Friden

machines for

integrated data processing
Clearly, even without indicating some of the machines illustrated in this booklet, punched tape is not the only practical approach to integrated data processing, but it has become the highroad to IDP because it possesses an overwhelming advantage. It can be used for more purposes with fewer modifications than any other method of automatic communication yet devised.

The five-channel tape described above, for example, may be punched as an automatic by-product of typing, adding and subtracting, calculating, order writing, billing, or other common operations. Then the punched data may be transmitted and reproduced automatically by local, long-range, or even international communications equipment. Finally, the same data may be handled automatically by any office machine equipped for tape input, or punched into tabulating cards by any of the automatic tape-to-card converters now on the market.

Office automation has been on our doorstep for a long time. Its basic tools—complex calculators, automatic writing machines, bookkeeping equipment, automatic accounting machines, and many others—have been in our offices for years, and we've learned to accept their efficient processing of data. To usher in the present era of integrated data processing, only a means of automatic communication for the equipment was lacking. Now the machines have been adapted to use tape for the purpose, to read it or to punch it as a by-product of their primary function.