INTERDEPARTMENTAL

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY *CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02139*

from the office of

February 19, 1971

To: F.J. Corbató
         C.T. Clingen
         J.W. Gintell

From: J.H. Saltzer

Subject: Statement of information availability policy

        Enclosed is a draft proposed public statement of Multics
information policy. Please let me know whether or not I have
captured the intent of our discussions in the meeting on 2/12/71.
We also discussed at that time a number of issues not appropriate
for a public statement: I have not yet attempted to summarize
them in writing.

        I framed the policy as a publicly available statement
primarily to bring home the commitments involved. We may prefer
to back off a bit in the final form, or merely have an internally
circulated policy instead.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PROJECT MAC

HONEYWELL INFORMATION SYSTEMS, INC.

CAMBRIDGE INFORMATION SYSTEMS LABORATORY

February 19, 1971

POLICY OF AVAILABILITY OF MULTICS INFORMATION

Introduction

A large number of requests are received for information about the
Multics system, ranging from "What is it?" to requests for source
program listings of specific modules. A variety of considerations
have gone into the development of the information availability
policy outlined below. Among these considerations are:

- The fundamentally educational and research purposes of Project
  MAC's support of the Multics project.

- The interests of the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the
  U.S. Department of Defense, which provided much of the support
  of the project.

- Operational needs of users of the Multics system, at M.I.T.
  and elsewhere.

- The proprietary interest of both M.I.T. and Honeywell Informa-
  tion Systems, Inc. in the current, working version of the
  Multics system.

- Internal needs for local dissemination of ideas which are not
  yet agreed to, and inappropriate for outside exposure or
  judgement. This category includes even operational programs
  which are known to be unfinished in design.

The first three of the above considerations tend toward an "open"
policy; the last two tend toward a "closed" one. It is felt that
the policy described here is a reasonable compromise which takes
all of these considerations into account.

Policy Statement

Information about Multics is divided into three categories:

1. Publicly available.

2. Available with reservations

3. Available by exception only.

Category 1: Publicly available

In the first category are the Multics Programmer's Manual, various other guides addressed to Multics users, and the published books, papers, technical reports, and theses about the Multics system. It is the intent of the Computer System Research group at Project MAC and the Cambridge Information Systems Laboratory of Honeywell to eventually publish all significant ideas contained in Multics, although the schedule for such publication is controlled by the rate of maturing of ideas, and the availability of time to properly describe them. A bibliography of items currently in this category is also available.*

The mechanics of public availability vary with each document. For example, user's manuals are available for the cost of reproduction from the M.I.T. Information Processing Center. Books and technical papers are available from the original publisher, and are in many technical libraries. Theses are available for the cost of reproduction from the M.I.T. Library system. Project MAC Technical Reports are available through the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information.

Category 2: Available with reservations

The second category of information consists of items which will be made available upon request, but subject to certain constraints on use of the information. The constraints are basically that the recipient restrict his use of the information to educational purposes and extraction of ideas. If the recipient is willing to sign an agreement that he will so restrict his use of the material, it will be released to him ~ for the cost of reproduction. Commercial exploitation of the information in this category is not forbidden, however a more elaborate agreement involving licensing and other considerations would have to be negotiated in such cases.

Currently there are two major information items in this category:

- The System Programmer's Supplement to the Multics Programmer's Manual.

- The source code listings of individual Multics modules.

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* This bibliography consists of the latest version of MPM Section 1.1.2, with part B deleted.

Record copies of both of these items are available at Project MAC and Honeywell CISL for personal inspection by any interested party without reservation, and by appointment.

Category 3: Available by exception only

The third category of Multics information consists of miscellaneous internal memoranda, bulletins, project planning and progress information. This information is available to persons outside the Multics project only by exception; all requests for such information must be individually cleared by F.J. Corbató of M.I.T. Project MAC or C.T. Clingen of Honeywell CISL.