

TO: F. J. Corbató  
C. T. Clingen  
J. H. Saltzer ✓  
J. Gintell  
S. Webber  
N. Morris  
V. Voydock  
P. Haber  
D. Vinograd  
A. Bensoussan

FROM: R. J. Feiertag

DATE: December 31, 1970

SUBJECT: A user settable segment type

In many applications it is necessary to distinguish different types of segments. The segment type is logically part of the information describing the segment, rather than part of the data in the segment, and therefore, belongs in the branch. Such a type variable would simply be a word in the branch structure that would be set when a segment is created in a call to append. The type could be read by appropriate calls to status. This type variable would be independent of the current type variable which distinguishes directories, non-directory segments, and links. The new type variable would be user settable in the call to append and could not be changed once the branch is created. The most immediate use of this new type variable would be to distinguish message segments.

Comments are requested.

*Open door to millions of problems -- how many bits?*

*e.g., ISAM files*

*How much does the f-s. know about content?*

*Is it making enough - (none)*