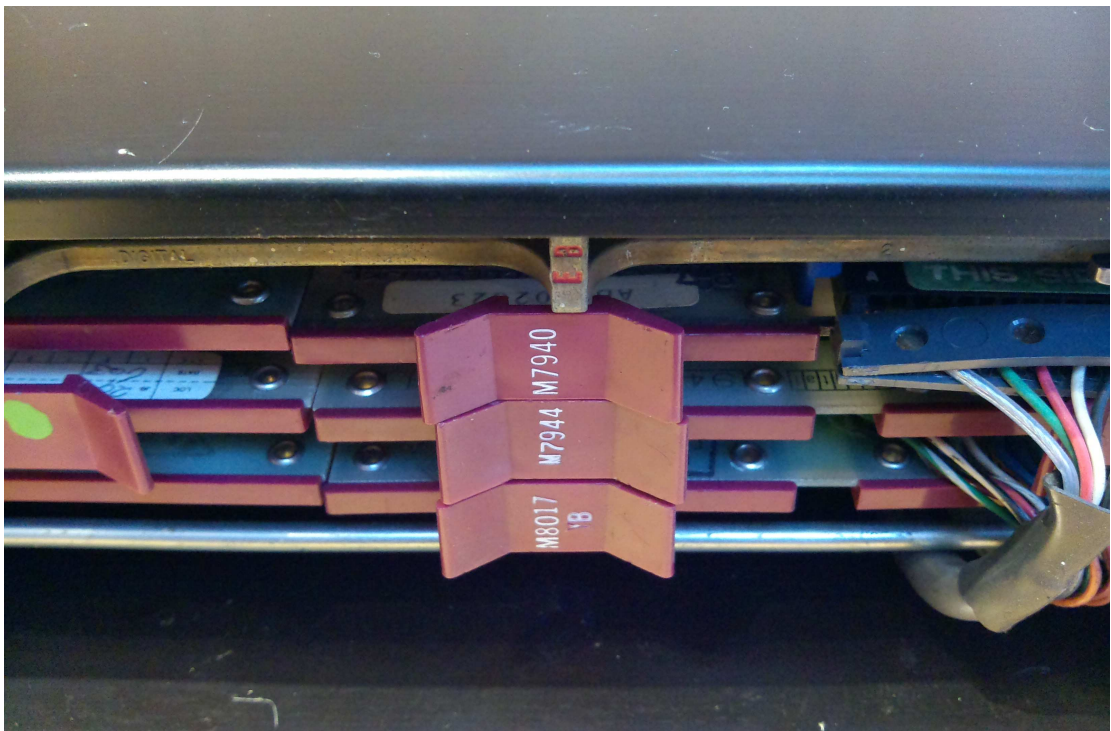
*Figure 7: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor internal front view*



*Figure 8: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor internal control panel view*



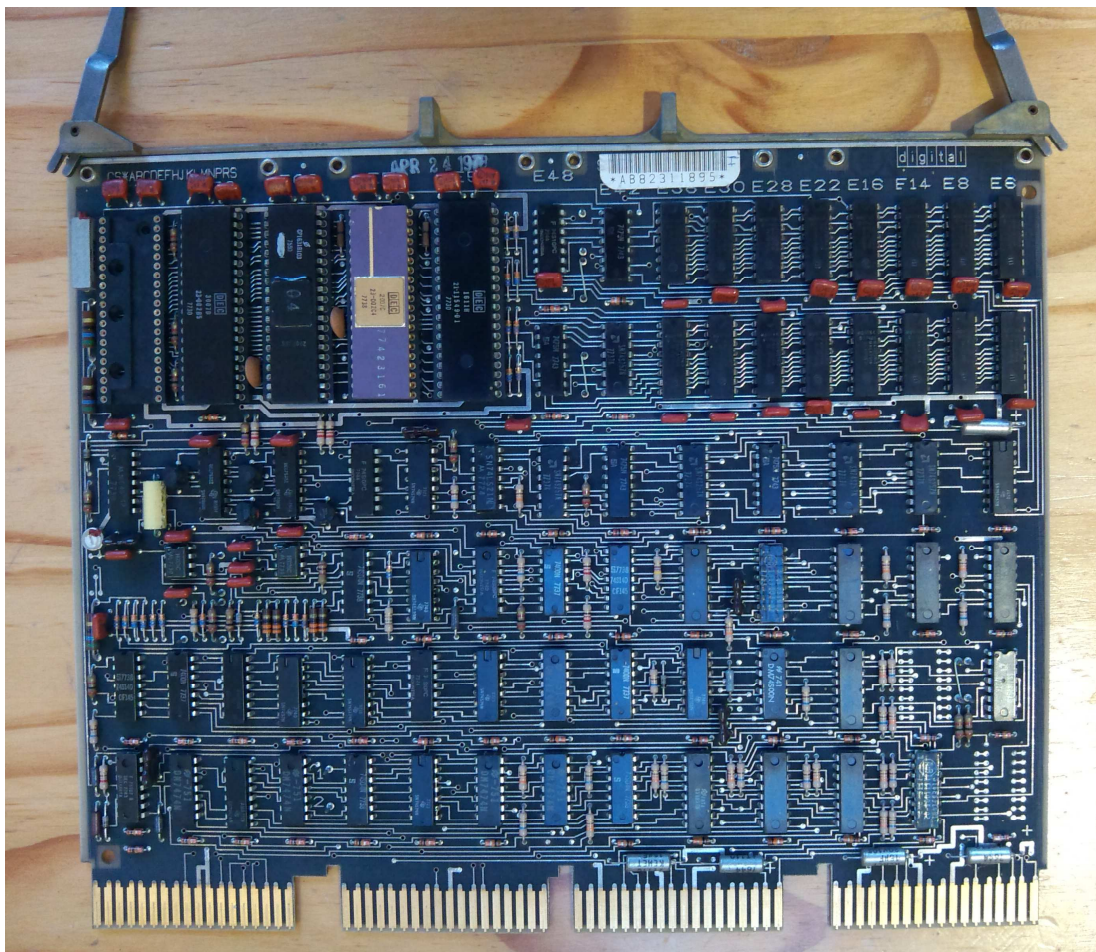
*Figure 9: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor Qbus card cage front view*



*Figure 10: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor right Qbus boards  
M8017-B, M7944, M7940, full-width CPU board at top*



*Figure 11: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor left Qbus boards M8460-YE, M7944, M7946, full-width CPU board at top*



*Figure 12: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor full-width CPU board front view*

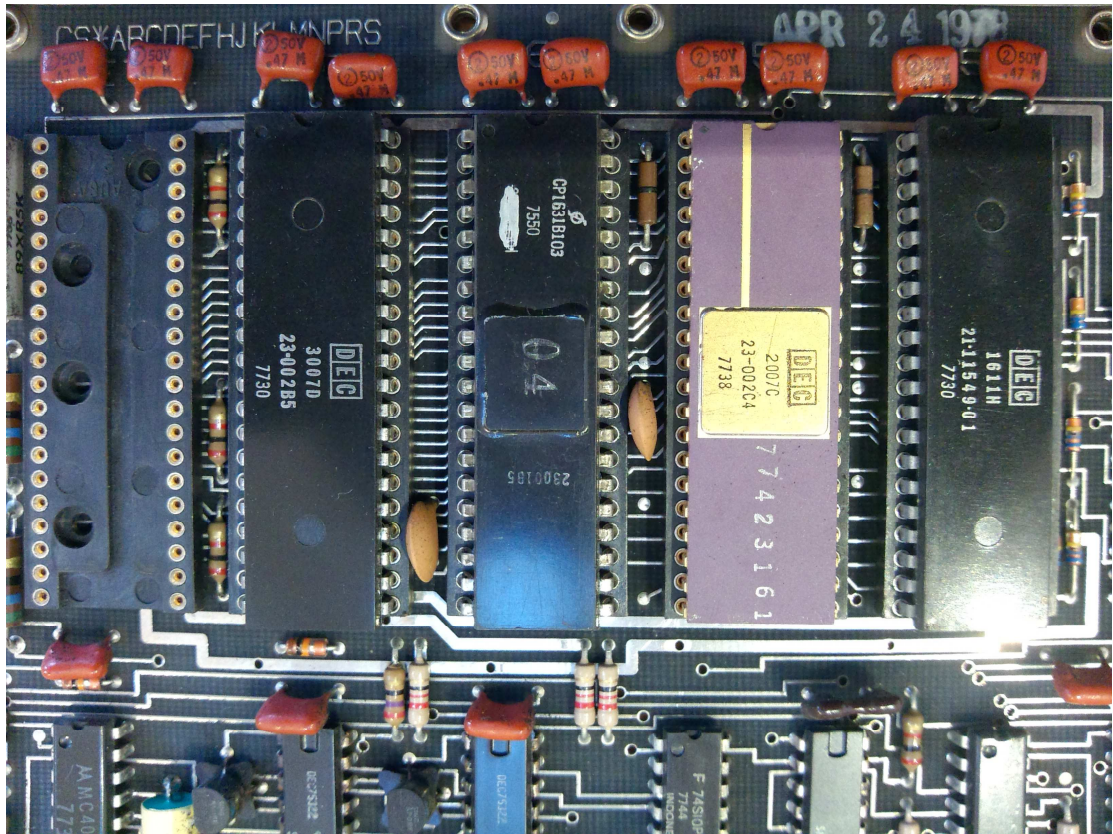


Figure 13: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor WD9000 CPU chipset closeup

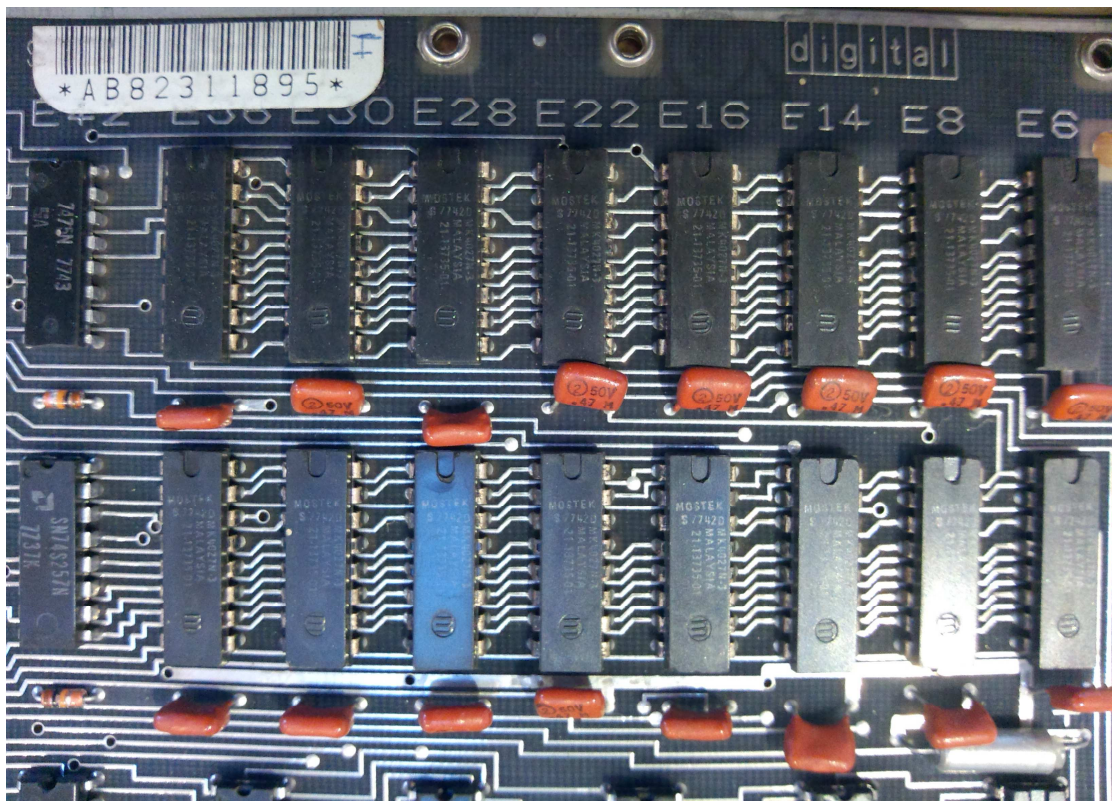


Figure 14: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor DRAM array  
S/N: AB82311895



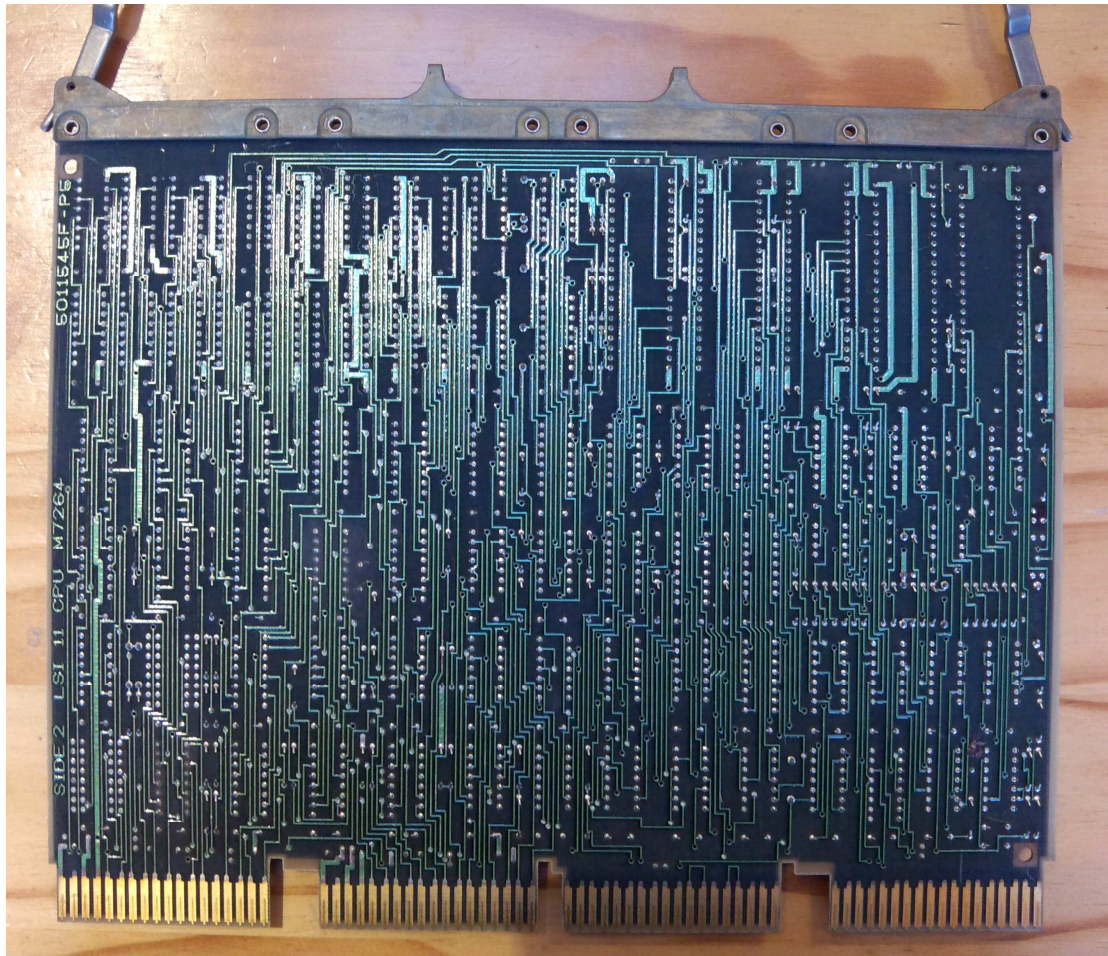


Figure 15: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor full-width CPU board rear view



Figure 16: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor Qbus backplane closeup

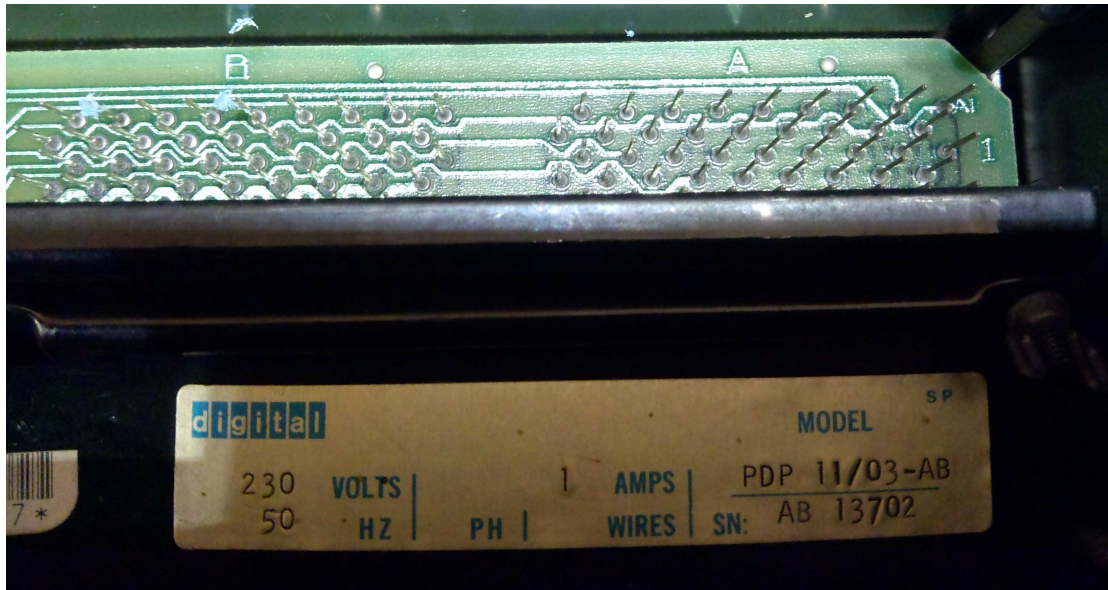


Figure 17: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor manufacturing label  
 Model: PDP 11/03-AB, S/N: AB 13702



Figure 18: DEC VAX 11/780 Console Processor regulatory labels and serial number  
 S/N: AB83327817