

PROGRAMMING STAFF NOTE 62

TO: All CTSS Maintenance Personnel
FROM: D.R. Widrig
SUBJ: Contents of SAVED Files
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Recently, some questions have arisen regarding the exact contents of SAVED files. Inasmuch as reference to CTSS supervisor listings will give exact interpretations, the intent of this paper is to point out potential trouble-spots.

1. Various switches representing the state of the AC Overflow trigger, MQ Overflow, etc., are set via STL or STZ instructions. As a result, changes to CTSS which move the location of the STL instructions will affect the exact number placed in the appropriate cell in the SAVED file. Thus, a LOAD and SAVE at one time may produce a file which is slightly different than the same LOAD and SAVE done at a later date. Note, however, that the effect is still the same.
2. In addition to the above effect, the initial state of the high-speed drums can affect the machine conditions. This is due to the drum being defined as the receptacle for the user's machine conditions. For instance, if a certain word on the drum was in some state due to the CE repairs or checking, it might be that the I/O check light (to use a bizarre case) would appear to be ON for some user. Thus, any SAVE executed while in this state will forever record the fact that the I/O check should be ON.
3. Since the command buffers are not cleansed as a normal housekeeping procedure, the contents of the SAVED command buffers is fairly uncertain. This assumes that the user himself has not set up the buffers.

In light of the above remarks, it follows that one should be extremely cautious when doing word for word comparisons of different SAVED files. In the case of differences, one must make certain that the problem is not merely a "red herring".