

## PROGRAMMING STAFF NOTE 60

**TO:** F.J. Corbató  
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**SUBJ:** Proposal for File Removal by Inactivity  
When Operating the Daemon

In order to keep the disk storage tidy, a method has been developed for removing the text but not the entry of older (and presumably unwanted) files thus freeing up valuable storage space. The user is automatically notified of the removal should the file be referenced and is in a position to retrieve the file uniquely.

Suppose that a file X Y is to be removed because it has not been used for some time. Having decided on this, a call to FSTATE gives pertinent details as to date-and-time-last-modified, mode, author, etc. This information is remembered and the file is deleted. To the remembered mode, the "S" mode is added. For the date-last-used, the current date is substituted. Then, a call to SETFIL re-creates the UFD entry. Mode "S" has been re-interpreted, however. A fairly trivial modification to the file co-ordinator will cause an error in OPEN on files of mode "S". This error is interpreted by the user (using the normal PRINTER inquiries) to mean that the file is removed and will have to be retrieved before it can be used.

If the user FSTATes the file, he knows that a DAEEMON New File Tape written within 6-8hours after the indicated date-last-modified will contain a copy of his file. Also, any Daemon complete Dump Tape written any time between the date-last-modified and the date-last-used (now set to the date of removal) will contain the file. Thus, the user has at least two choices for retrieval and should have no trouble getting the file back.

### Necessary Jobs

1. Re-interpret "S" mode in manual
2. Edit file-coordinator
3. Write remove program