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SUBJ: Elimination of the use of a fence in command argument lists

It is proposed that the use of the fence should be eliminated in the interpretation of command lists. Instead, the supervisor should maintain a count, for each user, of the number of words in the current command buffer.

Modification of several supervisor entries would be required; certain additional modifications are also suggested.

Let $n$ be the number of words (command name plus arguments) in a specified command list, with $n$ not greater than 20. Then

1. The call

        TSX     GETCOM,4
        PZE     BUFF

should cause $n+1$ words to be transmitted to the buffer BUFF. The first word would contain $n$ in the address. The next $n$ words would be the current contents of the user's command buffer.

2. The call

        TSX     ENTCOM,4
        PZE     An

would expect the following format:

    An      PZE     n
            BCI     1,NAME
            BCI     1,ARG$_1$

            BCI     1,ARG$_{n-1}$

The command name and arguments should be transmitted to the user's command buffer; the supervisor should then transfer control to the command program NAME.

3. The call

        TSX     SETCOM,4
        PZE     An,,n

would expect a format like that described for ENTCOM; the $n+1$ command chain buffer would be set according to the $n+1$ words starting with An.

4. The call

        TSX     GETCOM,4
        PZE     BUFF,,n

would transmit the $n+1$ words of the $n+1$ command chain buffer to the buffer BUFF, with BUFF containing $n$.