

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COMPUTER CENTER

Deadstart Systems Newsletter

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Send all comments, criticisms and contributions to the editor: T. W. Lanzatella
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NOTICES OF CHANGES TO THE OPERATING SYSTEM - LEVEL 11

In the past two weeks, three new level 11 deadstart tapes have been installed. Each tape contained approximately 3000 more lines of source code than its predecessor. Of these 9000 lines of code, only 500 account for the new features described below. The rest of the code represents converted features. A great deal of effort has been placed on improving the readability of modifications during the conversion. Consequently, nearly every modification on UPL has undergone some form of cosmetic change. The file of local modifications, JPL, is now a model of good spelling, proper coding convention, and conciseness - JPL will be 30% smaller than UPL.

Despite the near completion of our project, I still nervously await completed versions of SUPIO, EXPORT, BATCHIO, SEND, BATCHER, 6DJ, CALLPRG (WRITEUP) and DISPOSE - hopefully before our public debut this Saturday.

Bill Elliott contributed four new system programs. One is an initial version of his new express tape library manager. The other three programs are products recently released by CDC with LEVEL 10. Their names are HPA, NORM and GETLOG. They are used for hardware performance analysis. Bill also installed the following changes to the Kronos Control Language. These changes were proposed by Stuart Lenz in DSN 1, 13, p.2. Two new keywords are introduced to KCL: TL, Current time limit and CET, Current elapsed CPU time. Thus, in order to alter the existing time limit, the following can be used:

```
SET(TL=TL+10)
SET(TL=CET+5)
SET(TL=R1*FL/CET+1)
SET(TL= <EXPRESSION>)
```

Similarly, the current RFL can be computed from an expression:

```
SET(FL=R1+R2*R2)
SET(FL= <EXPRESSION >)
```

All constants are assumed to be decimal unless a B suffix is appended.

K.C. Matthews default user validations were installed.

Marisa Riviere installed several new features in RFM.

1. All RFM control cards now have a NA parameter. The parameter invokes the same behavior as with the permanent file utilities.
2. The RFM PERMIT function RFPER.

TOWNS MAN MEX

3. The RFM APPEND function RFAPP.
4. Private RFM files are automatically permitted to the file creator.
5. All RFM control cards now have a PF parameter. PF is the permanent file name and allows RFMing of local files with local file name different from permanent file name.

Rick Matthews installed a modification to LINK which always forces the alternate loader bit clear from a LINK control card. This modification will protect users who request the CYBER loader and then use LINK.

Alan Johnston's proposed modifications (DSN 2, 3, p.1) to MODVAL, ENQUIRE and TELEX LOGIN sequence were installed.

Also worth noting, Bill Elliott changed program BLANK to use EVICT function rather than a RETURN function when blanking is complete. This eliminates the need for a RESOURC card when blanking a tape and then labeling a tape.

Tom Lanzatella added new versions of COMPASS and UPDATE to the LEVEL 11 tape.

APPROVED CHANGES TO THE OPERATING SYSTEM

1. D.R. Lienke's new DTIME command, DSN 2, 4, p.2.
2. M. Riviere's new SYSLIB, DSN 2, 4, p.3.
3. K. C. Matthews' KCL enhancements, DSN 1, 3, p.2.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM

K. C. Matthews has begun cleaning up the procedure SYSPROC which is run after every normal deadstart and serves to sysedit library tapes, install new CALLPRG indices and sysedit temporary versions of system programs. Presently, SYSPROC obtains temporary binary versions of systems programs from no less than seven files under assorted staff members' user numbers. KCM will be changing this procedure so that only one file is used for temporary versions of system programs. The file will be named KLUDGES and will be cataloged under user index 377777 on PN=STF.

Mike Frisch suggests the following changes to the SUBMIT command.

REFERENCE: The Florida State University, February, 1976 Newsletter

Modify the SUBMIT control statement so that the card after the job card (not to be confused with the /JOB card) need not be an ACCOUNT card. If there is no ACCOUNT card after the job card, then SUBMIT would supply the user's own account number and password. The user's original SUBMIT file would not be changed, however. Also, if there is an ACCOUNT card, SUBMIT would not do anything special.

This modification to SUBMIT will provide increased security so that users saving SUBMIT files need not save their account numbers and password on it. In addition, several users could use the same SUBMIT file--the account number would be supplied from the user actually submitting the file.

*impossible
if password printing*

Example:

Joe User has the following indirect access SUBMIT file named TEST:

```
/JOB  
TEST,T10,CM30000. JOE USER.  
GET,RUNIT.  
RUNIT.  
/EOR  
SAMPLE DATA FOR PROGRAM RUNIT.  
/EOF.
```

If Joe were logged in on MIRJE with account number AAA0000 and password URADUMY, SUBMIT would build an ACCOUNT card for file TEST which looks like:

```
ACCOUNT,AAA0000,URADUMY.
```

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: PEOPLE AND PROCEDURES

Barry Fox asks that all ACCOUNT FILE messages issued by UCC local modifications should be prefixed by Z.

February 26, 1976

OPEN MEMO TO: Rich Franta

FROM: Andy Mickel *ABM*

After the very useful documentation meeting earlier this month called by Amy and Lincoln, we settled on a documentation revision scheme published in YUCCS, Vol.4, No.8. Your name seems to appear more often than others so that you are in a position to coordinate the content of several important documents. In fact you have now made coordinated changes to the New User's Complete Guide, the Pocket Guide, and the Control Card index.

A unified documentation scheme is what we've known to need for a long time, but it looks like it's finally happening. This of course has implications on the User's Manual which is the subject of the most part of this memo. I sketched out changes that seemed agreeable to everyone at the meeting and now I would like to put them forth in print here.

When this is all over, UCC should have three general kinds of documentation:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Regular Publications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCC Newsletter (periodical) New User's Complete Guide (to services) Pocket Guide (quick reference) Student Guide to Batch Beginners Guide to Timesharing Instructor's Guide Univac 1004 User's Guide Guide to the Hybrid Computing Lab * User's Manual and Supplements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic, Introductory part User Software Guides KRONOS Programming Guides * Reference Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indexes (machine retrievable) Printed Writeups Conversion Guides Miscellaneous | <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> </div> | <p>GENERAL
AUDIENCE</p> |
| | <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> </div> | <p>SPECIFIC
AUDIENCE</p> |

Now to examine the User's Manual. Our most pressing need is to complete the nearly finished first chapters. Although we argued long and hard for a single manual, it is obvious that we cannot wait to complete all 25 chapters and 10 Appendices. Besides, UCC does not have the resources or the persons willing to produce such a document. Also the way it was turning out, the whole manual would have been 4" thick and cost \$15, thus defeating the intent of getting the information to the people who need it most.

The new approach calls for a manual which does not have complete reference information. Rather it will serve as the starting point for basic explanations on a variety of subjects. It is going to be modular, and this has numerous advantages in production although in revision, cross referencing among the modules must be changed with care. Page 3, the column on the left gives in order the format of the old structure of the User's Manual. The space beside it at the right gives the new structure. Everyone will be expected to buy the Basic User's Manual and can buy supplements as needed. The supplements will all have a uniform style and are considered part of the User's Manual.

There are two kinds, and this distinction should be made on the cover:

A Guide to _____

User Software Guide # _____
(KRONOS Programming Guide # _____)

User Manual Supplement Series
University Computer Center
University of Minnesota

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⋮

B = Basic User's Manual
 * = User Software Guide supplements
 Δ = KRONOS Programming Guide Supplements

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It is now early 1976. The first priority, obviously is to complete the new basic part of the User's Manual. We should also strive to put energy where possible into the User Software Guide supplements section. Because we do have the KRONOS 2.1 Reference Manual, Volume 1, we can wait longer on the KRONOS programming Guide supplements.

Users should be informed of our plans, perhaps by printing a summary of this description in the Newsletter. Then their many legitimate and long standing questions about documentation will be answered.

A note about how the User Manual structure change affects the overall documentation scheme. We want to avoid wasting our limited resources on unnecessarily duplicated information in many documents. The first move in this direction was the consolidation of some of our introductory materials in the meeting earlier this month. You have carried this forth with control card documentation as mentioned earlier. Therefore it seems evident to me that for example, the "Index to Cyber 74 User Software" should evolve and expand into the User Software Guide supplements. Certain other Indexes such as those that were to be Appendices need not be duplicated as they already exist elsewhere.

Another advantage of the new scheme is that the Basic part can explain the fact that the User's Manual is being written gradually and in pieces and still make sense with that statement.

While we are on the subject of a unified documentation scheme, below are a list of concepts that should be applied to every printed writeup (in the Reference Documents category) when it is written or revised.

- * Try to avoid being cut and dry by being discursive--talk to the reader
- * Present in the introduction how the program fits into the whole scheme of things--explain it in context with the rest of the world: the motivation for its existence; give the history of its origins, development and capabilities; give its uses and support level at UCC.
- * Checklist (not necessarily in this order)
 - a) programmer's name; documentor's name, date
 - b) various features: timing, memory and other resource requirements (such as local files used), dayfile messages and when they occur, PP routines used
 - c) hints and cautions on usage
why should the user trust the routine (has UCC tested it?)
 - d) the syntax for its access (call), parameters explained, defaults, etc.
examples of usage in a command or statement sequence
 - e) examples of results