

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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NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM

Kevin Matthew's correction to the CPUMTR memory checksum function installed on the last system, was, in turn, corrected.

Don Mears contributed the following changes.

1. Program LOADPDP was changed so that binary image to be down loaded to the PDP can be a PPU-type record from common file SYSTEM.
2. Site ED was removed from ODV.
3. Don's proposed change to LKT and PDP was installed. A link test can now be run on TT equipment even if the channel is not available.

Bill Sackett updated COMSPMS to include recently added PMS options. Bill also added a new MPL program GETPMS. The program is not on the system but is used for PMS data analysis.

Jeff Drummond installed the following changes.

1. Some PSR code to LMT was installed which makes LMT able to write odd-sized blocks on coded, 9-track tape. Program BLOCK was changed so that a warning is no longer issued when the user attempts to write odd-sized blocks.

2. A large modset from PSR518 which corrects internal documentation in many programs was installed.
3. A modset from PSR518 was installed which corrects a remotely possible CIO hang resulting from an equally remote POSMF request.
4. A modset from PSR518 was installed which invents a new macro named MACROF. The macro simply defines a symbol identical to its only parameter. The purpose of the macro is to allow macro usage to be listed in the cross-reference map. A call to MACROF was added to each macro in NOSTEXT. Jeff also resubmitted all local mods which add new macros. All locally installed macros now include a call to MACROF.

Paul Thompson installed a change to DUMPPF which warns the user whenever his dump file is not a tape.

Andy Hastings overhauled secure parameter processing in RESEX and BLANK. This change only affects local code and requires a new common deck COMCPSL. The change is upward-compatible in all respects except one. A LABEL command can have only two continuation statements where previously an unlimited number was allowed. Andy also repaired a very subtle error in LRI. The problem was that after a DMP= rollin, RPV/DISTC status is reset in the control point area but terminal control is not reset in the terminal table. The result is that any program which makes an internal tape or pack request will lose its interrupt address and have interrupt control disabled after RESEX completed. If the program then gets into an infinite loop, the terminal is hung. Andy fixed this by changing LRI to always include a copy of the terminal table as part of the system sector for DMP= rollout files. Lastly, Andy installed a feature from PSR518 which provides automatic packing of the primary file after exiting TEXT-mode (see DSN 6,10 p. 77). Incidentally, Andy Hastings is a sophomore.

Les Knutson applied four changes to SUPPIO.

1. Two new sites were added.
2. The port number of RJE's in idle mode is now displayed.
3. A blank line now follows the pages printed message.
4. The password for site 2R was changed.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM

Disable Telex "LO" Byte if No-Timeout Set - by A. B. Hastings

Currently, users (actually, just staff) may not be timed out by TELEX if the CTIM (no-timeout) bit is set in the access word. The presence of this bit seems to indicate that the user wishes to remain logged in until he specifically enters a logout command. For this reason, I would like to propose that if the no-timeout bit is set in a user's access word, the TELEX "LO" byte (commonly referred to as a 0004-byte) will not log the user off. Instead, the characters ":D" will be printed. If the user

wishes to re-enable the "LO" byte, the TELEX "TIMEOUT" command may be entered, which clears the CTIM bit. Thus, after the "TIMEOUT" command has been entered, the "LO" byte will again function as a logout command. Implementation note: this is a trivial (three line) change to LTD and has already been coded and tested.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Routed Output - by T. W. Lanzatella

Rich Franta recently pointed out that the ROUTE command does not have enough parameters for a user to print on special forms, have the output returned to Experimental Engineering and placed in a secured bin.

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: People and Procedures

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

All proposals except Steve Collin's, Randomly Selected Procedures, were accepted as stated. Regarding Greg Jensen's PROFILE proposal, we all thought that hashing charge and project numbers would be a worthwhile project to study.

Steve's proposal was rejected because people didn't like the idea that users couldn't RECOVER if they don't want to participate. Users should have the option of not participating. Thea felt the users ought to be able to send messages to UCC. Bob Williams and Steve will work on a more palatable solution.

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Cyber 74/172 Deadstart Dump Analysis from Friday, 5 December to Thursday, 18 December - by J. J. Drummond

Saturday, 6 December

Cyber 74

12:25

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LHS (EXPORT's PP driver) hung at the control point. An attempt to manually switch the PP to the system control point was unsuccessful and a level three recovery was required. The cause of the hang has not yet been established - more investigation is required.

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Cyber 720 Deadstart Dump Analysis (12/9 - 12/21) - B. E. Blasing

Wed.	12/10	11:39	The scopes went blank. Subsequent deadstart revealed a double seeded error and a CPUMTR mode 40 error exit. Central memory was corrupted so a level 0 deadstart was required.	DD14
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