

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COMPUTER CENTER
Deadstart Systems Newsletter

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NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM

The following changes will be installed on Thursday, 13 November.

Kevin Matthews changed UQM so that LOWRATE hours begin at 8:00 PM rather than 11:00 PM. This reflects a new operations policy of beginning LOWRATE hours before NOFRILLS. Kevin also corrected an error in LSU which was occasionally setting SUPIO's ECS RA incorrectly.

Don Mears installed a significant speedup enhancement to PDP-11 processing in LTD. This change allows us to connect many more 1200 Baud ports to the PDP-11. Don also improved MUX error handling in LTD. The call to the M77 compiler made by the M77TS subsystem was changed so that T=A/D/F/G is the default rather T=E. This change was made because T=E is currently broken. Additionally, several intentional delays used by TELEX when calling lTA were removed in order to speed up response time.

Jeff Drummond changed PFP, the disk hole-packing utility to not set global interlocks when packing a device. The package depends instead on the standard utility interlocks.

Brad Blasing changed DSD so that 99-mode is displayed at the top of the left screen. Brad also installed his proposed change to LMB which causes the system to wait 95 seconds before checkpointing on a shutdown imminent condition. The first TELEX warning is given at T-90 seconds, the second warning is given at T-20 seconds (see DSN 6,17 p. 160).

Dean Nelson repaired a little-noticed bug in MODIFY wherein a blank embedded in the statement prior to the final terminator would cause the call to abort. Dean also changed BIN so that the bin number is actually space filled. Additionally, Dean introduced two new programs to the system, CQDUMP and CQLOAD. These programs are used to gather CRAY-bound jobs in the input queue and dump them to tape. The final iteration toward

CRAY service will be installed with the next system after the one described here.

Paul Thompson installed the long-awaited Purge-with-message option into PFM (see DSN 6,4 p. 33). Paul also changed PFM so that the number and size of device-to-device transfers can be accumulated in the PMS table. The objective is that the average size of such transfers be determined.

Andy Hastings installed the following changes.

- 1) Andy repaired a non-trivial problem with DMP= processing in IRI. The problem was that ECS FL was being lost after DMP= processing.
- 2) The E,P-display was changed so that downed tape channels are displayed.
- 3) The EXPRESS library is now updated when a tape is BLANKed.
- 4) Permission to enter the ACCESS subsystem is now keyed off the CMUC access word bit rather than CTPC (which no longer exists).
- 5) Andy installed some PSR 526 code which allows FET creation macros (like FILEB) to assemble when the location field is blank.
- 6) EXPLIB was changed to warn the tape librarian when a tape is assigned to SYSTEMX after a /REMOVE directive is processed.
- 7) EXAMINE was corrected so that the location of a tape mark is correctly displayed if the record limit is reached. Also, the file summary is now correct when a record limit is reached.
- 8) DSP was corrected so that execute-only files cannot be ROUTED. Additionally, Andy changed the DSP, U of M flag word bit 1 to be a privileged bit, ie., settable only from system origin. This bit is used to specify that the queue file name is the same as the local file name. Using this bit can cause much confusion to the accounting system, hence the change.

Kevin Fjelsted repaired an error in UCW-CHANGE processing stemming from the 16-word PFC conversion. The problem was that the file password was being placed on top of the UCW.

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: People and Procedures

Last Week's System's Group Meeting - by T. W. Lanzatella

The last Systems Group Meeting was held on Thursday, 26 September. Our single topic was Andy Hasting's proposal to change the CCL-VER function to return the SID rather than PSR level of the operating system (see DSN 6,18 p. 165). We rejected this idea and decided instead to invent a new CCL-function named SID which returns the actual system identifier.

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Callprg and Library Tape News - by M. Riviere

In the past weeks the number of modifications implemented among Callprg and Library Tape products have been quite small.

The Library Tape was altered on October 14 in order to modify the current version of M77.

The Callprg index in the CDC720 was modified by the inclusion of MIXBYTE, SPSS and future SPSS. These three products are similiar to the ones available on the Cyber 74/172.

No modifications are scheduled for November 18.

The next set of Callprg index and Library Tape modifications will be taking place on December 2. Modifications on that date should be submitted before noon on November 20.

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Cyber 74/172 Deadstart Dump Analysis from Friday, 19 September through Thursday, 6 November - by J. J. Drummond

Friday, 19 September

Cyber 172

08:31

N.A.

1TD hung on the channel connected to the front-end. The operators gave it a "go" but did not note the fact that 1TD had downed the channel. At 10:30, someone noticed that the front-end wasn't working and Field Engineering was notified.

Sunday, 5 October

Cyber 74

15:18

N.A.

A problem with initializing devices caused the system to come up late. No dump was taken.

18:04

N.A.

Two of the automatically-scheduled diagnostics failed. The CE's decided that since the problem was not solid that it could wait. No dump was taken.

Wednesday, 8 October

Cyber 74/172

09:48

N.A.

Both systems crashed and a level zero was required. The CE's were pulling a cable off of ECS at the time. No dump was taken.

Friday, 17 October

Cyber 74

19:45

N.A.

System hung-up with unrecovered errors on drives connected to channel 27. A level three was successful. No dump was taken.

Monday, 20 October

Cyber 74/172

19:20

DD2003/DD2002

Both systems crashed and level zeroes were required. Cyber 172 would not deadstart at all using the DDP; working fine without the DDP. The DDP was down for a week.

Wednesday, 22 October

Cyber 74

08:00

N.A.

System was unable to deadstart. The CE's were called and a memory problem was fixed. No dump was taken.

Monday, 27 October

Cyber 74

The system was deadstarted without initializing ECS (causing multiple family devices) and a level zero was required. No dump was taken.

Thursday, 6 November

Cyber 74/172

11:50

N.A.

The front-end died and TELEX on both systems turned off the channel. The front-end was reloaded: TELEX was restarted on both systems but the channel was turned-on only on the Cyber 172. This was reported to the Help-line an hour later and, since TELEX on the Cyber 74 had been restarted with the channel off, it had to be restarted again.