

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COMPUTER CENTER
Deadstart Systems Newsletter

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NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM

Tom Lanzatella repaired an error in CPM which had caused a system hang on two occasions when CQLOAD was run. The problem was introduced by the local implementation of password hashing.

Steve Collins repaired an error in NOTICE which showed up after the recent implementation of PROFILE. The problem was that anyone required to specify a charge number at login was not getting a notice or procedure call.

Paul Thompson added a new option to DSP which allows a user program to call DSP, get an error and have control returned to the user program rather than abort.

Andy Hastings changed 026 so that it can be called from jobs which are not SYOT. Users still cannot call 026 directly from their jobs but systems people who bring DIS up to a running job will now be able to bring up 026 without bombing. Andy also repaired an error in RESTART which was creating DM* files less than 200B words long and then causing LRI to bomb. The muggers, unfortunately, discovered this problem before we did.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM

The On-Line Questionnaire Revisited - by S. E. Collins

I have changed the proposed implementation of the on-line questionnaire (DSN Vol. 6, No. 21). The previous proposal was withdrawn for further study after several problems were brought up in the discussion at the Systems Group meeting. This proposal will, hopefully, answer those problems.

The questionnaire will be a temporary modification to NOTICE. Thus, users will be able to recover after they have completed (or abnormally terminated) the questionnaire routine.

To clarify several additional points:

- 1) Users will be selected at random, at login time, to participate in the questionnaire. Of course, they may stop the questionnaire if they so choose, and still be able to recover a previous session.
- 2) As stated in the systems meeting, the questionnaire may contain any number of questions. However, at any single login, a user would be asked only one to three questions.
- 3) Also stated in the meeting, users would be able to submit general, subjective comments to UCC. However, this would involve a separate program they would have to run.
- 4) Users will be informed (via "SYSNOTES", etc.,) of the questionnaire, of the program with which they can submit comments, and of the procedures involved.

SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: People and Procedures

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

- 1) Andy Hastings' proposal to change LTD so that for users with CTIM 004 bytes do not log the user off was rejected (see DSN 6, 22 p. 195).
- 2) The discussion of Routed Output was fruitful. We found that Route is not currently equipped to handle secured output. Also, the current scheme for BIN parameter values is inadequate; BIN=*XX should be overhauled. Of course, the only way to rectify the situation is to appoint a committee; which we did. The membership is RTF, JOL, DWM and WCW. Their charge is not only to correct the above problems. We suggested that with the arrival of two VAX's capable, no doubt, of producing output we had better start thinking about how output from these devices will reach the users.
- 3) The suggested changes to JPL were discussed and everyone concurred.

- 4) Larry Liddiard discussed how maintenance of systems will be divided when we have three to maintain (VAX/VMS, UNIX and NOS). Assuming that UNIX is not used in any production sense, that is, only for education and teaching, then the MERITSS group will maintain the UNIX system. The systems group will be maintaining VAX/VMS and (as usual) NOS.
- 5) Larry also outlined how the two VAX's will be used. The VAX at IPC will be used for graphics (16 users), word processing, possibly Ethernet and for certain Decnet. The VAX at Lauderdale will be accessible to the general public, run Decnet and run either VMS or UNIX depending on through-put measurements. Larry indicated that a group should be formed to gather together all the literature floating around which touts either VAX/VMS or UNIX, perform some benchmarks and make a rational decision.
- 6) KCM is to purchase several sets of VAX/VMS manuals, JMS will secure several copies of the UNIX manual. KCM will take care of advertising the availability of VAX/VMS courses on video tape at MECC.
- 7) Anyone who thinks the System's Group meeting should be held at a different time or place should mail their suggestions to LAL.

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Cyber Deadstart Dump Analysis from Friday, 2 January to Thursday, 15 January - by J. J. Drummond

Wednesday, 7 January

Cyber 74

18:25

DD2020

CPM hung attempting to increment the family count (when it shouldn't have been) on a VALID function. A level three recovery was successful. A coding error in our local HASHPW modset was later determined to be the cause and was corrected.

Thursday, 8 January

Cyber 74

08:55

N.A.

CPM hung - same problem as before. A level three recovery was successful. No dump was taken.

Tuesday, 13 January

Cyber 172

08:20

N.A.

A level zero recovery was required when the operators discovered that the wrong pack was mounted on one of the drives. No dump was taken.

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Cyber 720 Deadstart Dump Anslsysis (1/1/81-1/15/81) - by B. E. Blasing

There were no unscheduled deadstarts for this period.