UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COMPUTER CENTER
Deadstart System Newsletter

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Send all comments, criticisms and contributions to the editor
T.W. Lanzatella

NOTICES OF CHANGES TO THE OPERATING SYSTEM

The following changes were implemented on Thursday, 13 March.

Bill Elliott added the following RESEX modifications which have been in effect for sometime, only now being added to the UPL.

1. Teletype users are denied access to tape and private pack equipment. The use of REQUEST and ASSIGN cards have been similarly restricted.

2. PO = U option is not being allowed for unlabeled tapes. If selected it is cleared. This prevents many unlabeled tapes from clogging the tape units.

3. Requests for private packs are being screened to determine if the requested name is defined on the system. The defining information is kept in the express tape data file. If the name is not defined, the job is aborted with the message, "PACK NOT AVAILABLE." This is to catch misspellings and illegal requests before they get to the operator.

4. Use of multi-file tapes has been extended to the general public.

5. Transient tapes are now given mount priority similar to express tapes.

Bill also spent considerable labor in bringing level 7 DSD and 1DS into production. We are now running with the following level 7 routine: RESEX, MAGNET, 1MT, DSD, 1DS, 1IO, 1CD, 1BA, DMQ, LDQ and CIO. CDC has decreased considerably the size of several level 7 1MT overlays, leaving room to restore the FA = P check which 1MT performed prior to level 6. This is the reason why multi-file tape usage has been extended to the general public, an FA = P check is now possible against every reel instead of only the first. Bill also installed an extended E,P display which shows:

1) First 15 tapes in the preview display.
2) Removable pack status.
3) Last 3 lines of the ERROR LOG.
4) Available tape units.

Alan Johnston contributed the following collection of modifications:

1. A fix to NLR's mod which sets the file ID for TEFT files on rollout. This allows the ID field to be displayed when the file is rolled out.

2. A fix to a previous mod, LFMUA. The mod yanks LFMUA and replaces it with new code which fixes empty primary file in RENAME and other sundry bugs.

3. A modification which generalizes messages in 1TA for job status and adds

status for plotter, batcher and XMIT jobs. The mod also reduces line feeds and simplifies code for restoration back to TELEX and allows users to find their most recently disposed job with the C, J command.

4. A fix to TELEX so that TELEX recognizes negative zero or ten semi-colons on input as EOR instead of EOF, PSR sent in.

5. A mod which fixes the replacement of the rollout control word in the terminal table for some SSJ = jobs. The bits were not being set when they should have been.

6. A mod which insures a zero byte at the end of a file name table in 1RO. Without the terminator, 1RO searches its entire memory for a TELEX output file.

7. A mod which reclaims 500B words from a buffer used by 1RO to hold FNT entries. The buffer length is now 2*500B instead of 3*500B words.

8. A mod which changes the TELEX command *USER* to *USERS*. The mod also changes the USER command processing in that TELEX now passes a control card, USERS, to the batch system. This allows all users to get information on other active users via the *T* display. The old *USER* command was only allowed to privileged users in the ACCESS subsystem, the new allows all subsystems except TRAS.

KCM added four broad new features:

1. The utility, DAYFILE, now treats a P parameter by evicting the local copy of the user's dayfile. The feature required a new SFM function 26 -- release user dayfile.

2. A new dayfile has been added to the system. A new file is the STATISTICS file and will be used to accumulate system usage data. Programs which were previously issuing ACCOUNT FILE messages, 1AJ and CALLPRG, are now writing on the STATISTICS file. The implementation stretches across many programs; MTR, SET, REC, DSD, SFM, COMCMAC, CPUMTR, 1MA and DAYFILE. Two new SFM functions were added; 22 -- access statistics file, 27 -- access and release statistic file.

3. The KCL SIZE function is now functioning. Documentation on the size function can be found by DOCMENTing CONTROL.

4. Two new pnemonics have been added to KCL; PD which is packed date and PT which is packed time. Documentation on these can also be found by DOCMENTing CONTROL.

NLR fixed 1CD so that all output files start at the top of a new page and added two new PP common decks; COMPJDF and COMPTID. COMJDF is used for issuing repeated dayfile messages without resetting the job name in word 0 of the message for every issuance. COMPTID converts the pnemonic, 6/ORIG, 6/SITE, to an internal TID.

BCJ has installed a DSD R-display which displays active remote sites under SUPIO. Bruce also added a new validation bit, COSE, which validates use of the dispose

command. Bruce's page counting mods are now on UPL - they had been SYSEDITed for nearly two months.

Tim Salo delivered mod for a dayfile message limit. Default limit is 1023B messages and can be changed with the *SETDFL, nnnn.* card.

TWL fixed 1AJ so that an operator drop error flag evokes an exchange package dump. A constant in COMCSNP used as a check for TXOT and subsequent output formatting is now indeed equal to TXOT and not UTOT.

OPERATING SYSTEM PROGRAM LIBRARIES

Current copies of the operating system program libraries can always be found on the following tapes:

VSN = UC485, LB = KL, D = HI, PO = R

File 1	Current MPL
File 2	Current UPL

VSN = UC492, LB = KL, D = HY, PO = R

File 1	Current WPL

OPERATING SYSTEM PROPOSALS

The following memo is reprinted by permission of the author. It appears here since it, thus far, represents the soundest proposal yet encountered for extension of the KCL CALL facility.

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

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February 19, 1975

LAD

MEMO TO: Larry Liddiard

XC: Kevin C. Matthews, Michael J. Frisch

FROM: Dennis R. Lienke

SUBJECT: Proposal Regarding Procedure Files, as Discussed and Tentatively Adopted in the Systems Meeting of 13 February, 1975

I disagree with both the existing and proposed hierarchy and method for execution of procedure files. The drawbacks of the present hierarchy are obvious and since they prompted the initial discussion I will not repeat them.

The proposed form would be no different in appearance from either a load/execute of a local file or a system load. Since the RESULT of a procedure call is significantly different from either of the preceding actions, it will promote confusion in 2 ways:

1. The user could not differentiate between file/system executions and procedure calls.

2. (Even worse!) the "Implicit Get/Call" creates a local file, which, if attempted to be "called" AGAIN with the new method, would result in a loader error, since the SYSTEM looks for files of binary, not control cards, to execute.

3. My proposal is to simply prefix a system procedure with $, if it is necessary to ensure that the system copy is to be "call"ed. The CALL would remain as now documented.

   a. This is consistent with the $ prefix on system loads as described in the Kronos manual.

   b. The hierarchy should be rearranged to put the system procedures last, exactly where it belongs, and consistent with the hierarchy for local files and system programs.

      That is, the hierarchy would be:

      1. Local Procedure File.
      2. Local catalog Search for indirect access procedure file.
      3. System procedure file.

Steps 1 and 2 may be skipped by the use of the $ Prefix.

c. I would rather have the operating system operate this way, since CALLPRG is getting too complicated.

4. I think that the (-) prefix COULD be considered as an alternative to call, but will not press the issue.

DRL/dsf