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Identification

"GDM Cookbook" or "How to Use the Graphic Display Monitoring System in One Easy Lesson or Less"

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Introduction, Purpose, Use, etc.

To use the GDM system for the PDP-8/GE645 with any of the currently available displays, it is only necessary to obtain the following:

- a. Access to the PDP-8 room (501 Technology Square)
- b. The GDM Log/Instruction Book (either in the PDP-8 room or on a bookshelf in my office, 505).

and once in the PDP-8 room, do the following:

1. Turn on the air conditioning (push "LOW"-second button from top).
2. Turn on the computer (turn key in front panel to right).
3. Find tape "GDM1" on the tape board and mount on either drive.
4. Dial that tape drive to unit "1" and make sure the other drive is not dialed to "1".
5. Turn the drive switch to "WRITE LOCK" and press "FORWARD" switch for a few seconds (spaces tape past load point).
6. Put 7600 in the "switch registers" and press "LOAD ADDRESS" (7600 will appear in the program counter lights on the console) and then "START".
7. After the tape has booted in the OS/8 Operating System (it types an "R"), type the name of the current GDM System desired (standard system is always "GDM.A"). GDM will be loaded and respond with "GDM" and a picturesque display.

8. You are now in GDM and have a variety of options:
 - a. Type "I1" or "I2" to see command format and names displayed.
 - b. Type "P" to print command names on teletype.
 - c. Type "LN x y" to load a display template onto the disc.

"x" is the name of the tape file containing the display (currently available displays are listed under "Display Info" in the GDM Notebook). "y" is the internal name you wish to give the display (any one or two letter combination will do but don't use any that are already command names!). The LN command will load file "x M" onto the disc and add "y" to the command table.

9. Now that you have a display template loaded, simply type its name ("y" mentioned above) and it will be executed. At this time the teletype is made inactive: to return control to the teletype hit the "Interrupt" button on the pushbutton box. You can now proceed with either 8 or 9 or any other command you know about.

Note 1: In the event of an unrecoverable dataphone error, "E:P1" or "E:P0" will be typed. Proceed to step 9.

Note 2: If you consistently get dataphone errors (i.e., you suspect that it isn't working at all), the CSA channels on the GE 645 are probably off. Type "hcs_\$xray" on a Multics console to reinitialize them.

Note 3: Where pushbutton commands are indicated, push the appropriate button then push button 0, the trigger. When the other buttons are turned off, the command has been executed.

Note 4: In the event of inexplicable happenings, it is usually best to start over. Go to step 6.

Further information on display templates, GDM commands, GDM error codes, etc. may be found in the GDM Notebook. Even more information, as well as hints on display creation, may be found in my master's thesis (soon to be published as a MAC Technical Report) "The Graphic Display as an Aid in the Monitoring of a Time-Shared Computer System."

Questions or comments should be addressed to Jerry Grochow, Room 505 (x6009).