

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
INFORMATION PROCESSING CENTER

April 30, 1970

BACKUP AND RETRIEVAL OF USER FILES ON MULTICS

The Center will endeavor to provide adequate backup on magnetic tape of the user files stored on secondary storage devices for Multics. Although the Center will take the utmost care in storing the tapes, it cannot be held responsible for nonreadability of a particular tape or for the destruction of a tape by mechanical failure or other means.

The intent is to provide sufficient redundancy of information storage so that users can retrieve files created over an 18-month period. Although this should be sufficient in most cases, the Center also maintains an inventory of tapes that may be rented by users for providing their own additional backup.

The following points indicate the types of backup performed, period of time for which magnetic tapes will be saved to the user.

1. Incremental dump tapes of user files (i.e., dumps of files modified since the last incremental dump) will be saved for four weeks. Any file residing on the system for at least two hours will have been written on an incremental dump tape and therefore is retrievable for four weeks.
2. Complete dump tapes of user files (i.e., all files currently on secondary storage devices) will be taken on Mondays and Thursdays and saved for six months except for the tapes written on the first Monday of each month (refer to (3) below). Any file residing on the system Monday or Thursday between midnight and 4 a.m. will be written on a complete dump tape and will be available for retrieval for six months.
3. Complete dumps taken on the first Monday of each month will be written in duplicate, and the tapes will be saved for 18 months. Any file residing on the system the first Monday of the month between midnight and 4 a.m. will be written on the complete dump.

Users wishing to provide additional backup may rent (\$2 per month) tapes from the Center's tape librarian in Room 39-285. This fee includes Center-provided storage space for the tapes. The Center also will provide storage space for a user's personal tapes (at \$1 per month), and he may use these for backup as he sees fit.

Retrieval of files from any Center-saved backup tape (not a tape that a user has checked out from the tape librarian or a user's personal tape) may be requested by filling out a retrieval request form at the dispatching counter on the second floor of Building 39. A moderate fee will be charged for the retrievals, depending on the number of files involved. Overnight service is guaranteed, although faster service may be requested under special circumstances (see the Manager of Operations). At any time users may retrieve files from their own tapes (refer to the section about retrieval in the Multics Programmers' Manual). There will be a small charge for having Operations mount a tape.