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NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM

The following changes become effective on Thursday, 8 December 1977.

Hesung Byun altered 2TJ, the job card processor, to use a different service limit when checking job card field length. The value used now is the FL limit, the maximum field length allowable to any one job. Previously, the AM limit was being used. This field defines the total amount of memory available to all batch jobs at any one time. The AM limit is actually smaller than the FL limit but jobs which exceed AM will eventually be scheduled when the memory becomes available.

Brian Hanson corrected LINK to restore X0 to ECS field length after loading is complete.

Tim Hoffmann altered program PFILES to disallow the creation of primary files which have reserved names like PUNCH or P8 with the NEW command. Previously, a user could input the command NEW(PUNCH) and not realize that no primary file was created. Actually, LFM had attempted, aborted on the attempt, output an error message and left PUNCH as a secondary file. Tim also refined procedure file name checking in CONTROL to distinguish between no procedure file name specified and illegal characters in procedure file name.

John Strait resubmitted his common decks COMCUAB and COMCSBM. Routine COMCSBM is actually the current COMMSBM with a new and conventional name. Routine COMMSBM is deleted from WPL with this system. Both decks contain new internal documentation. John also installed extensive changes to USERS/DSD. These changes, however, could not be installed with this new system because the extra code requires a new overlay, DSDI, which happens to exist already. Anyone referencing DSDSIM on WPL will note that the following changes have been added but that the binary on the system is the old USERS/DSD. John's changes will be installed after the DSDSIM overlays have been renamed.

- a. The following new displays were installed: E,A; E,M; E,P; and E,T.
- b. The B-display was altered to more closely reflect the console B-display.
- c. A debug mode was added.
- d. The match name (SET,NAME) feature will now apply to the C-display. This will display relative to a matched control point.

Kevin Matthews repaired a bug in LFM which caused a system crash last week. The bug turned out to be a holdover from the DISPOSE installation in which a direct cell was not being cleared. Kevin also reworked a complete section of UFM to cure the recent problems with validation of subsequent reels of a multi-reel tape file. These problems had resulted in UFM hung at a control point with no job several times recently.

Jeff Drummond installed yet another fix for execute-only file security. Program LFM will now disallow making execute-only files into common files. Users on the 6400 were using this and a stolen UCC user number to plunder execute-only files recently. Jeff also repaired two significant bugs in CPUMTR and SET which resulted from the recent additions to the TRANSIT subsystem. The first bug caused one machine to think the other machine was down. This only occurred under a very busy system and caused no damage. The other bug caused all access to ECS to be shut off after a level 3 recovery deadstart. Both of these bugs were corrected at various times during last week.

Don Mears installed the following changes.

1. Program 1PQ, the plotter driver, has been dismantled and placed into LCD. Program 1PQ has been deleted from WPL and from the deadstart tape.
2. Some unnecessary code was removed from punch header card processing in LCD.
3. The PDP-11 driver in LTD was altered to count the number of times LTD has to wait for the PDP-11. The count is stored in the LTD message buffer.
4. In order to make room for the plotter driver and for the new ASCII printer driver, LCD line buffers were moved from the PP into CM.
5. Don altered his Mickey Mouse clock display to be less insistent about getting the display channel when it's busy. Procedure SYSPROC has been delayed a few times waiting for the display because a DIS had been up - SYSPROC contains a call to MIC, a critical step in system startup.

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: People and Procedures

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

1. The following proposals were rejected or accepted.
 - a. T.W. Lanzatella's proposal to associate an automatic procedure file with all users subordinate to YZE**** was accepted (see DSN 3, 22 p. 3).
 - b. A. Bremanis' proposal to install a new account file message along with a monitor function, QQP, to be processed by SFP for S2000 usage statistics was approved (see DSN 3, 22 p. 3). We stipulated that the message should count against the users' message limit.
2. Dick Folden spoke about Lauderdale building security. The building alarm was set off twice by staff members who were not aware that the area had been secured. Staff members were reminded to contact the on-call operator before entering the building when in doubt about security. The inside door to the UCC entrance will soon have a lock which cannot be opened by anyone except the on-call operator. The rear door will also soon have a new lock which will set off a local alarm if armed.
3. Larry Liddiard spoke next about a possible configuration for a CYBER 74/CYBER 172/6400 system. The remainder of the meeting was spent in discussing the configuration

and its ramifications to software. A picture of the configuration which is undoubtedly close to any eventual configuration can be obtained from T.W. Lanzatella.

4. John Cosgrove announced that Steve Reisman will be taking over Howard Kurs' old job.

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Callprg and Library Tape News - by M. Riviere

On November 29, T. Hoffmann introduced a new version of STRATEN as a Future Callprg package. This version has several bugs fixed. One of them is the correction to have the M parameter work properly. STRATEN was installed on both computers.

On December 1, Kevin Fjelsted modified the index entries for LPKODE and APEX, providing those packages with a better field length adjustment.

On December 13, John Larsen will be removing several no longer used Do type procedures from the 6400 section of the index. These procedures are ABC, CATLSYS, CHANGER, GETSAVE, PURGER, REFORM and XMITER.

As already announced in the previous DSN, the end of the autumn quarter modifications will be taking place on December 20. Already scheduled modifications are described below. Other modifications also taking place on December 20, if any, will be announced in the next DSN.

1. The replacement of MNF, TSF and their libraries with the future versions. (J. Mundstock)

The current versions will not be available any longer.

2. The replacement of FORTRAN with its future version. (M. Riviere)
3. The replacement of SYSLIB with a new version updated to include the latest version of the common decks. (M. Riviere)
4. The replacement of the current versions of COBOL, COPYCL, CB4LIB, FORM, COP8BP, ESMATE, IXGEN, SISTAT, SMTEXT and the Fetch version of SYSIO with the level 13 versions. (J. Cosgrove)

All the level 13 versions of these products are now available as future packages, with the exception of SYSIO which is the current System library.

This modification will also include the removal of SORTMRG and SRTLIB from the common section of the Library Tape. SORTMRG and SRTLIB will become Callprg packages residing as Cyber files (and therefore XMITable).

Going back to the standard modification schedule, the next Callprg and Library tape changes after the ones taking place on December 20, will be made on December 27. Modifications for that date should be submitted on or before noon, December 16.

Also during the quarter break all the public Callprg files on the SP pack will be dumped and reloaded in order to reset their access counter. Anyone that wants to have his files skip the operation should contact me before December 20.

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Cyber 74 Deadstart Dump Analysis - by K.C. Matthews

Monday, 21 November to Saturday, 2 December

Tuesday, 29 November

14:29 (DD-20)

LFM hung copying the (long) dayfile from a job dayfile to a disposed output file. The error in LFM has probably been there quite a while, and was corrected.

Wednesday, 30 November

16:10 PFM hung processing a disk parity error. We asked for a dump of the PP to the printer in order to get a level 3 recovery done more quickly. Unfortunately, there wasn't really enough information there to solve the problem. Next time we'll let the full dump to tape occur.

Thursday, 1 December

The Cyber could not deadstart correctly because of a track linkage error on device DN15. The problem was eventually corrected without reloading the device, but like a problem on 11 November, it is a sign that bad things may be happening to our permanent file system.

Friday, 2 December

We were late coming up again because of left-over problems on device DN15.

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6400 Deadstart Dump Analysis (11/21-12/4) - by R.A. Williams

There were no system malfunctions during the period.