Draft, for approval
Published: 5/8/66

Identification

Context Editor
edit
Charles Garman

Purpose

Edit is a context editor used to create or modify canonical-form (ASCII) text streams (see sections BC.2.00-2.04, Character Input/Output for Multics) through user interaction.

Introduction

The edit command is a lineal descendant of the TYPSET command in CTSS by Jerry Saltzer (AH.9.01), and in general follows TYPSET's conventions; some modifications were made to reflect experience gained using TYPSET and similar context editors. On the other hand, certain of TYPSET's innovations have gained system-wide acceptance in Multics (e.g., canonical-form character operations).

Usage

edit input_stream_name -output_stream_name-

input_stream_name is the name of the I/O stream which provides the source text for edit.

output_stream_name is the name of the I/O stream to which the edited text will be directed; If not provided, it is assumed to be the same as input_stream_name.

(For this implementation, stream-names and file-names will be considered identical; i.e., edit will attempt to connect the given stream-names to the files with corresponding names, via FSIM in the I/O system.)

When edit is ready for typing to begin, the word "Input" or "Edit" is typed, and the user may begin. If input_stream_name could not be read (i.e., the file was empty), the user begins in Input mode; otherwise, he begins in Edit mode.

Input mode

In input mode, the user types character strings separated by new-line (NL) characters. He does not wait for response

[illegible]

[illegible] requests were specified in [illegible] of the pertinent responses are suppressed (enabled). The request names may be [illegible] the same manner as the requests [illegible] for the purposes of the [illegible] request [illegible] switching is named "mode_change" [illegible]. The initial or default setting is

option complete

[illegible] forward
[illegible] reverse

This form sets the direction of pointer movement to top-to-bottom (bottom-to-top). The default setting is

option forward

[illegible] specify the direction for the current edit request [illegible] the characters "+" (forward) or "-" (reverse) may precede the request name.)

[illegible] mode_change print_position

The contents of "print_position" will replace the current MCC. The default setting is

option mode_change

option status

The current settings of edit's options will be displayed in a symbolic form on the user's console, including the current MCC.

[illegible]

The new or modified text will be sent to the [illegible] system [illegible] to the user's [illegible]. Edit then [illegible] to its caller [illegible] the [illegible] to the [illegible] request [illegible] the arguments [illegible] command itself.

[illegible]

[illegible] request [illegible] to return to its caller [illegible] all modifications [illegible] the text [illegible]

Summary of edit requests

abbreviation	request	response
* l	locate <character_string>	line found, * end-of-text
p	print "n"	printed lines, end-of-text
* d	delete "n"	following line, * end-of-text
* n	next "n"	line reached, * end-of-text
* i	insert new_line	(none)
(m)	(mode_change)	"Input", * "Edit" *
r	replace new_contents	(none)
* c	change /xx/yyy/ "n" "g"	changed lines, * end-of-text
t	top	first line *
b	bottom	last line *
o	option parameter <list>	invalid option-name
s	send <stream_name>	(response from shell)
e	exit	(response from shell)

* These responses are subject to the brief/complete settings of the option request; the names of the requests to which they refer are the only ones which may be set by option brief/complete.

* These requests are subject to changes of direction.

The flash (/) in the change request may be replaced by any "print position" not appearing within the quoted character strings.

Summary of _orion request forms

abbreviation	form	
b	brief	-request_names-
c	complete	
f	forward	
r	reverse	
m	mode_change print_position	
s	status	