

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PROJECT MAC

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

Telephone: (617) 253-6016

June 10, 1975

Mr. K. C. Huston  
Mail Stop 1001  
Honeywell  
7900 West Park Drive  
McLean, Virginia 22101

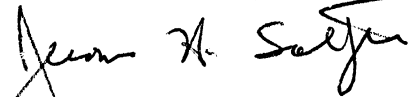
Dear Mr. Huston:

In our meeting with Mr. Pompa on Thursday, June 5, you raised the point that the ARPANET attaches with a non-standard line discipline, defined by BBN Technical Report 1822. I realized after we left that the proper observation to make is that our interface strategy is to use a single MQX board to convert the BBN discipline into the standard IOM CPC protocol, and all ARPANET software inside of Multics uses this standard HISI interface. For this reason, the consequences of support for the BBN protocol are not nearly as far-reaching as one might imagine.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the Multics Network users' guide, and the specification of the hardware interface board, as well as two sheets containing brief overview information.

Thank you for your time and interest. If you have any further questions please feel free to call me.

Sincerely yours,



Jerome H. Saltzer  
Associate Professor

Head, Computer Systems Research Division

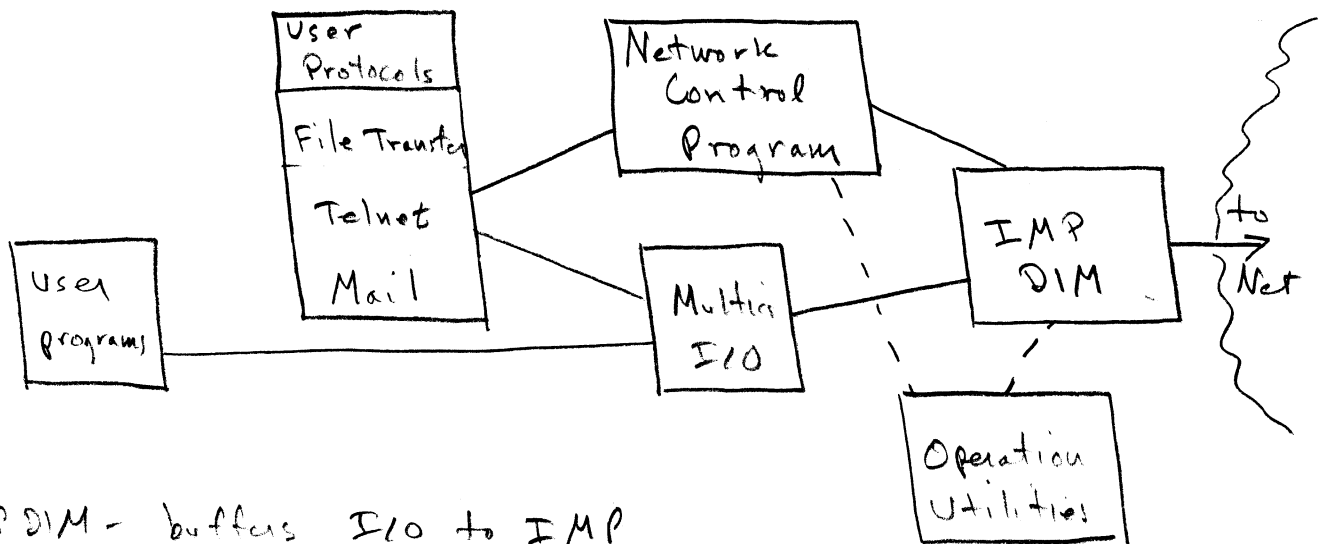
JHS/mw

xc: M. Schroeder

Enclosures

*file*

## II. Software



IMP DIM - buffers I/O to IMP

Network Control Program (MCP) - Sets up links to other sites

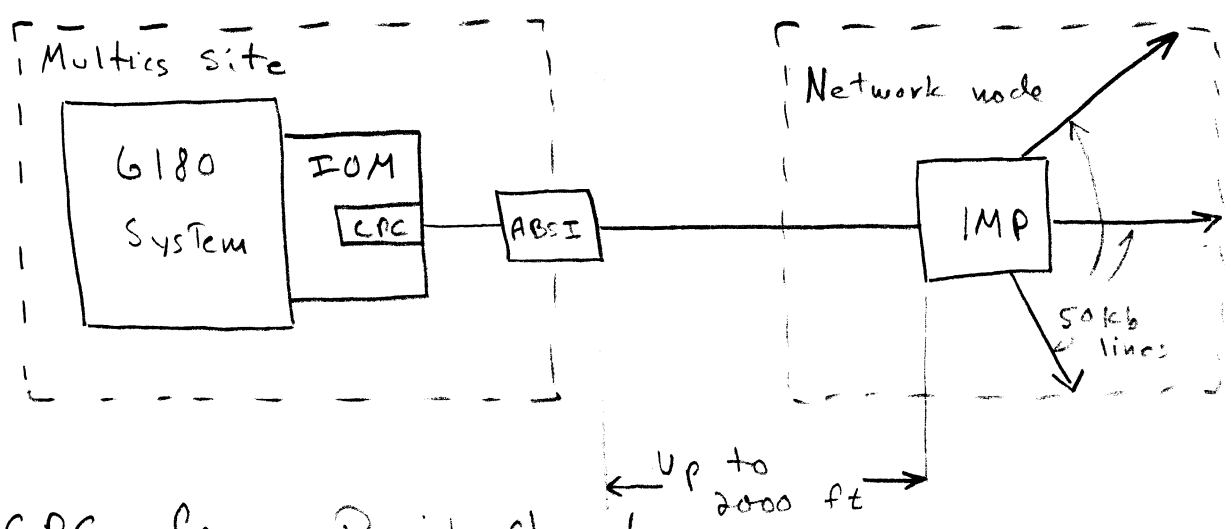
User Protocols - Use links for constructive purpose in standard way

User programs - Can treat network link as an I/O stream

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JWS

# Multics / ARPANET attachment

## I. Hardware



CPC - Common Periph channel

ABSI - Asynchronous, Bit Serial Interface (One MAX board, <sup>design by</sup> M.I.T.)

IMP - Interface Message Processor (HISI DDP-316, mods by BBN)