

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PROJECT MAC

Reply to: Project MAC  
545 Technology Square  
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

June 10, 1975

Telephone: (617) 253-6016

Mr. James Pompa  
Mail Stop #1218  
Honeywell  
7900 West Park Drive  
McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear Mr. Pompa:

Following our meeting on Thursday, June 5, Professor Schroeder and I met with Dr. Licklider of the ARPA Information Processing Techniques Office to propose that ARPA sponsor and encourage Honeywell in

- 1) taking over Multics/ARPANET connection software,
- 2) helping implement the ARPA National Software Works program,
- 3) putting System M in Phoenix on the ARPANET.

We encountered a generally favorable reception to all three proposals, with minor reservations on such questions as how to make similar participation available to other manufacturers. Dr. Licklider suggested further that he would like to pursue a fourth proposal: introducing Multics into the WWMCCS community as a program development tool using a connection via PWIN (the Prototype WWMCCS Interconnection Net). From further discussion it appears to us that PWIN is sufficiently similar to the ARPANET that such a proposal is not just feasible but may be very easy to accomplish. The idea of attaching the Air Force Data Services Center Multics to PWIN has already been suggested elsewhere, and that idea could be a vehicle for getting all these proposals together.

In our meeting, Mr. Huston raised the point that the present ARPANET hardware attachment involves a non-standard line discipline (BBN 1822), which implies new support problems. The proper answer to this point is that the interface strategy we have chosen uses a single MQX board to convert the BBN discipline into the IOM CPC discipline, and all ARPANET software inside of Multics is programmed to use this standard HISI interface. Thus the consequences of support for this protocol are not nearly as far-reaching as one might expect.

Mr. J. Pompa

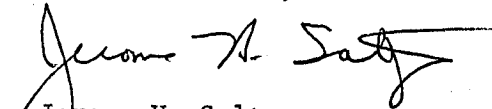
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For your information, I am enclosing two copies each of the ARPANET map and block diagrams of the Multics ARPANET attachment. I am sending directly to Mr. Huston the same items together with copies of a manual for the Multics network user, and a specification of the hardware interface board.

Thank you again for your time and interest. I hope that we can develop a mutually beneficial plan of action.

Sincerely yours,



Jerome H. Saltzer  
Associate Professor

Head, Computer Systems Research Division

JHS/mw

Enclosures

xc: M. Schroeder  
J. Licklider  
R. Montee