CTSS BULLETIN #63

November 12, 1964

Subject: LØG Command

Purpose

The new LØG command has been designed primarily to provide a convenient way of bookkeeping information among users working on the same subject.

Another related usage is to supply any user with a permanent way of obtaining information about the latest modifications in CTSS.

Format

        LØG   CF   NAM1   NAM2

                    [BCD]   arguments assumed if missing.

                [SYSLØG BCD]

              [2 SYSLØG BCD]

CF is a common file number, (0,1,2, etc....P)

NAM1 and NAM2 are the names of a log file to which all new information is added, and kept in the specified common file CF.

Execution

The LØG command begins by printing the contents of the existing file NAM1 NAM2, if there is any, so that the user is reminded of the latest modifications which he, or other users, might have made in the same subject. LØG then chains to the INPUT command so that the user may type whatever information he wishes to add to the log file.

This information, along with a problem and user number, system code, date, and time, is recorded at the beginning of the previous log file. Due to this procedure, the latest information is always available at the beginning of the file.

CTSS Modification Bookkeeping

Modifications to the CTSS system are usually recorded in the file SYSLØG BCD kept in the M1416's common file 2. Any user may copy this file through the following command

        COPY S   SYSLØG BCD

and print it.

LØG Structure

The LØG command uses other system commands, viz. CØPY, UPDATE, EDIT, FILE, CØMBIN, PRINTF. There is no restriction in using LØG in a chain of commands.

Some imperfections in the commands called on by LØG may result in meaningless messages, or in an abnormal exit breaking the chaining set up by LØG. Such flaws will be eliminated gradually by improvements in each particular system command.

Suggestion

Every new item recorded in the log file starts with *b*b*b heading the line containing the user's identification and date. It is suggested that no line typed in by users begin with this particular pattern. This would provide an easy way to process log files automatically for information retrieval, sorting by user, etc.