November 9, 1964

CTSS BULLETIN #64

SUBJECT: FILE Command - Some Improvements

Purpose

FILE has been corrected because of previous modifications
to the INPUT command and to increase the reliability of the
command in case of interruption or error conditions.

Modifications

No (INPUT FILE) will remain in the user's file directory
after the FILE command is completed.

The old file is not deleted until the new file has been
successfully created, i.e. the new file is created
under an intermediate name (FILE FILE).

All calls to the disk routines are provided with error
returns, and as far as possible, an appropriate error
procedure is initiated.

The user's file directory is updated on the disk through
a call to .UPDAT.

If an error condition occurs in a chain of commands, the
user has the option to continue the chain, or to stop.

Error Procedures

In most cases the following procedure should succeed:

.Comments are printed explaining the cause of the
error, and FILE calls DORMNT.

.Type a SAVE command.

.Fix up whatever was indicated as the cause of the
error (file mode, track quota, etc.)

.RESUME the SAVED file.

.If the interruption occurred in a chain of commands,
the chain is broken, and RESUME simply calls CHNCØM,
with no other action. Hence, type START in order to
force the completion of the FILE command.

LØGØUT Peculiarities

The FILE command deals with files which usually are of temporary mode. Consequently, they are lost on a LØGØUT. There is still some possibility of losing both the old and the new files; but this chance has been lessened to a narrow probability.

The following tips may be of some help to restart a FILE command after a LØGØUT break.

   .Before LØGØUT, if possible, change the mode of (EDIT FILE) and (FILE FILE) to permanent.

   .If (INPUT FILE) is not found, all the input lines typed from the console have been lost, and must be retyped.

   .If (EDIT FILE) is not found, rename the old file (EDIT FILE).

   .If (FILE FILE) is not found, try a FILE command, without going through INPUT.